



Photo Contest Winner**Kit Griffin***Swan - Pacific Seacraft 34*

In March 2022, I was immersed in Tahiti's lifestyle, navigating the challenges of sourcing spare parts and professional help. Thank goodness I had helpful friends living locally as I was trying to revive a long-neglected boat that had weathered the challenges of the COVID-affected years.

I had just returned from Moorea when a storm blew in. Fortunately, I'd safely moored in Papeete's well-protected harbour so I could enjoy the moment as opposed to being a lightning rod.



Currents

January 2024

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Caribbean Blues

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/caribbean-blues/>



I've discovered two ways of sailing around distant seas without chartering or long passages to get there. Boat exchanges were described in my previous articles "[Living Danishly](#)" and "[The Case For Boat Swapping](#)". Katherine and I recently tried the new experience of crewing on a stranger's boat.

After browsing through the website [Crewseekers.net](#), I found an intriguing request: crew needed to help deliver a 40 foot sloop from New Guinea to Indonesia. After contacting the skipper via email, I learned that he expected a US\$100 pp daily contribution for expenses and admitted that airfare would be pricey. Moving on, I found another listing posted by a retired couple seeking help to deliver their yacht from Antigua to Nassau, about 1,000 miles northwest as the crow flies. A fraction of the cost for shared expenses. Estimated time: five weeks.

After trading a few messages with the skipper, we booked our flights. The first hurdle...could we get through Customs without a return ticket? The web has lots of posts about crews being refused boarding by airlines, or hassles with Immigration upon arrival. One solution was buying a refundable fare back from Antigua (we already had one from Nassau). Instead, the skipper sent us his letter of introduction on a fancy letterhead and informed Immigration of our arrival. Turned out both did the trick and we were waived through.



Amel 54: Lovely but high maintenance

Their yacht was an Amel 54, kept in immaculate condition. They have been living aboard for several years, cruising through the Caribbean, so had perfected procedures for everything. The French-built ketch is renowned as the Rolls Royce of cruising boats, with all-electric mod-cons: water maker; three fridges; Starlink; winches; alarm systems; roller furling; even an induction stove and a BBQ. Acres of solar, a genset, and a massive lithium battery bank that feeds the boat's appetite for power. Amels, not surprisingly, have a reputation for high maintenance. Every couple of days, something required tweaking (definition of cruising: "fixing things in exotic places").



The cherrywood gleams in the interior of the salon

We island-hopped north with two uneventful overnight passages under jib and mizzen. Weather was a perfect 28 degrees in both air and sea, with 10-15 knot breezes. Most days were spent on anchor or a mooring buoy, swimming off the stern, cleaning the boat, or wandering about the shoreline. (Starlink was a godsend, but only available when stationary.) The harbours are packed with charter catamarans and luxury yachts. Several small ports also cater to massive cruise ships. All make it an expensive place to eat, drink, and live. It is difficult to understand how locals get by.



Mega yachts in the St. Marten yacht club

Three weeks into our voyage, an emergency forced the owners to return to their home port, and we sadly flew back to Vancouver from the Virgin Islands. Lessons learned? Be flexible and expect the unexpected. If you wish to sail and hang out in boater bars, choose the Eastern Caribbean. For both sailing and a taste of other cultures, I'd go farther west.



Hurricane damaged catamaran – a graveyard of dreams

P.S. If you're interested in crewing, there's a good [article](#) in the November 2023 issue of *48 North*.

About The Author

Ian Cameron

Corra Jane - Cal 39

I got the bug as a teenager learning to sail in my dad's homemade dinghy. In my twenties, I crewed on a Nicholson 35 in the Asian leg of a round the world voyage. Recently, we've swapped our 1990 Cal 39 for yacht holidays in Nova Scotia, Greece, Turkey, Australia and New Zealand. My dream is to sail Corra Jane to the South Pacific.

SV Bear North and the Baja Haha

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/sv-bear-north-and-the-baja-haha/>



The Haha promised a gentle sail south along the west coast of Baja, accompanied by several hundred fellow sailors and one hundred sailboats. Great company, beautiful remote anchorages, and a couple of parties to boot. Too good to miss, so we signed up for the experience. But first we had to get to the starting line.

Our boat was docked in Victoria in front of the Empress Hotel, after a spring and summer spent cruising north to Observatory Inlet and back. My brother Frank and I welcomed aboard our seasoned crew, Allan Bell and Neil Watson, for the trip to Ensenada. We set off for Port Renfrew in mid-August to time our departure from there. On August 18, with the North Pacific High locked in position, we set sail, choosing an offshore route to Ensenada. The voyage did not disappoint, with great wind and following seas. The light wind days averaged 15 to 25 knots. An exhilarating three days on starboard tack was followed by a gybe that headed us for L.A. We arrived in Ensenada on August 30.

We had booked moorage at [Marina Coral](#). They were wonderful, and guided us through the one-stop shopping for immigration, securing the Temporary Import permit for *Bear North*, and dealing with the

miscellaneous required documents and forms. Ensenada is on the cruise ship circuit and offers numerous restaurants as well as exceptional wine tours.



Bear North at anchor in

Bahia Santa Maria

The [Baja Ha-Ha](#) is a two-week cruisers rally from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, which takes place every fall. The rally consisted of three legs: San Diego/Ensenada to Bahia Tortuga, onward to Bahia Santa Maria, and a finish at Cabo San Lucas. The rally divides boats into divisions based on size, hull(s), and weight for some informal racing. The Haha officially starts in San Diego, but welcomes boaters who wish to join from Ensenada. So after a brief trip home, we flew to San Diego for the official start and registration, then crossed the border at Tijuana and cabbed it back to Ensenada.

