

# KNOTTY NEWS

September 2025



## Message from the Executive Team

Thank you to everyone for another amazing season. And thank you to all docking members who got back to Alex with their intentions for winter of 25/26 and for next season. As we end the season, be sure to mark your calendar. It's fall work party time!

### Haul Out is Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 am

Please be at the club at 8 am if you have a cradle and/or if you can help out. (If you do not attend or send an able-bodied replacement OR your fee payments are not up to date - including this year's haul out fees, your boat will not be hauled out.) With lower water levels, the haul out process may take a couple hours more than normal.

### Dock Dismantling is Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 am

All full members are expected to support the effort with their attendance or by sending an able-bodied replacement.

### Low Water Update

Low water levels may lead to a slightly more complicated haul out, but our plan is to get boats close to our seawall as in previous years. We are still investigating lower water level options as we prepare for 2026. If you have thoughts on this subject that you would like the PSSS Executive to consider, then please contact myself (Kerby) or another executive member.

We have permission from the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority to redistribute silt on the creek bottom, in order to haul out all boats. We will likely be contracting Killins' dredger to do the work a day or two before haul out. We hope to open up two 'keel lanes' to the seawall that will be 5'6" deep. It will be needed because the water level has dropped 8" in the last 4 weeks.





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We are also looking into dredging early in 2026 if conditions warrant - and all signs point to yes. This will probably require the club to take on a 5 year loan to pay for the extra dredge. More information about dredging will be discussed at the Nov 2nd AGM.

### **Hetty St Lease**

Our current Hetty St lease expires on Dec 31st. We have worked with The Municipality of Central Elgin to sign a new 5 year lease that will begin Jan 1st of 2026. Usually 3 of our larger boats dock at the end of Hetty St.

### **PSSS Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM was initially scheduled for Nov 1 but it has been moved to Sunday, Nov 2nd at the legion. There will be more notices about the AGM in October. If you have any suggested motions that you would like us to consider at the AGM, then please let Kerby or another executive know.

### **Work Hours**

The deadline to report work hours is the end of October. Secretary Diane sent reminder emails to full members who have less than 20 recorded work hours. If you have more than 20 hours, then you should be well on your way to getting to 30 hours by the end of October, as long as you fully participate in dock dismantling. Record work hours electronically through the link below, or there are pages in the lime green PSSS Work Hours binder in the clubhouse that we will also consult. The onus is on the member to report the work hours - not on the PSSS Secretary to track you down. Thanks for being proactive with this! Here is the link:

<https://forms.gle/2R7pFmXqA6ryJv4s5>

### **Outstanding Work Hours Deposits for Former Full Members**

If you know a former full-time member or their family, please send them the link below. Depending on the situation, they may be owed some money from a work hours deposit that they made. This is a timely request. We hope all former members who have a request contact us in the next few weeks as we hope to clarify this liability by the end of September. Here is the link:

<https://portstanleysailingsquadron.com/important-and-time-sensitive-notice-to-former-full-members-regarding-work-hours-deposits/>



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### Sailing 'Favourite 5'

#### Diane Lesak 'Favourite 5'



- Favourite anchorage: Definitely Big Majors in the Bahamas. Perfect wind direction, perfect weather, perfect sandy bottom for good holding.
- Favourite Port Stanley restaurant: Two Forks. Delicious fresh oysters.
- Favourite boat: This will always be Vertigo 1. 20 years of cruising, twice to the Bahamas and she got us there and back in one piece. Didn't love the stove. Preheating the burners was not my favourite thing.
- Favourite wind direction: Whichever way keeps us moving without too much heeling.
- Favourite day of the season: Haulout! Lol.



#### Columbia Store Pass

The season is changing. Do you need new clothes? Footwear? Coats? Hats and mitts? Use this pass to get into the Columbia Employee Store (1425 Max Brose Dr Unit 1) until October 31. Everything in the store is 40% lower than standard retail prices.

You will need to show a copy of the pass to the left to enter the store. You can either print the page, or take a photo of the pass and show it from your phone.

