



*Photo Contest Winner*

**Kevin Towers**

*We were drifting down Swanson Channel on the way home to North Sannich marina from Ganges Harbor. Winds were from the north at about 12 knots.*

A large, vibrant red sail is the central focus of the cover image. It is attached to a dark wooden mast that extends towards the top of the frame. The sail is set against a clear blue sky. The rigging and ropes of the sailboat are visible. The overall composition is dynamic, with the sail curving and filling much of the right side of the cover.

# Currents

June 2023

## Table Of Contents

<b>Haul-out in Puerto Penasco</b>	3
<b>Living Danishly</b>	7
<b>A Message from BCA's Commodore</b>	10
<b>Vancouver Fleet BBQ</b>	12
<b>Vancouver Island Cruising Experience (VICE) 2023</b>	15
<b>Showcasing BCA Member Blogs</b>	17
<b>August Rendezvous Celebrates BCA's 45th Anniversary</b>	20
<b>Friends, Food and Fun with the Peterson Cup Cruising Rally</b>	22
<b>Peterson Cup Cruising Rally 2023</b>	24
<b>Vancouver Island Cruising Experience (VICE) 2023</b>	26

## Haul-out in Puerto Penasco

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/haul-out-in-puerto-penasco/>



Our first cruising season in Mexico has come to an end. While we will be spending the summer with our families in Europe, *Fortitude X* is staying behind: safe and sound at [Cabrales Boat Yard](#) in Puerto Penasco.

From the moment we reserved our spot on the hard a year ago, we felt like we were in good hands. Communication with Salvador Cabrales Jr. has been competent and prompt; the boatyard manual touches on all aspects of interest for cruisers, including general weather patterns in the northern Sea of Cortez, local services and amenities, FAQ's and haul preparation.

The Cabrales WhatsApp group is another amazing resource: the cruising community is super helpful and always willing to share tips, information, and tools. You need a ride or parcel pick-up? Somebody will jump in to help out; it truly reminded me of the BCA culture, with the mantra of fostering seamanship and friendship.

And then there is the Cabrales family: in business for three generations since 1946, Salvador's

grandfather started out with a commercial yard, serving local fishermen like himself, mainly focused on harvesting shrimp shipped to the northern neighbours. The urgency to prevent a tiny Mexican porpoise from extinction changed everything. The number of Vaquita Marina Whales, only found in the Sea of Cortez, dropped to as few as 15, with most of them dying in illegal fishing nets (more [info](#)).

The US threat to boycott catches from the Sea of Cortez punished all local commercial fishermen and limited fishing activities in the area. With the impending US embargo affecting the entire industry, Salvador III started a website promoting the boat yard and its hurricane safe location to pleasure crafts from across the globe. What started with the first cruising vessel in June 2012, increased to a record number of more than 140 boats this season, with the majority (80%) of clients coming from the US and Canada, followed by European, Australians, and other countries.



Cabrales 150 ton ship marine lift

Although several services are offered by Cabrales, it is fair to say that skilled labour is hard to find and Cabrales is more or less a “do-it-yourself” yard.

Having said that, father and son are a wealth of knowledge and will always refer you to specialty stores or experts to help with your boat projects and needs. They have recommendations for rental apartments in Puerto Penasco, and share their favourite restaurants if you ask. Being dual citizens, and frequent border



crossers, the Cabrales are experts in all shuttle, customs, import and duty-free questions.

There has not been a day where we haven't seen father or son, usually both of them, operating the lift, catching lines, or attending to customers in the yard. They are always around. When I mentioned this to Salvador Jr. he confessed that he adopted his ancestors' motto "There is no substitution for being physically present". And it pays off.

The yard is almost at capacity; future plans to include a marina and additional amenities will make this a true cruisers gem in the northern Sea of Cortez.

Cabrales is a true family business, with some of their employees having been with the team for more than 30 years – that tells me a lot about a company.

For more information, feel free to contact Salvador at this [email](#).