The first leg was characterized by light winds and we motored about half of it. We had a spot of engine trouble a few hours out after noticing water in our fuel/water separators. We drifted engine-less with no wind for about an hour, while Frank and I swapped out the external and main engine fuel filters and purged the system. We were reassured as fellow Canadians and BCA members *Counting Stars* were following us and checked in by radio.



Fresh tuna

for dinner!

The tuna gods with were with us on this leg as we caught two good size fish and served up fresh ceviche! The rest of the trip was uneventful (for us) with eventual downwind sailing under code zero and main. Unfortunately, one boat was less fortunate. ***Boat Bum Gal*** had, by accounts, lost their chart plotter and entered the harbour at 0200h, hugging the north point. The boat struck the rocks and sank quickly. Fortunately there is a small fishing village in Bahia Tortuga and the locals responded to the mayday with a timely rescue.

Bahia Tortuga featured a fun and spirited baseball game, with the cruisers facing off against the much younger and talented local kids. After the game, high fives all around and the cruisers' ball equipment was donated to the kids. A great BBQ and get together was held on a nearby beach the next day.



Baseball field in Bahia Tortuga with the Baja Ha-Ha fleet in the background

On the second leg, we sailed ***Bear North*** well offshore (100 nm) looking for better wind. We did not find it, but to our amazement were visited by a blue whale. What a sight! We managed to arrive in Bahia Santa Maria after several days sailing in 8 to 12 knots. The large bay featured beautiful beaches. The local fishermen took the day off to ferry us through the surf to enjoy time ashore. The evening party was the main event, complete with a live band from La Paz, and a good time was had by all.

The wind finally showed up for the third leg, with the start delayed by for several hours waiting for conditions to calm down. We enjoyed 15 to 25 knots for this passage to the finish line near Cabo. Well almost! The wind died, going from 15 knots to nil when ***Bear North*** was within 1 nm of the finish line. Well conditioned by years of sailing lasers on Alberta lakes, the racing bug took over and we nursed our boat over the finish line, taking well over an hour to do so, at 0200h. The accomplishment of this feat was to provoke some serious eye rolling from my wife, Vici.



BCA members and their crews celebrate their Baja Ha-Ha division prizes. From left: Denis Heinrichs, Rosario Passos, Campbell Good, Judy Townsend, Frank Korbeek, Vici Kortbeek, John Kortbeek, Jennifer Handley

Los Cabos itself was as promised. Warm with beautiful beaches and clear, warm turquoise water. The wind-up party was a blast. ***Bear North*** managed a 2nd place finish in the Enchilada division. The best prizes were for unique qualities, however. One woman impressed by delivering authentic examples of the snoring of each of her three senior gentleman crew mates. Definitely a night to remember.

Last of all, I would be remiss in not mentioning the wildlife. Ubiquitous and strangely beguiling pelicans, daily visits by pods of dolphins, and incredible tuna fishing.

The Baja Ha-Ha Cruisers' Rally has been organized for over thirty years by Richard Spindler and the tradition will carry on in 2024. Dates for the next rally have been published and registration is now open; for those who are considering this opportunity, details can be found [here](#).

About The Author

John and Vici Kortbeek

Bear North - Hans Christian 48T

John and Vici enjoy sailing the West Coast. They share Bear North, a Hans Christian 48T with brother and sister in law, Frank and Judy. Over the last few years, they have ventured north to to the Alaska Border and Haida Gwaii. In 2021 they circumnavigated Vancouver Island. With retirement approaching the plan is to head north in summer 2023 and then reverse course towards Mexico. John has been Calgary Chapter Vice Commodore since 2020.

Cruising Potlucks

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/cruising-potlucks/>



The Vancouver Chapter's Christmas Holiday Potluck Social on December 13 was, as usual, a success. We enjoyed a wide range of appetizers, main dishes, salads, and delicious desserts, including a Yule Log. Very different from a Christmas potluck on the beach with fellow yachties many years ago!

In North America, we all know what a potluck is from church suppers and neighbourhood gatherings. However, the idea is not known universally, even among the cruising fraternity.

When we were cruising (1999 to 2014), we attended frequent potluck appetizer parties, often combined with garbage burning events on shore in Panama's Las Perlas and San Blas Islands. Cruisers from Europe were unclear on the concept but delighted to be involved.

Where does the term "potluck" and the idea come from? Most authorities attribute the term to the 16th Century British playwright, Thomas Nashe, who referred to people who arrived at someone's house without an invitation, but were offered "luck of the pot," or whatever was left of the meal.

Over the years, the term came to mean "come and take potluck" for informal invitations. Then it morphed into the idea of planned (names beginning with A-L bring a main dish, M-Z bring a dessert) or unplanned (maybe a dozen pasta salads) communal meals. Supposedly, this meaning of a communal meal to which

guests all bring dishes to share originated in the 1930s Great Depression, when no one could afford to host guests for dinner.

North American cruisers make use of the idea to organize shore events where you bring your own drinks and an appetizer to share, since boats are not large enough to accommodate all the people in an anchorage for a dinner.

We enjoyed an organized potluck ashore on New Year's Eve 2001 at Playa Naranja in the Gulf of Nicoya in Costa Rica.



New Year's Eve 2001 at Oasis del Pacifico, Costa Rica, with Steve and Iretta Rigo.

And we had an unusual potluck meal at Christmas of 2002 in Puerto Lucia, Ecuador. All the boats were out of the water in a boatyard being painted or in some way worked on, but we managed to get some boards on sawhorses for the table. A French couple had no idea what a potluck was, but an American woman explained. They had a wonderful time.



