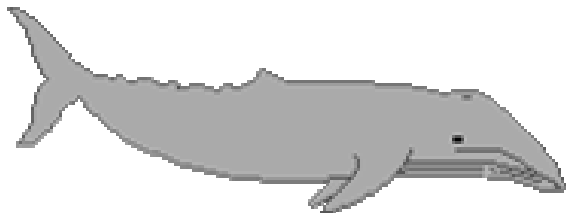


The Barnacle

January 2007

P.O. Box 98700, Des Moines, WA 98198 (206) 824-3674



Event Calendar

January 2007

- 1 New Year's Eve Rendezvous
- 6 Duwamish Head Race (SSS 2)

February 2007

- 6 Spring General Membership Meeting *
- 10 Vashon Island Race (Windjammer 3)
- 17 Toliva Shoal Race (OYC—SSS3)

March 2007

- 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 20 Race Fleet Meeting
- 30-31 Blake Island Crab Feed Cruise

April 2007

- 1 Blake Island Crab Feed Cruise
- 5 Spring Series Races Begin (1)
- 12 Spring Series Race (2)
- 19 Spring Series Race (3)
- 20-22 Daffodil Festival Cruise in Tacoma
- 26 Spring Series Race (4)
- 28-29 Spring Regatta Weekend
- 29 Racing Awards Presentation

Commodore's Corner

We closed 2006, a year of records for rain and wind, especially. The December storm paused some of the holiday preparations, but most made due. We did. The highest recorded wind was at Point Robinson, clocked at 71 mph. Thanks to Pat Stewart, who did a survey of the race marks, it appears only one broke loose and will need to be replaced.

Tom and Jean Spohn hosted the New Year's cruise to Dock St. Marina in Tacoma. The cruise over on Saturday was quite foggy, and all TTPYClubbers made it across Commencement Bay uneventfully, thankfully. We motored in fog with no visibility and hugged the shoreline, paying special attention to the GPS. Once docked, we joined with other members for an impromptu get together to get information for the week-end events. We met dock buddies from Delin Dock, who shared their facility with us for a New Year's potluck and games. A festive time was had; the knot game and charades were fun. Bagpipes at midnight were appreciated by all. Special thanks to Jean and Tom for transporting us to the Delin Club house.

On to 2007 - our cruise and race captains have a number of events planned for members and friends this year. January 6th is the biggest race of the year, the Duwamish Head race. In years past we have had 90 boats participate, and expect the same for 2007. The start is Saturday morning, off the Des Moines fishing pier, if you are not racing, come down for the start, also

breakfast will be served at the Des Moines Yacht Club beginning at 7am for a small fee. Members interested in theatre, may join us at the EB Foote Winery in Burien on Friday, February 2nd for the show, *Gone with the Wine*. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Corky Cellars in Des Moines. Following that is our first general membership meeting of 2007 on February 6th. Larry and Jamie Wheir have planned a special event for members at the Hydroplane Museum in Tukwila. Pizza and Hydros is the theme. There will be a short meeting, followed by taking in the attractions in the museum. Hydros have quite a history in Seattle, and Larry has arranged a special docent to share this history with us. This should be a fun event. Families are encouraged to attend.

Don't forget the Annual Boat show that begins on January 25th at Qwest field. Remember to bring your yacht club membership card to take advantage of the Commodore's place, for refreshments and relaxation during your excursion to the show.

The second cruise of the year is planned for Saturday, April 1st for the Blake Island Crab Feed. Mark your calendars for this annual event.

Happy Boating Year!

--Commodore Tim

Cruise Corner

New Year's Eve Cruise

The weekend started at Noon on Saturday when Tom and Jean Spohn arrived at Delin Docks where *Andromeda* is moored. They were called by dock mates to view a 30 foot gray whale surfacing,, the first spotted to anyone's recall in the Foss Waterway. We called to alert Captain Valpey on *Sloe Tango* to the whale sighting. He had been piloting through thick fog with Debra, Steve and Janet Sisson on board for the last two hours and was close to harbor. They got great whale views both fore and aft. Tim and Caroline McShane on *Too Fat to Fly*, Gordon and Karen Kells-Murphy on *Les Chevaux Blanc* and Paul and Carol Jones on *Brigadoon* also made their

way safely through the very dense fog that blanketed Puget Sound and Commencement Bay that day until mid-afternoon. New Members Mimi and Rick Redfield on *Next Tuesday* timed their trip to be sailing just after the fog had lifted. That evening we all huddled on *Brigadoon* for Happy Hour as it was way too cold and windy to be out on the dock. Chuck and Deidre Wright joined for the evening.

Sunday dawned sunny, windless and warmer, making it nice for walking about town, visiting museums and shops. Peter, Amy and Paul Gelinis arrived on *Fast Feather II* around Noon, wisely waiting for the preferable cruising weather.

That evening we brought in 2007 with a lot of noise and merriment, celebrating in the clubhouse at the Delin Dock Marina across from Dock Street Marina. After filling our bellies with fabulous potluck food, some competed to determine who could tie the fastest knots. The speediest were rewarded with bottles of the recently-released TTPYC vintage. Then the crew settled in for a serious



game of Charades with the two teams pulling no stops to challenge each other with tough choices

to be mimed and guessed. 'Roget's Thesaurus' stumped us all for a while, but no challenge ultimately went unmet. In the photos you see Commodore Tim trying hard to get Karen and Gordon to guess what he is doing. You can ask Ray and Rick what they



are charade-ing.