Some might say it's a long way up to Puerto Penasco but it is beautiful; some of our favourite anchorages along the way (Puerto Refugio on Isla Angel de la Guarda, Isla Tiburon, Bahia de las Animas, Isla Coronado) make this a terrific and memorable trip and a "Grand Finale" before concluding your cruising season.

Puerto Penasco is lively and offers a number of provisioning options. TNC's such as Uber and Lyft haven't arrived yet but it's easy to hail a cab or rent a car in town.

And before I forget, you'll find one of the best taco trucks right around the corner from the boat yard. Lucio from El Patron, serves a mean Quesadilla and is open every day, starting at 5pm – except on Taco Tuesdays.

## **About The Author**

### **Stefanie Schulz**

#### **Fortitude X - Beneteau 42**

Stefanie got introduced to sailing as an adult, cruising in Germany and Denmark on a friend's boat. After moving to Canada, she spent the summer months on Lake Wabamun in Alberta enjoying her MacGregor 26. Her sailing experience when living in Australia was reduced to charter vacations in the Whitsunday Islands. Stefanie and her husband bought a Beneteau 432 after moving to Vancouver in 2016 and are now on their way south.

---

## Living Danishly

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/living-danishly/>



“How the hell do we get out?” I thought while stuck at the dead end of a tiny marina north of Copenhagen. We had borrowed a Jeanneau 35 sloop for two weeks on the tail end of a European holiday in May. (Our kind hosts with three kids are taking our Cal 39 next summer.)

All the boats were packed like in a sardine can, stern-tied to floats anchored every few feet. What we should have done is reverse slowly out. But it was the third day aboard and I was unsure how she would respond with twin rudders and a very wide transom. So I steered a tight circle and promptly snagged a float as a brisk headwind caught the bow. Onlookers came to the rescue and pushed the bow back into the channel. With huge relief, the float untangled and we fled the cosy harbour. Luckily, the next port of call had room on the dock and we tied alongside for two nights.

Meanwhile, an e-mail arrived from the hosts saying a harbour master contacted them to report damage to a float line. Word spreads fast in these tiny communities and someone had snapped a pic identifying our vessel. He estimated a nominal sum to fix it and we gladly paid up. Forecast was for strong winds so we didn't want to tempt fate and returned home early to the downtown marina. Copenhagen was a wonderful



place to explore from what became our floating motel room.

From the little we saw, the inland coastline is rather flat and boring. Think Delta with busy marinas every few miles. Sweden is within sight and sailors crisscross easily as part of the EU. Danes are wild about sailing. And most boats are well-built, often from local shipyards. It's usually windy. Summers are long (with dawn waking me at 4am) and winters dreary with just a few hours of daylight. So they were flocking to their boats, plazas and parks to enjoy the sun.



How do we get out of here?

Marinas forego fingers in favour of either floats or pilings for stern-tying. A tricky business as you must secure the stern lines first to prevent the bow hitting the dock. Then run forward to tie up by leaping ashore or reaching for lines. Some pilings are plastic and give-way as you motor in. More forgiving than our sharp dock corners. This “box-docking” system doubles the marina capacity while reducing maintenance. Our host’s marina uses a computerized pass card for electrical outlets and facilities. We topped ours up a few times then got a refund when departing.

Wandering about town, it was easy to understand why taxes and cost of living are so high. The cityscape is a marvel, a blend of centuries-old brick & tile and sleek low rise apartments and offices with that Danish design flare. (Could use a bit of bright colour among the many shades of grey.) Subway runs 24 hours, every 5 minutes everywhere. Aside from the ubiquitous urban graffiti, streets are clean and tidy. Bicycles have their own lanes. Everyone seems affluent, blond and tall, most fluently bilingual. Be forewarned, coffees are \$10.

Denmark is our sixth boat swap after Greece, Turkey, New Zealand, Australia and Nova Scotia. It may be our last as the anxiety of sailing a new boat in a strange place is all too real. Yet I hope there’s another on



the horizon as the adventure outweighs the risk.