Christmas at the boatyard, Puerto Lucia, Ecuador, 2002.

Recently, when we were in a complex of small apartments in Maui, we were invited to join other guests on the lawn on a Thursday at 1730. The suggestion was “bring your own drink and a pupu (appetizer) to share and make some new friends.”

We thought this was a great idea. With our cruising experiences in mind, we turned up with our drinks and appetizers and started to share some mahi mahi on crackers with the residents who were sitting at tables facing the sunset. After people at two tables refused our offerings, we decided this event was not what we ex-cruisers expected. Someone asked us if we could not find a table, so we realized we weren’t expected to mingle and share, but just to sit down and wait for the sunset and music played and sung by some Hawaiians.

That experience led us to the thought that Maui vacationers are not like cruisers. Perhaps that’s because there would be no common talk about anchors and batteries!

About The Author

Stephen and Nancy Carlman

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Stephen and Nancy Carlman first joined BCA in the very early days--1979 we think--but let our membership lapse until 1993. In 1999 we sailed away from Vancouver and ended up cruising for 15 years mainly to the Mediterranean and back, with long stops in Mexico, Ecuador, Cartagena, the Rio Dulce, Louisiana, Virginia, Halifax, the Azores, Sardinia, Malta, and Sicily.

BCA Awards and the Stories Behind Them (2023)

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/bca-awards-and-the-stories-behind-them-2023/>



Well, it was December 2023, that time of year. Time to recognize the wonderful things our BCA members do and have done! The awards ceremony was, once again, an online meeting following the 2023 AGM on December 6, and was well attended. Here are some highlights.

2023 Cruising Awards and Notable Passages

We were pleased to have one of our 2022 Cruising Awards recipients, Roger MacDougall, on hand to receive his award in person. Roger drove down from Nanaimo to receive his award plaque commemorating his 2021 voyage on his boat *Air Ops* from Baja Puerto Escondido to Hawaii and back to Ucluelet, a total of 6200nm. Well done, Roger!



Past Commodore Leslie Hansen presents an Offshore Cruising Award to Roger MacDougall

Many other BCA members are also offshore, including at least 17 boats that declared the start of their offshore adventures in 2023, but very few returned home this year and applied for a Cruising Award. They're too busy off sailing and doing cruising stuff! I expect 2024 to be a busy awards season. Many cruising members have completed that initial coastal trip to Mexico (a qualifying passage for the Coastal 999 award) and even more will have made the voyage to places like Hawaii and back or further afield. We wish them all fair winds and warm hearts, and look forward to their stories.

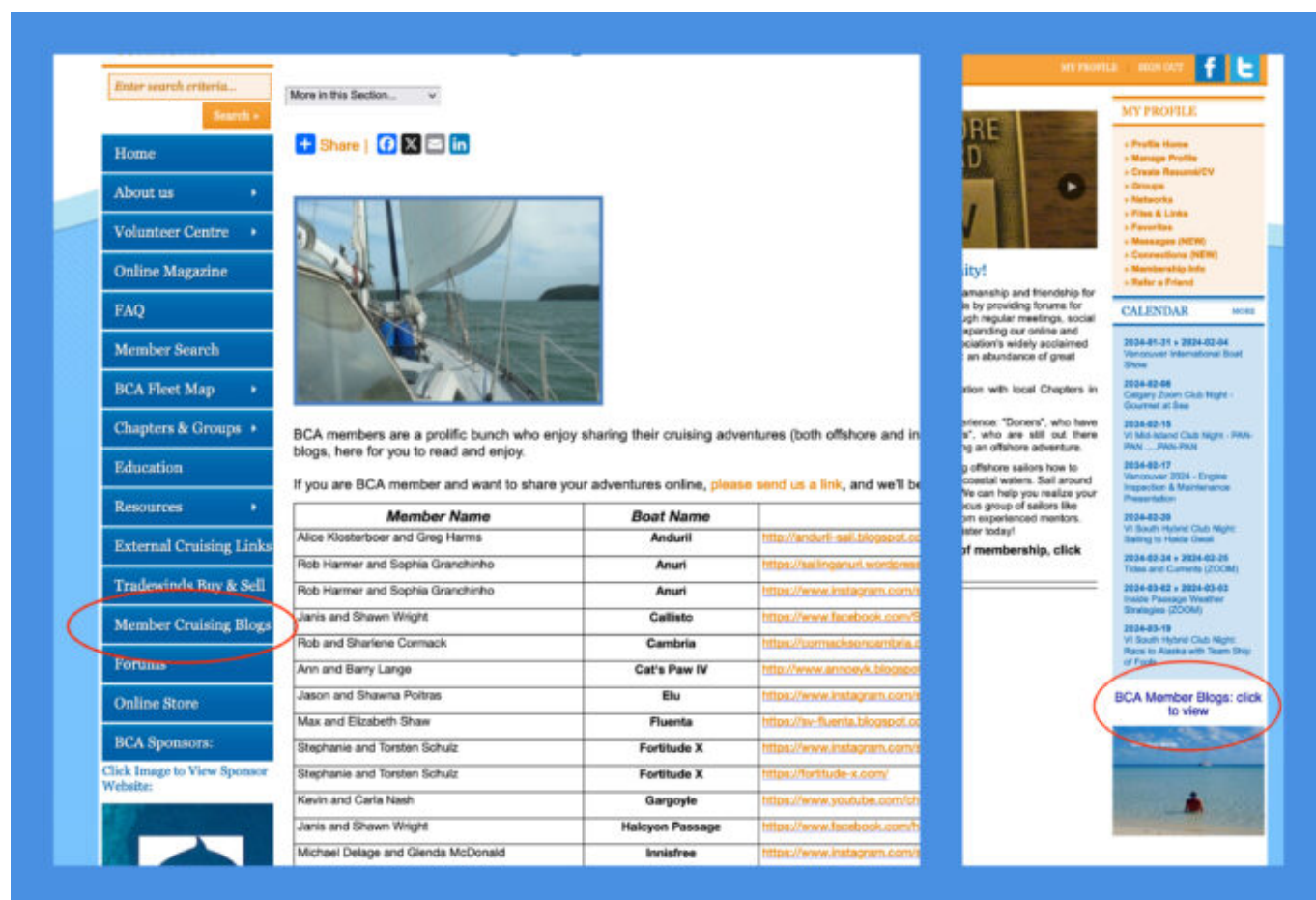
And while we wait for those anticipated returns, we do have a couple of notable passages I'd like to highlight. These are members who have completed passages that qualify for the Offshore Owners' Award but have chosen to defer receiving their award until later in their voyage.