At Midnight Fireworks exploded along the Tacoma skyline, noisemakers were rung by TTPYC folk wearing festive hats and a resident bagpipe player, Don, appeared to



serenade us. Janet was delighted! The next morning Slappy the Seal was sighted and the Spohns were treated to a parade of goldeneye ducks. Able to now host a whale, the cleanup of Commencement Bay appears to be making progress as evidenced by a variety of sea critters who have now returned.

-Jean Spohn

2007 Cruise Season

Join us this cruise season at the traditional munching of crab at scenic Blake Island in March. Or choose another cruise as there is one nearly every month to grab your fancy.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Mar 30, 31, Apr 1 | Blake Island Crab Feed |
| Apr 20, 21, 22 | Dock Street Dash II aka Daffodil Festival and Parade at Tacoma Dock Street Marina |
| May 18, 19, 20 | Brownsville Cruise with Steak and Avocado roast. |
| Jun 1,2,3 | Maritime Gig Festival at Gig Harbor |
| June 22, 23, 24 | Minto Mingle at Docton. |
| July 4, | Salmon Bake Picnic at Tramp Harbor followed by fireworks from Des Moines. |
| July 27, 28, 29 | Silverdale Whaling Days Cruise and celebration. |
| Aug 31, Sep 1,2,3 | Filucy Fling. Cruise to Longbranch and join the Dance. |
| Sep 21,22, 23 | Sleep and Creep |

-Tom Spohn, Cruise Chair

Race Corner

The Windjammer Series will start on January 6th, with the Blake Island Race. The Manzanita Buoy race is on January 27th, and the Vashon Island race is February 10. Please come out and join us. We usually get good winds for the series and it is fun to sail longer courses for a change.

Performance class will be FREE in the upcoming Windjammer Series! We will give you a handicap based on your experience, sail conditions, bottom condition, etc., which will make you competitive. Also, call me and I will assign a mentor for you if you want to help you get started. Hope to see more of you out there!!

Details are completed for the upcoming Duwamish Head race. Gene Ellison will be in charge of finding moorage for all the racers the night before the race. Bob Post will host the breakfast at DMYC the morning of the race as well as register the boats. Tom Davis will be race officer. The Coast Guard has issued the race permit.

Have fun!

--Pat Waters, Race Chair
253-529-3502

Breeders Theater at E.B Foote Winery

Attend an (un)official social Club outing. It's a "GYOT" event (Get your own ticket.) A few couples have tickets for **Friday February 2nd** and there are still tickets available. The performance is **Gone With the Wine**. *GWW* is a tale of the Old South, the New West and some points in between. It is a satire on both the movie classic with the very similar title but also of westerns, Get the full scoop at www.breederstheater.com. Or call (206) 242-3852 for details or Jean Spohn, 206-200-7524

Marine Life Corner

Being a Beach Naturalist, my cruising time must include seeing sea critters in their native habitat. The gray whale sighting in the Foss Waterway is historic. So, I thought you would like to know more about this creature. The following information was extracted from <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/whales/species/Graywhale.shtml>

The gray whale's skin is usually gray with some blotchy white spots and has many parasites, including hundreds of pounds of **barnacles** and whale lice. There are little or no parasites on its right side because of the way it scrapes along the ocean bottom to feed.

Gray whales are bottom feeders (benthic feeders). They sieve through the mud on the bottom of the ocean floor of the arctic with their baleen. They filter out small crustaceans (1/2 inch (1.2 cm) long, shrimp-like crustaceans called amphipods, krill, copepods, etc.), plankton, and mollusks from the ocean sediment. They usually feed on their right side, sucking up mouthfuls of mud filled with organic matter. Their baleen filters out the nourishing organic material (mostly amphipods), and the whale spits out the mud..

Gray whales normally swim 2-6 mph (3.2-9.8 kph), but can go up to 10-11 mph (16-17.5 kph) in bursts when in danger. Feeding speeds are slower, about 1-2.5 mph (1.6-4 kph). Gray whales make an extraordinarily long migration from the Arctic ocean (northwest of Alaska in the Chukchi Sea) to the Baja peninsula off Mexico, and back each year. They travel about 12,500 miles (20,110 km) each year, staying near the coast. They feed in the cold arctic waters and calve and mate in the warm, protected tropical lagoons of the pacific ocean off Baja, Mexico



Gray whales congregate in small pods of about 3 whales, but the pod may have as many as 16 members. Large groups (up to hundreds of whales) form in feeding waters, but these are loose, temporary associations. They do not form long-term bonds.

Gray whales are very agile swimmers. Gray whales can dive for up to 30 minutes and go 500 feet (155 m) deep. They can swim in even relatively shallow water without running aground.

They also breach, jumping partially out of the water and falling back at an angle, splashing and making a loud noise. This may help clean off some of the encrustations of parasites (barnacles and whale lice) or in communicating with other gray whales.

- Jean

Spohn

From the Editor

Happy New Year. Please don't forget submissions of personal stories, historical memories or even jokes to your dedicated Barnacle Editor. If you have some photos from TTPYC-sponsored races, such as boats under sail, recovered marks or handsome crew, please send to me for publication. Remember – A picture = 1000 words.

And, let me know if you would like to receive your Barnacle via email rather than via USPS.

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