Ian and Katherine aboard their boat swap

## About The Author

### Ian Cameron

**Cora 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.

---

## A Message from BCA's Commodore

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/message-from-bcas-commodore/>



Happy summer, Bluewater Cruising Association members and friends!

It's here! Summer is here and we will be heading out on our boats to ports far and near. I so look forward to hearing all about this season's adventures. As you are sailing to your favourite nooks and crannies around the world, I ask that you share your adventures with your BCA friends and family. You do not have to travel to foreign destinations to have interesting stories to tell. I challenge all of you to come up with a **Currents** article describing your summer sails. [Submitting a story](#) is easy to do and articles published earn credit against your annual membership dues; and of course, shared stories are one of the most valuable advantages to being a BCA member. Win-win for all of us!

As we finalize the plan developed from our Strategic Planning Session, I'd also like give you this heads-up that the findings will be disclosed soon. With the release of the documents, there will be a request for volunteers. Many of you have already been very involved in this process and have committed further. That said, it is important to have fresh eyes helping the association to move forward. Whether you have experienced bluewater or not, your perspective and enthusiasm is what will drive the BCA into the future.

Please consider what you can do to support.

Most importantly, it is summer. Get out on the water, fly your burgee, and seek out your fellow BCA members. It is time for all of us to enjoy the privileges of being sailors. As always, I look forward to seeing you as we sail our waters in search of adventure.

Have fun! Document it! And, share!

Take care,  
David

[David Mitchell](#)

Commodore  
Bluewater Cruising Association

## 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.

---



## Vancouver Fleet BBQ

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/vancouver-fleet-bbq/>



As in past years, the Vancouver Fleet members got together and invited other *Doners* to wrap up the Fleet season. The Fleets of BCA consist of BCA members who are actively planning to leave for their offshore adventures.

Denis and I have been members of fleet for many years now... probably the longest Fleet members in the history of BCA ? mostly due to life happening and us having to postpone our departure date, either because of work or family commitments; but this is the year we are planning on leaving! So, this year, we were really excited to participate in the Fleet barbecue and were grateful for one more chance to meet up with many *Doners* who 'have been there and done that'. Although Fleet does a good job to prepare you to face the challenges as you prepare your boat for offshore sailing, the *Doners* have many tips about the ins and outs of cruising life. We got some really great tips about checking in to the USA using the [Customs and Border Protection's \(CBP\) Roam app](#) from Greg and Lori Bernard from *Palomita*, who left for Mexico last year and returned for the Summer. And we also picked their brain about leaving their boat in Puerto [Peñasco](#) for the hurricane season, as opposed to Guaymas, for example.



Anne Woodson and Dick Townsend from *Full and By* also keenly shared lots of tips about life in Mexico as cruisers, and some of the things you may do to your boat to protect it from the incessant sun. For example, Rob Murray and Debra from *Avant* gave us tips on sewing and installing covers for all the wood handrails on Counting Stars. The knowledge these *Doners* have to share is so invaluable!



Chatting with *Doners*

As in the past, we enjoyed each other's company in the beautiful setting of the social room at Spruce Hardbour Marina, thanks again Barb Angel! We had delicious food, and great company!



The BCA officials attending the event

Past-Commodore Leslie Hansen was present to mark the occasion and Vancouver Vice-Commodore Don Hutchinson said a few words of support and encouragement!

And just like that we now face the excitement of leaving, the uncertainty of weather routing, the sadness of leaving family and friends behind and the exhilaration of new adventures to come!

## About The Author

### Rosario Passos

#### Counting Stars - Whitby 42 Ketch

Rosario is a dreamer who wants to sail the South Pacific.... so far she sails the local waters of the Salish Sea to get as much experience as possible.



## Vancouver Island Cruising Experience (VICE) 2023

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/vancouver-island-cruising-experience-vice-2023/>



There is no preparation for going offshore quite like being offshore. You can do this by joining VICE 2023 (Vancouver Island Cruising Experience).