Anne Trudel and Ken Buckley aboard *Naida*

May 3 – May 27, 2023 – 2944 nm from La Cruz de Huanacaxtla, MX to Atuona, Hiva Oa, French Polynesia: “...arrived needing a few repairs..., spent the austral fall, winter and spring exploring the Marquesas and the Tuamotos..., plan to continue exploring the South Pacific for an indeterminate period.” You can follow *Naida*'s adventures on the [BCA Fleet Map](#) and on [PredictWind](#).

Aug 22-Sept 6, 2023 – 2220 nm from Salinas, Ecuador to Easter Island; and Sept 11-30, 2023: 1958 nm from Easter Island to Valdivia, Chile: “*Our goal is to circumnavigate North and South America... round the Horn next April and then eventually do the Northwest Passage too, on the way back to Vancouver.*” ***Synchronicity*** is also on the [BCA Fleet map](#), and you can read Mary’s blogs [here](#).

Further to that, it's now even easier to find more great stories from our cruising members near and far! Links to members' online presence (blog, Instagram, Facebook, PredictWind, Youtube, etc) are in two locations on our website home page. Check out the list of shared cruising blogs etc in the [lower left rail](#) or click on a cruiser's link as it scrolls past in the lower right rail.



2023 Service Awards

Rosario Passos – *Currents* Managing Editor 2015-2023

A member of Vancouver Chapter since 2012, Rosario has held various positions on the Watch right from the beginning. In 2014 she was part of the team that moved the BCA Currents magazine from a printed

version to the current online format and she became the Managing Editor in 2015. The move online greatly increased *Currents*' ability to reach even more readers, both BCA members and non-members; we now have over 1400 subscribers from around the world!

Rosario and her husband Dennis Heinrichs were also the recipients of the 2021 Rudi Seifert Keeper of the Light Award for the many contributions they have collectively made over the years to the Vancouver Watch – Membership, Fleet, Rendezvous, the Vancouver Boat Show as well as photographer at BCA events over the years. Rosario and Denis finally cast off in September 2023 to begin their adventures on *Counting Stars*, and hint, hint, we look forward to the many wonderful stories to come (lots of articles and photos for *Currents*!)

Thank you, Rosario!

Al Kitchen – VI Fleet 2015-2023

Since joining BCA in 2005, Al has been a member of the VI Chapter. For the past 7 years, he has co-run the VI Fleet group with Daragh Nagle, providing opportunities for VI Fleet members to learn and connect at Fleet meetings, online seminars and courses and on-water rendezvous. Since 2020, when COVID first hit, Al has also provided invaluable assistance in setting up and using the technology needed to move meetings and courses from in-person venues to online. And not just Fleet meetings either: Al has assisted with the BCA AGM and other events that needed an online alternative to in-person gatherings. Al is stepping down from the Fleet Coordinator role this year, but not going far as he has agreed to take up a role as Technical Advisor to the VI Watch.

Daragh Nagle – VI Fleet 2017-2023

Daragh is also a long-time member of the VI Chapter, having joined in 2004. He has earned a number of BCA awards over the years, including the coveted Hill-Padwick Bent Mast Award. Since 2017, Daragh has co-led the many VI Fleet activities with Al Kitchen. He is well known for setting up and sponsoring great Fleet rendezvous. You may have noticed that both VI Fleet watch keepers seem to have jumped ship, but don't worry...they are leaving Fleet in the good and capable hands of Campbell Good and Bill Eisenhauer.

Thank you, Al and Daragh, for all you have done and continue to do!



Service Award Recipients: Al Kitchen, Daragh Nagle with Past Commodore, Leslie Hansen; Rosario Passos with Past Commodore, Leslie Hansen

Carol Cook and Steve Colleaux – Calgary Fleet 2019-2023

Carol and Steve joined the Calgary Chapter in 2015, and in 2019 stepped up to take on the role Calgary Fleet watch keepers. Five years and countless hours later, they are passing the baton on. Thank you, Carol and Steve, for your work leading the Calgary Fleet.

2023 Perpetual Awards

Rudi Seifert Keeper of the Light Award

The Rudi Seifert Keeper of the Light Award recognizes significant contributions to BCA that reflect and support the spirit, vision and values of the Association. Rudi Seifert was a long time member of the BCA Vancouver watch, who for many years provided ongoing support to the Vancouver Chapter and watch, as Bosun, managing the Club Room and especially preparation and support for BCA's presence at the Vancouver Boat Show. The Keeper of the Light award recognizes the kind of contribution that sometimes goes unheralded, but is key to keeping the flame of BCA community alive.