#### EXCLUSIVE INVITE TO SHOP THE EMPLOYEE STORE

VALID AT ALL EMPLOYEE STORES

PORTLAND, OR	UNION CITY, CA	HENDERSON, KY
RICHMOND, CA	CARLSBAD, CA	SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY
LONDON, ON	WEST COVINA, CA	

LOCATION DETAILS & HOURS  
portlandemployeestore@columbia.com

VALID THROUGH 10/31/25



BRING THIS PASS + UP TO 4 GUESTS  
TERMS & CONDITIONS

~Warren Webster



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### Fun with boat names

Captains and crew of the PSSS have seafaring lore and scuttlebutt to share:

The legendary schooner was known on the turbulent waters of Lake Erie. The captain, who was a wind runner and known to chase hurricanes, was running late. With the captivation of fear, the trembling crew were wind swept as their gaze fixed to a looming storm on the meridian, where the sky kissed the sea. 'Calmesé' murmured the captain, moments before barking 'helms a-lee'.

On an outbound course, they chased their dreams of treasures to be found on Excaliber. Clutching their good luck juniper berry charms, they spoke softly in their Esperanto language about the wind spirit known to be in the shape of a kestrel.

After cscaping from their last daring attempt at the treasure, they prayed that with the grace c of the goddess of Neptune, they would get their second chances.

Could it be possible?!! Just as they set eyes on their treasure on the horizon, they were moonstruck by the appearance of the legendary sea mistress, awakening from the depth of Lake Erie. With a mischievous glance, she turned around to reveal her nice butt. Before the crew could capture her photo, an enormous gale force wind blew them all the way back to King George VI bridge, where they gathered in merriment with roasted marshmallows, to share myths and tall tales with the next young generation crew members, Cadence, Mason and Lincoln. And they all sailed happily ever after.

THE END

~Tale by Diane Schlegel



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### Fun with boat names - The boats who inspired the story!

~Photos from Diane Schlegel



Calnese



Captivation



Cscape



Esperanto



Excalibur



Grace C



Helms A-Lee



Hurricane



Juniper



Kestrel



Meridian



Mistress I



Moonstruck



Nice Butt



Outbound



Running Late



Second Chances



Wind Runner



Wind Spirit



Windswept



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### LIER 2025

While no PSSS members sailed to Ashtabula this year, many of our American friends sailed north. And many came wearing 'Elbows Up' tees, in support of Canada's sovereignty!



~Photo credit: Unknown (apologies - the sender in my (Chelsea's) email was "15198716800@mms.rogers.com" and I can't remember who sent this amazing pic!)



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## Sailing School

Thank you to the absolutely amazing instructors and volunteers who made this year's sailing school possible. They trained children by day, adults by night, and even organized a race for the new sailors on Friday night. Your efforts are critical to getting new people excited to join the sailing community!

~Photos by Lynn Vording, Warren Webster, & Chelsea Hicks-Webster

### Sailing school highlights from Cadence, Mason and Lincoln:

Most challenging thing about sailing school:

- Cadence: Controlling the jib sail and main sail as we were tipping.
- Mason: The first day. Because I had never sailed my own boat.
- Lincoln: Just staying on the boat!

Coollest thing I learned:

- Cadence: "When in doubt, let it out." and "Tiller towards trouble."
- Mason: How to capsize a boat. (I was scared to flip the boat, but it end up being fun.)
- Lincoln: How small the jib sail is.

Thing I loved most:

- Cadence: Going to Clay Beach.
- Mason: When me and River won the race to the beach.
- Lincoln: When I was sailing with Jack he helped me get more speed by sailing on an angle.



9 boats race on the Friday after sailing school! ~Photo by Lynn Vording



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### Race Season!

Thanks to all PSSS members for a great race season - and especially to Ken Holland, for all of this hard work to make this season possible!