### About VICE

Each year a number of BCA vessels from all three chapters get together online to plan a multi-day offshore trip, usually in late June or early in July. They wait for a weather window on the West Coast of Vancouver Island before sailing out to sea. The idea is to leave in reasonable weather that is similar to what you will be experiencing on your offshore voyage. The boats head out into the Pacific for two or three days, sailing towards a selected GPS destination before turning back. This shakedown cruise will give you a chance to test your boats and yourselves – cooking, eating, sleeping, using offshore systems, communicating and keeping watch at sea – the skills you will need when you leave on your real voyage. VICE also gives you the opportunity to practice manoeuvres like heaving to and deploying a drogue or storm anchor – best practiced before Mother Nature puts you to the test!

Boats that participate in VICE are often looking for crew. This is a golden opportunity for boatless dreamers to experience life on board prior to buying and equipping a boat.

## The Plan for 2023

VICE 2023 starts with boats gathering in Ucluelet **on or prior to July 13**. The plan is to depart on July 14 (depending on weather) for an offshore point approximately 100nm from the starting point and sail out and back in an effort to experience a proper taste of going offshore. The destination (GPS coordinates) will be finalized a bit closer to the time, depending on forecasted weather.

## Registration and Information

If you are interested in joining VICE this year and if you have not yet registered, [register as soon as possible](#).

To learn more about VICE, or read past reports from cruisers who have tried it out, or want to sign up (or put your name down as crew), please visit the VICE Group link [here](#) (*you must be a BCA member to access the group*).

To complete your sign up, you must:

1. Join the [VICE Group](#)
2. Register
3. Fill out the [Google Sheet](#)
4. Complete a [BCA Liability Waiver](#) for VICE

## About The Author

### Rosario Passos

#### Counting Stars - Whitby 42 Ketch

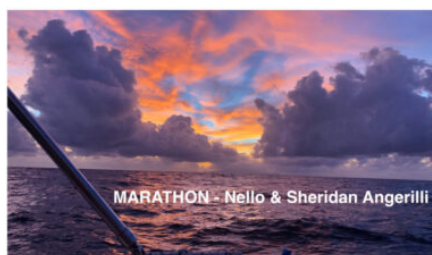
Rosario is a dreamer who wants to sail the South Pacific.... so far she sails the local waters of the Salish Sea to get as much experience as possible.

---



## Showcasing BCA Member Blogs

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/news/showcasing-bca-member-blogs/>



BCA has just launched a new initiative on the association website that highlights members' blogs, YouTube channels, Instagram and other social media sites. While there is a list of member blogs in the [BCA Member Directory](#), they arguably have a fairly low profile and some members may not even know the list is readily available in that publication (pp 99-101 in the 2023 edition). Highlighting or showcasing a variety of blogs on the website, however, raises their profile significantly.

These sites provide both BCA members and non-members with easy access to a wide range of personal experiences while cruising, engaging with local culture and exploring a new location, and when dealing with the challenges and "wins" of maintenance or significant upgrades to a boat. There are frank and honest observations and comments about the joys and frustrations of living aboard, as well as a generous sharing of tips, tricks and techniques. Most include stunning visuals that illustrate and bring their stories to life.

To check out the selection of blogs currently online, go to the [BCA website](#), scroll down past the Calendar of Events in the right hand rail and you will see rotating images that link to a boat's blog or other social media site. The boat and its owners names are superimposed on the images to assist you find a specific blog or you can simply click on any image and see where it takes you. This is a great way to connect with BCA members, many of whom are still out there pursuing the dream and some whose cruising days may be finished but whose experiences continue to inspire the dreamers among us.



Boats that have already consented to be part of this initiative include:

- *Anuri*
- *Anduril*
- *Swift*
- *Luja*
- *Whistler*
- *Synchronicity*
- *Marathon*
- *Innisfree*
- *Callisto*
- *Gargoyle*
- *Jaca*
- *Sea Rover II*
  
- *Cat's Paw*
  
- *Borboleta*
- *Fortitude X*
  
- *Watermark*
- *Pixie*
- *Terrwyn*
- *Fluenta*

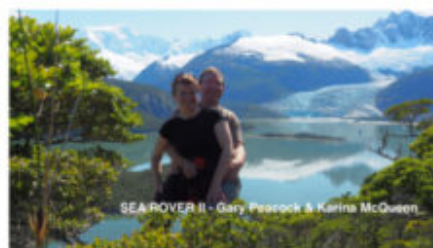
And more boats are being added almost weekly as they are contacted or hear about this initiative and consent to share their website with BCA.