For his contributions to the VI Fleet programs, his mentoring activities, and the championing of the BCA Fleet Map, I am pleased to announce **Daragh Nagle** as a recipient of the Keeper of the Light award in 2023.

Daragh was nominated for Keeper of the Light Award in part for his many contributions to the evolution of the VI Fleet Program during his years as Fleet watch keeper, especially when so many of the activities moved online during and after COVID. He has also been a valued mentor to a large number of people over the years, crewing with members and other mariners on many long and difficult offshore passages.

You may not know, however, that Daragh is also a long time champion of the BCA Fleet Map, which used to exist as a centerfold in the old, printed *Currents* magazine. He remembers eagerly turning to the Fleet Map when *Currents* arrived in the mail each month; keen to see where the BCA Fleet boats were now, and planning his own passages to those far off places.

Daragh recognized that the Fleet Map was an invaluable resource that allowed BCA members, around the world and here at home, to see each other and connect, and when it was dropped from *Currents* during the move online (because of technical challenges) he missed it. In 2020 and 2021, he decided to approach the Marine Traffic website developers to see if they could help us build an online BCA Fleet Map. They could, and in early 2022 a small team brought the BCA Fleet map to life on our website. Daragh continues to support the online map by adding new boats to it as members send their MMSI numbers. There are now 72 boats on the map and counting, with room for up to 500! You can find the online map [here](#), with instructions on how to add your boat (if you are a BCA member) [here](#). Daragh's ability to see the great value in having a real time map available, and his initiative and perseverance in finding a way to implement it, is a wonderful contribution to BCA and a great reflection of BCA's spirit of community'.

Thank you, Daragh!



Daragh Nagle, recipient of the Keeper of the Light award with Leslie Hansen, Past Commodore

Peterson Cup Award

The Peterson Cup is presented to the winner of the Peterson Cup Rally, a fun event in midsummer, just before our August Rendezvous. The Cup is in memory of former Commodore Lex Peterson, a person who believed in the great value of community and camaraderie, and who inspired the original Peterson Cup Rally in 2005.

After a two year hiatus, we finally were able to hold the Peterson Cup Rally again in 2023. Thank you to Ken Christie for providing the energy and organization for this year's event. The participants met Mark Bay off Protection Island on July 29, 2023, and over the next five days sailed through the waters, islands, nooks and crannies of the Salish Sea to join the BCA August Rendezvous at Port Browning on North Pender Island, where the Peterson Cup was presented to Cindy Wang and Allan Berry on *Euphoria*. Congratulations to Cindy and Allan! We look forward to reading all about the rally in a *Currents* article!



Cindy Wang and Allan Berry, winners of the prestigious Peterson Cup

Hill-Padwick “Bent Mast” Award

The Hill-Padwick Award, known affectionately as the “Bent Mast” or “Boo-Boo of the Year” award, was initially awarded in 1980. The award commemorates an incident when Patrick Hill and Peter Padwick allowed their competitive urges to bring them together in a very close encounter that resulted in

considerable damage to both pride and rigging. It is awarded by popular vote during Awards Night, as determined by the most raucous applause for the raconteur's tale.

For the past two years we have selected the Bent Mast Award recipients during the online Awards Ceremony following the AGM. As the Chapters returned to in-person December socials this year, we decided to do the story telling there. As usual, great tales were spun from raw experience and the rooms rang with applause, laughter, and cheers.

From the Vancouver Island Chapter, Bill Norrie's account of a race that featured the painfully slow sinking of his sailboat as he rounded the last marker and approached the finish line was a favourite. A harrowing account from John and Marg Green of accidentally running the tidal rapids into Ellerslie Lagoon was a close second (note: if using Navionic charts for tide calculations, check if the 'Alaska Time' icon is showing!).

In Vancouver, a number of well received tales of mishaps were narrowed down to two: "Fish Guts in the Fuel System", presented by Denis and Rosario, which featured salmon guts washed off the deck into an open fuel tank fitting (making the next fuel filter change both extremely gross and interesting). And a 'Long Distance Rescue Call' was reported by Ken Robertson, wherein he is notified that his boat is dragging anchor in a bay off the coast of Africa, via a relay from a friend at the nearby marina, all the way to Rosario in Vancouver and then from Rosario back to Ken, who was quietly enjoying a sunset dinner at a restaurant someways away from the marina (boat was rescued and all was well).

With so many great stories this year to choose from, we decided to award the Bent Mast to a candidate from each chapter. Bill Norrie and his 'Racing Woes' will share the award with Denis and Rosario and their 'Fish Gut Fuel Filter'. Congratulations to all who participated and thank you for the laughs and the generous sharing of your experiences.



Stories for the Bent Mast award. From top left to right: John Green, Leslie Hansen, Bill Norrie, Larry Roberts, Ken Robertson, Denis Heinrichs, Mike Goodman, Rhonda Schuller, Alice Kloosterboer

Vancouver Chapter – Recognition for Innovation Award

In 2020, when we were all faced with months of isolation and loss of community connection, Vancouver Chapter watchkeeper Heather Marshall found a way to help. She realized that it was possible to connect online and took the initiative to set up virtual BURPs (Bluewater Unofficial Rendezvous Place), a periodic online video call that people could use to connect and visit with each other.

In recognition of the initiative she took in setting up and then continuing this wonderful service to BCA members on a regular monthly basis (every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1900h-2100h), Heather was presented with a special Recognition for Innovation award by the Vancouver Chapter. Thank you, Heather, for this and for all the other support you give to the Vancouver Chapter and Watch, and to BCA as a whole!