~Photos from Ken Holland & Chelsea Hicks-Webster; Rankings from Ken Holland

Wednesday Evening Series	
10 Races June to August 27, 2025	
PHRF A	1st - Hurricae 2nd - Calmese 3rd - Grace C
PHRF B	1st - Esperanto 2nd - Kestrel 3rd - Running Late

Lady Bligh Race	
PHRF A	1st - Hurricae - Wendy Pyne 2nd - Calmese - Erin Freeman 3rd - Grace C. - Chelsea Hicks-Webster

Jam Championship	
PHRF A	1st. Calmese 2nd. Moonstruck 3rd. Captivation
PHRF B	1. Esperanto 2. Running Late 3. Kestrel

Regatta Race Day	
PHRF A	1st. Hurrigan 2nd. Outbound
PHRF B	1st. Kestrel

### Sky Hand and Water Spout PSSS Racing

PSSS racing is always a little different each week. It's always scenic, but some days are more "exciting" than others when it comes to the weather. Then, there are the days when we have new boats join in - like the St Lawrence II passing through the PSSS racing fleet at the start line!

~Shawn Buchanan





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### Year-End Banquet

Diane Lesak and the Social Committee never fail to deliver a spectacular event!

This year's island time-themed banquet featured a creative photo booth (thank you Bob Chantler for snapping everyone's pictures!), a delicious steak and chicken dinner, a group of amazing award winners, and (best of all) a great turnout of amazing PSSS members!

~All photos courtesy of  
Bob Chantler and Kerby Waud

~Chelsea Hicks-Webster





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## SHORT STORIES



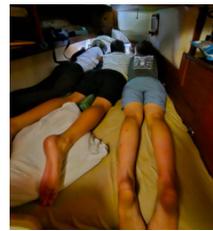
**Making memories**  
Bob and Lynn making the most of their sailing season!!

←  
Turning Bob's grandson into a true captain.

→  
And fully decorated for the Calypso Boat Parade  
~Lynn and Bob



**Oh no!**  
Disaster aboard Moonstruck and Grace C!  
8 stitches. 2 broken bones. 1 resilient sailor!  
~Photo courtesy of Ruth Foster

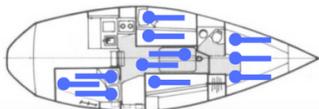


← **How many people can you sleep on an Ericson 33?**  
This many.

← And also, this many.

← Just like this. (Trust us - It's been tested!)

← ~The Websters, the Chwieckos, and the Osbornes





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### Mystery of the Waikiki Yacht Club flag

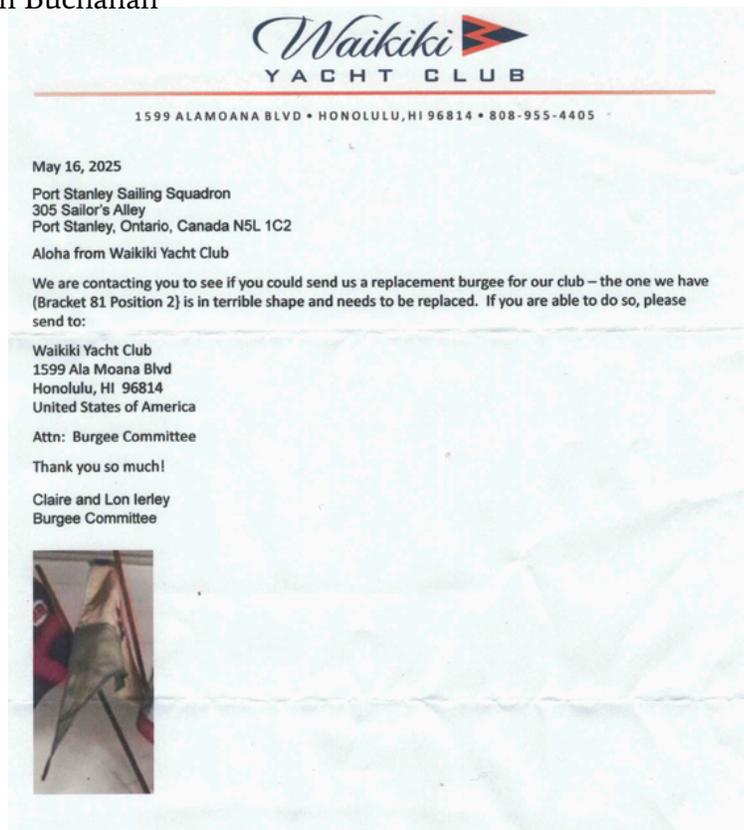
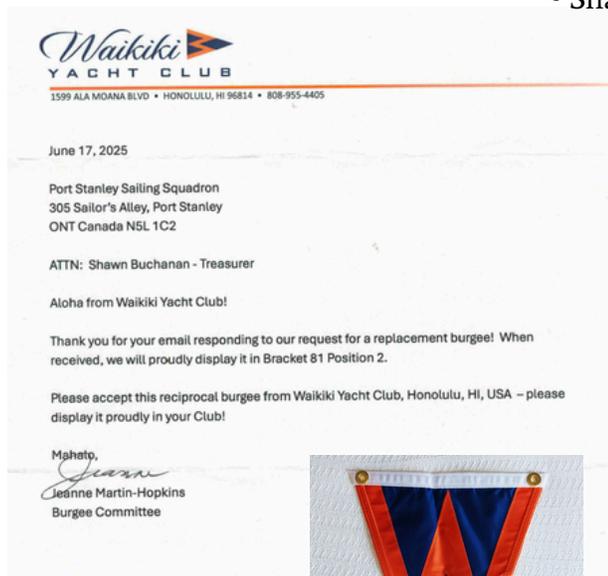
In May, we received a letter from WYC – Waikiki Yacht Club – asking if we would replace a well worn burgee on display at their club. Apparently, the PSSS club burgee (flag) had been on display for some time and they were hoping we could send a fresh one. There is a photo of the old burgee in the first letter.