If you are a BCA member in good standing who would like to participate but have not yet been asked, don't be shy! [Send us an email](#) giving your consent to be included, give us the URL you'd like us to use and attach a favourite landscape oriented photo that somehow captures the essence of your boating experience.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who has stepped up to date; your adventures and your willingness to share them in this way bring BCA's core values to life:

- Community: *Friends on a journey; we are not alone*
- Inspiration: *Fuelling your dream*
- Adventure: *The lure of what awaits beyond the horizon*
- Sharing: *The open exchange of experiences, because no one knows all the answers*
- Caring: *Respecting our environment, the communities we visit and each other*

Happy reading! Happy dreaming! Happy reminiscing!



## About The Author

### Jennifer Handley

-

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.

## August Rendezvous Celebrates BCA's 45th Anniversary

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/bca-august-rendezvous-at-port-browning-2/>



Please save the dates for the August long weekend Rendezvous celebrating BCA's 45th anniversary, hosted by the Vancouver Chapter: August 4 to 7, 2023 at [Port Browning Marina](#), North Pender Island.

When you arrive, look for host boats, *Sea Fever* and *Ragtime* (they'll be flying the BCA banner and spinnaker), sign in and pick up your registration package and waiver.

Although there is plenty of room to anchor out in Port Browning, moorage on the docks will be at a special rate, with a significant reduction for BCA members during the Marina's high season! For any boats wanting to reside on the dock for the Rendezvous, you must register with the Marina to reserve a slip at [www.portbrowning.ca](http://www.portbrowning.ca). There is a two-night minimum and you pay at the time of reserving.

To assist with event planning, please register online and pay your \$10 per person fee by **July 24**. Catering will be provided by [Vanilla Leaf Bakery Café](#), who catered the May Rendezvous, with many happy customers!



Please help spread the word and plan to join us in the fun this summer with your fellow sailors!

More information to follow, as details are worked out.

---

## Friends, Food and Fun with the Peterson Cup Cruising Rally

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/articles/friends-food-and-fun-with-the-peterson-cup-cruising-rally/>



Mark the Peterson Cup Cruising Rally (PCCR) on your summer calendars right now! This fun event organised by [Bluewater Cruising Association](#) (BCA) volunteers is back this year and it promises to be a fantastic time!

The rally will begin on Saturday, July 29, at 1600h, at the Dinghy Dock Pub on Protection Island, Nanaimo Harbour, and it will wrap up on August 4 at Port Browning Pub on Pender Island.

### About the Rally

The first few rallies were a call to a series of races leading to the August Rendezvous. Then BCA Commodore Lex Peterson made the call and BCA members gladly joined the series of fun races that culminated in a great celebration to send off *Dreamers* into their offshore sailing adventures. Lex's motto "[Live your Life Today](#)" still rings true to this day. You can learn a bit more about the history of the rally in [this Currents article](#).

All boats participating in the rally must be willing to anchor, as we do not use docks. Be sure to bring a dinghy and food to share. If you play an instrument, bring it along. In the past singing and dancing have been known to happen!

The course for the rally is prescribed by the winds each morning. We will race 20 miles northbound, 20 miles east, 20 miles west, and 20 miles south to arrive at the Port Browning Pub by Thursday afternoon.

## **Rally Themes**

The themes for the Peterson Cup Cruising Rally are:

- Have fun, contribute to community, share your short stories
- Embrace the amazing [sea life in our rich corner of the planet](#)
- Sail by the full moon without electricity, or petrol

Registration will be open on the BCA website soon, so stay tuned and plan to register in the next couple of weeks. Cool souvenir T-shirts will be available as well!