Virtual BURPS have been a tremendous success from the very beginning. Watch for notices of dates and times in an email from the Vancouver Chapter Communications watchkeeper – the next one will be scheduled in February.



Heather Marshall receives the Special Recognition for Innovation Award from Don Hutchison, Vancouver Chapter Vice Commodore

Warm congratulations to all the 2023 award recipients from your Board of Directors and your fellow BCA members, and best wishes to all for a great 2024! For those who wish to read about the awards or take a look at the lists of previous award recipients, check out the [Awards section](#) of the BCA website.

About The Author

Leslie Hansen

Saracen - Martin 32

Leslie's background has many water adventures, sailing and paddling small boats and kayaking in places like Haida Gwaii. After meeting Don on the water in a kayak taking surfing lessons, they found a common interest in sailing and bought Saracen, a Martin 32. They have been following Plan A since the beginning: leave when the boat is ready, sail north, turn around before the fog. So far Plan A has gotten them to Glacier Bay Alaska, Haida Gwaii and the truly lovely BC mid coast. Leslie has been a member of the BCA Board since 2016 and is currently Past Commodore.

Please Update Your Membership Profile(s) for the 2024 BCA Member Directory

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/please-update-your-membership-profiles-for-the-2024-bca-member-directory/>



Make it a New Year's resolution to review your BCA profile information this week, if not today. It won't take a lot of time, but will make the work done by the coordinators of the 2024 BCA Member Directory much, much easier. Ideally, we hope all members review and update their personal profiles, along with those of their partner/spouse and/or boat(s) well before the February 29 deadline.

How to Update Your Profile(s)

- 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)

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”). The importance of up-to-date contact info for your partner (especially email addresses) cannot be over-emphasized. When it comes to your boat, we are specifically looking for:

- Boat name (upper case)
- Boat type and LOA
- MMSI
- SSB (VHF) call sign
- Where Moored or Currently Cruising info

You can find a convenient, short video that illustrates the process of [updating your profile here](#) and another one about how to [update your boat information here](#).

Lastly, while you are reviewing your info, look for a red **RENEW** notice by your name to see if it is time to renew. Please note you can renew your membership for two years; then you can rest easy until 2026!

Need Help?

Contact [Amanda, BCA’s Administrator](#), 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
- You need to delete or detach a sub-account
- You want to renew your membership
- You are offshore and need assistance with your membership renewal payment transaction
- You have any other questions about updating your profile

Thanks for your updates and for making our work much easier! Your new 2024 Member Directory will arrive in your mailbox later this spring.

About The Author

Donna Sassaman, Directory Coordinator

Alia - Spencer 44 Sloop

Donna and her late husband, Bill, initially were members of BCA from 1986 to 1994, rejoining in 2002. They had many wonderful cruising adventures in Mexico, French Polynesia, and Hawaii from 1990 – 1993. Donna’s BCA volunteer bio includes: Currents’ editor (twice!), VI communications watchkeeper, VI chapter secretary, Board secretary, and since 2009, the Directory Team Coordinator.

Currents Cover Photo Contest: 2023 Winners

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/currents-cover-photo-contest-2023-winners/>



Once again, the **Currents** Cover Photo Contest was a success!

We received dozens of amazing photo submissions from all over the world to vie for the chance to grace the PDF covers of **Currents** during 2024. Thanks to everyone for your keen participation and enthusiasm. There were some awesome submissions, and really, they were all winners in our eyes! Having said that, we could only choose twelve.

After much thoughtful deliberation by the judges (Nick Ward, John Kortbeek, Rosario Passos, and Dani Tate-Stratton), the winning photos were selected and so, without further ado, the winning photographers are (in no particular order):

- Darrell Farrow, *Endless Song*
- Torsten Schulz, *Fortitude X*
- Shawn Wright, *Halcyon Passage*
- Bjarne Hansen, *Hoku Pa'a*

- Glenda McDonald, *Innisfree*

- Barb Lyall, *Pegasus II*
- Brent Alley, *Pegasus II*
- Blake Williams, *Sea Fever*
- Kit Griffin, *Swan*
- Mel & Morgan Finley, *Swift of Southampton*
- Scott Brown, *Whale Song*
- Margy, Krause, *Whistler*

Winners of the 2023 **Currents** Cover Photo Contest will each receive a \$10.00 credit to be applied to their membership dues.

Many thanks to the **Currents** judging panel who stepped up to the plate and helped select the best photos based on the given criteria. It was no easy task!



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About The Author

Jennifer Handley

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Jennifer and her husband, 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.

Vancouver Island Fleet Report - December 2023

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/news/vancouver-island-fleet-report-december-2023/>



The VI Fleet wrapped up 2023 with a lively panel discussion featuring returning cruisers who shared insights on their bluewater experiences. Fleet members posed wide ranging questions from what our panel of Doners wished they had known before setting off and their must-have items to how they successfully managed relationships aboard to keeping kids engaged during the voyage.

Panelists included Bill Norrie, Rob and Debbie Warren, Daragh Nagle, Jennifer Handley, and Gary Peacock and Karina McQueen.

There were many great takeaways from the session. One topic where everyone had an opinion was the importance of not letting unanswered questions and to-do lists keep you from setting off. Panelists all gave a thumbs up to the fleet members who shared that they have put a pin in their departure date, logged it in a phone app where a clock counts them down by the second to their goal of setting sail.

Quote of the evening came from Bill Norrie, who with his wife and co-skipper, Cathy, have watched many glorious sunsets over the western horizon. Bill reminded everyone who may have forgotten that the

destination is being at sea with beloved family and friends, not the bay where you anchor after the journey.

The Show and Tell part of the evening included:

- A barograph app that takes data from your phone's altimeter function
- An app that calculate your GPS location to your IP address
- A demo of fuel-saving and affordable thermal cookers, with the Thermal Chef brand getting strong reviews after use

The Weather Group was on a holiday hiatus in December.

The next Fleet meeting is January 17 2024 and features, among other topics, a presentation by Dolphin Insurance on all-you-need-to-know-but-were-afraid-to-ask about boat insurance.

About The Author

Campbell Good and Bill Eisenhauer, VI Fleet Coordinators

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Campbell has extensive offshore experience, sailing to the South Pacific in 2006, returning to Victoria in 2011, aboard his previous boat CAMDEBOO. He has since crewed for and/or mentored other BCA members in the Mediterranean, Mexico and most recently from Victoria to Cabo San Lucas MX. A BCA member since 2003, Campbell became VI Fleet co-coordinator in September 2023.

A BCA member since 2012, Bill Eisenhauer and his family took one year off to sail in the Mediterranean in 2013-2014. He has since been back to Med or another season and plans to return again in Spring 2024.

Calgary Zoom Club Night - Gourmet at Sea

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/calgary-zoom-club-night-gourmet-at-sea/>



The Calgary Chapter invites everyone to this Zoom-only club night.

Mae Jong-Bowles and her husband Marty have been foraging along our coast for many years. They have enjoyed catching and gathering their seafood, harvesting seaweed, sea asparagus, bull kelp and contributing many beautiful posts to the popular ‘Cooking on a Boat’ Facebook group. They find a variety of sources (sometimes from abandoned homesteads), enjoy seasonal fruits, and forage for mushrooms and other fungi.

In Mae’s words: We feel we’re the luckiest people on earth. It was the best decision to sell our house and live on our sailboat for the last 10 years. Our motto is “Home is Wherever the Wind Blows Us.” We’re gypsies on the water, which is why we named our sailboat *Wind Gypsy*. We have travelled the coast from the BC/Alaska border to Port Townsend, Washington.”

Join us as Mae describes how they safely and responsibly forage our abundant coasts, prepare, store and serve these treats! Please bring your questions; we look forward to an informative and inspiring talk.

NOTE: If you did not receive an email with the Zoom link, check the BCA website calendar for details or contact [Calgary Communications](#).

Vancouver Hybrid Club Night - A BCA Love Boat?

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vancouver-hybrid-club-night-a-bca-love-boat/>



BCA's February club night happens to fall on the 14th, also known as Valentine's Day. In keeping with the spirit of the occasion, we have put together a panel of 3-4 BCA couples who have sailed together offshore, lived to tell the tale, are willing to answer sordid questions about it, and won't hold BCA responsible for any couple's counselling bills that may arise from their participation.

We will attempt to explore the differences in perspectives that different people, on the same boat, can have, as well as how couples handle the different stresses that go with being in such a small space together, or how they work as a team. How are boat jobs divided, watch schedules determined, disputes and stressful situations resolved, especially because one often cannot get off of the boat and away from

each other?*

So on Valentines Day set a course for fun and adventure aboard the BCA Love Boat! See you then.

* *Liability disclaimer: Resolving disputes in the manner captured in Eileen Quinn's song, [If I Killed the Captain](#), is not endorsed by BCA as an appropriate conflict resolution technique.*

Note: Payment is now required for virtual attendance via Zoom – see below

Hybrid Meeting Format

In-Person Attendees:

- Doors open at 7:00 and meeting starts at 7:30pm
- Cost: \$5/Members, \$10/Non-Members

Virtual Attendees:

- Click [here](#) to register for and purchase your virtual meeting ticket and receive the Zoom meeting invitation.
- Please note that you must be signed in to the BCA website to get the member price.
- Cost: Members – \$5.00 per connected device; Non-Members, \$10 per connected device.

Note: Due to the minimal cost of virtual tickets, and an equal or greater cost to BCA when issuing refunds, no refunds will be issued unless the Vancouver Chapter is unable to deliver the Club Night via Zoom.

Image credit: Katawoot – stock.adobe.com; used under licence.

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.

VI South Hybrid Club Night - The Longest Goodbye

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vi-south-hybrid-club-night-the-longest-goodbye/>



Welcome to VI South's first club night of 2024!

Cresswell Walker and Irena Chmielowicz sailed from Vancouver to Australia in 2005 in their first boat, *Conversations*. Eighteen years, 50,000 nm, and 1 ½ times around the world later, they sailed from Puerto Vallarta for New York to hand over their dream boat to a dear friend.

"The Longest Goodbye" is the story of that delivery. Unfolding over 2 ½ years, it's a tale that bridges COVID, the southwest Coast of Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cost Rica, and a Pacific to Atlantic transit of the Panama Canal. Then the tale continues northeast against the Caribbean tradewinds to Colombia, Cuba, Turks and Caicos, Bahamas, and on to Virginia Beach and finally to Montauk, New York on the eastern tip of Long Island.

It's a tale of new sailing stories and old friends, and of closing a loop on a lifetime of sailing by returning 45 years later to where Cress discovered salt water and cruising, Long Island Sound!

Note: Payment is now required for virtual attendance via Zoom – see below

Hybrid Meeting Format : January 16, 2023

In-Person Attendees:

- Doors open at 7:00 and meeting starts at 7:30pm with presentation to immediately follow
- Cost: \$5/Members, \$10/Non-Members

Virtual Attendees:

- [Register here](#) to purchase your virtual meeting ticket and receive the Zoom meeting invitation.
- Please note that you must be signed in to the BCA website to get the member price.
- Cost: Members – \$5.00 per connected device; Non-Members – \$10 per connected device.
- If you have any questions, please [contact Dani](#).