## **About The Author**

### **Ken Christie**

#### **Blue Rose - DeKleer Bros. 30 Sloop**

Ken Christie has been a BCA member since 2010. He served as the Bluewater Cruising Association's Vancouver Education Watchkeeper, has taken quite a number of special BCA courses, and organized four years of themed Peterson Cup Cruising Rallies. When not cruising BC waters, Ken's 30' Fraser sloop, Blue Rose, lies ready under the Burrard Street Bridge.

---



## Peterson Cup Cruising Rally 2023

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/peterson-cup-cruising-rally-2023/>



Mark your calendar! Time to cast off the bowlines and sign up for the annual Peterson Cup Cruising Rally (PCCR) which takes place this summer from Saturday, July 29 to Friday, August 4.

All BCA members are invited to this unique and fun sailing event in memory of Past Commodore, Lex Peterson, whose legacy is “do it and get out there, BCA sailors, while you still can!” For those who are unsure what this annual cruising rally is all about, here it is:

- First and foremost, a cruising rally for those who are looking for some great local sailing and fun this summer
- Voyage-friendly for anyone of any gender; sailors, single-handers, female skippers, power boaters, and everyone in-between, be they old, young, with or without kids, *Dreamers*, *Doers* and *Doners*!
- All about fostering seamanship and friendship for people with an active interest in “inshore” cruising
- A reflection of BCA’s values: Community, Sharing, Adventure, Inspiration

## Where and When

Once again, the waters, islands, nooks and crannies of the Salish Sea will be the backdrop (playground) for this year's rally.

Ken Christie (***Blue Rose***) is co-coordinating the Peterson Cup fleet again this year. The fleet will gather as per tradition in Mark Bay, off Protection Island, Nanaimo, on Saturday, July 29. The Dinghy Dock Pub on Protection Island will be the first official meeting place, at 1600h, and the Fleet will then set sail on Sunday morning.

The rally officially ends on Friday, August 4 – just in time for everyone to head to Port Browning on Friday for the start of the annual BC Day weekend rendezvous. The coveted Peterson Cup will be awarded to the rally winner at the Rendezvous.

## How to Register

Please confirm your intent to participate by registering in advance of the rally; payment of \$10 per person is due at the start of the rally. If you need more info, contact [Ken Christie](#).

## About The Author

### Ken Christie

**Blue Rose - DeKleer Bros. 30 Sloop**

Ken Christie has been a BCA member since 2010. He served as the Bluewater Cruising Association's Vancouver Education Watchkeeper, has taken quite a number of special BCA courses, and organized four years of themed Peterson Cup Cruising Rallies. When not cruising BC waters, Ken's 30' Fraser sloop, Blue Rose, lies ready under the Burrard Street Bridge.

---

## Vancouver Island Cruising Experience (VICE) 2023

<https://currents.bluewatercruising.org/events/vancouver-island-cruising-experience-vice-2023/>



VICE 2023 is a BCA's signature event for members only. This multi-day shakedown cruise gives you a chance to test your boat and yourselves – cooking, eating, sleeping, using offshore systems, communicating and keeping watch at sea – the skills you will need when you leave on your real voyage. VICE also provides an opportunity to practice manoeuvres like heaving to and deploying a drogue or storm anchor – best practised before Mother Nature puts you to the test.

The 2023 VICE Fleet will gather in Ucluelet on July 13 and, depending on weather, will set sail on **July 14** for an offshore point approximately 100nm out and then return in an effort to experience a proper taste of going offshore. Our destination (GPS coordinates) will be finalized a bit closer to the time, depending on forecasted weather.

To learn more about VICE, or read past reports from cruisers who have tried it out, or want to sign up (or put your name down as crew), please visit the VICE Group link, [here](#).



## To Sign up for VICE 2023

1. Join the [VICE Group](#)
  2. Registration closes **July 10**
  3. Fill out the [Google Sheet](#)
  4. Complete a [BCA Liability Waiver](#) for VICE
-

**Currents Bluewater Cruising**

**The Bluewater Cruising Association**

PDF generated July 04, 2023 at 9:37 PM