***Note :** Due to the small cost of virtual tickets, and an equal or greater cost to BCA of issuing refunds, no refunds will be issued unless VI Chapter is unable to deliver the Club Night via Zoom. The Zoom room opens at 7 for social time, with the meeting at 7:30 and presentation immediately to follow.*

Engine Inspection & Maintenance Presentation

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/engine-inspection-maintenance-presentation/>



Have you ever looked at your engine with distrust? Does your engine seem to have a mind of its own? Join us for a morning presentation to improve your understanding of inspecting and maintaining your boat's engine and banish those concerns!

Course Information

This will be a concentrated presentation aboard a BCA member's boat. It is intended for people who own and maintain their own boat's engine and want to gain a better understanding, including proper inspection and maintenance, in preparing you for offshore cruising. Topics to be covered include:

- Fuel System
- Air System
- Cooling System
- Lubrication System
- Exhaust System
- Electrical System
- Belts and Pulleys
- Engine Mounts
- Transmission
- General Inspection

About the Instructor

David West is a highly experienced and knowledgeable diesel mechanic, with over 40 years of experience. He is an instructor who comes highly recommended by students who have attended his courses.

About The Author

Kit Griffin

SWAN - Pacific Seacraft 34

Christopher "Kit" Griffin is a retired adventure equipment consultant and photographer living in Vancouver, Canada. He's lived in Australia for most of his life, however his childhood was spent on Vancouver Island as his grandfather (and father) worked for Cable and Wireless until the Cable Station closed in 1959. Kit credits his family and Bamfield for a deep affection for the ocean, diving, and sailing. At the start of 2020 Kit bought SWAN, a Pacific Seacraft 34, in Tahiti which he'll be sailing back to Canada in April 2022 COVID-19 permitting. In the meantime, Kit volunteers for Bluewater Cruising Association in Vancouver Education Watch and sails a Catalina 28 locally.

Tides and Currents

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/tides-and-currents-4/>



The VI and Vancouver Chapter Education Watchkeepers, Brent Alley and Kit Griffin, are delighted to announce this online Zoom course which is open to all BCA members and non-members!

Spend two mornings online with instructor-extraordinaire, Kevin Monahan, learning just how much you *don't* know about tides and currents! This popular seminar is must-do prep for your summer cruising so you can confidently tackle the tides and currents of our coastal waters.

Through this course you will realize that there is a lot more to learn about tides and currents than just reading the basic information in your tide table book or smart phone. You will find out the most reliable sources of information and why they are the best. Learn about tide and current effects from the North Coast to the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Course Format

Each two hour presentation will be followed by ½ hour of questions. There is no need to subscribe to Zoom, just register for Tides and Currents and we'll send a link to you a couple of days before the course.

About the Instructor

Kevin Monahan is a retired Canadian Coast Guard officer with more than 20 years navigating the British Columbia coast as a patrol vessel captain. He has also worked on fishing boats, ferries, and coastal

transports. Retiring from public service in 2012, Kevin now splits his time between publishing (*Ports and Passes*, *The Radar Book*, etc.) and teaching nautical subjects to commercial and recreational mariners. In 2013 he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Image credit: This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

Inside Passage Weather Strategies

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/inside-passage-weather-strategies/>



The VI and Vancouver Chapter Education Watchkeepers, Brent Alley and Kit Griffin, are delighted to announce this online Zoom course which is open to all BCA members and non-members!

Spend two mornings online with instructor-extraordinaire, Kevin Monahan, learning just how much you *don't* know about weather strategies for the Inside Passage. This seminar focuses on the unique weather patterns of the west coast, and how to make decisions based on weather forecasts. Once you understand the dynamics of the most common weather patterns that occur in the region, you can develop strategies that take advantage of the weather patterns for a more comfortable and more enjoyable cruise.

Note: The seminar is not intended to teach actual forecasting of large scale weather patterns. Participants will be shown how to apply the information in weather forecasts and local weather reports to better

understand actual conditions in specific locations on the water.

Course Format

Each two hour presentation will be followed by ½ hour of questions. There is no need to subscribe to Zoom, just register for Inside Passage Weather Strategies and we'll send a link to you a couple of days before the course.

About the Instructor

Kevin Monahan is a retired Canadian Coast Guard officer with more than 20 years navigating the British Columbia coast as a patrol vessel captain. He has also worked on fishing boats, ferries, and coastal transports. Retiring from public service in 2012, Kevin now splits his time between publishing (*Ports and Passes*, *The Radar Book*, etc.) and teaching nautical subjects to commercial and recreational mariners. In 2013 he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Engine Inspection & Maintenance Presentation (#2)

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/engine-inspection-maintenance-presentation-2/>



Have you ever looked at your engine with distrust? Does your engine seem to have a mind of its own? Join us for a morning presentation to improve your understanding of inspecting and maintaining your boat's engine and banish those concerns!

Course Information

This will be a concentrated presentation aboard a 1991 Beneteau Oceanis 350. It is intended for people who own and maintain their own boat's engine and want to gain a better understanding, including proper inspection and maintenance, in preparing you for offshore cruising. Topics to be covered include:

- Fuel System
- Air System
- Cooling System
- Lubrication System

- Exhaust System
- Electrical System
- Belts and Pulleys
- Engine Mounts
- Transmission
- General Inspection

About the Instructor

David West is a highly experienced and knowledgeable diesel mechanic, with over 40 years of experience. He is an instructor who comes highly recommended by students who have attended his courses.

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The Bluewater Cruising Association

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