No one we have spoken to knows how our PSSS burgee made its way into the South Pacific. When I wrote back to confirm their request, and ask if they would reciprocate, they did reply but did not answer regarding how ours got there.

We have now received a new burgee courtesy of WYC. Photo and letter(s) attached...but the mystery continues...who gave them a PSSS burgee in the first place?!

Can any of you Knotty News readers help to fill in some history?

~ Shawn Buchanan





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### **Sailing to Desolation Sound, Part 1 – Stephen’s Shower Adventures!**

Former PSSS members, Rick and Suzanne, sold everything and moved to Vancouver Island and bought a 36’ Nonsuch. In 2023 they invited me on a sailing trip from Ladysmith, where they docked their boat Salty Cat, up to Desolation Sound and back. I flew out to the island the end of April and we started our two week trip June 1st.

Weather wasn’t accommodating so we headed south to the Gulf Islands to meet up with Paul, on his 30’ Nonsuch Sandpiper, who would be sailing with us up to the Sound. We headed north and after a few days we made our way into the Nanaimo Marina. This will be the location for this story.

After a few days of sailing there is nothing better than a hot shower. This was one of the reasons we took a dock in Nanaimo. We tied up to the dock, walked up town for some supper and found ourselves back on the boat about 10pm. Rick and Suzanne called it a night and I thought this would be the perfect time to go and have a long, hot shower. I grabbed my toiletry bag, a towel and the bathroom swipe card. We were docked literally beside the office so I left the boat with no shoes, no shirt and wearing some very light shorts.

I got to the gate and I noticed it had a keypad. I checked the swipe card and they was no code. I went back to the boat and checked the paperwork and there was no code. Rick was still awake and confirmed they hadn’t provided a code. I grabbed some electrical tape with plans of taping back the lock. I proceeded back to the gate and was in the process of taping the lock when I noticed there were multiple homeless people coming down to the docks. Not wanting to be responsible for allowing the homeless access to the docks I scrapped that plan. While walking down the dock, looking for an easy spot to jump the fence, I saw a guy walking pass with his dog, and minutes later he was walking past me on the dock. I asked him if he had the gate code and he said no, the north gate is open. I walked up to the north gate and it was open, and it also had a keypad. There were a couple of young guys closing up a shop on the dock so I asked them if they had the code. They replied, code to what? I pointed to the gate and they said security would be around. Moments later, a security guard arrived and closed the gate. I explained to the guard that I was off a boat, going for a shower and needed the code to the gates. He told me they don’t give out the code, but he was heading back to his office, which was across from the showers, and he would let me back on the dock. Great, off to the showers I go.

My swipe card didn’t work! I tried door after door, it didn’t work. I went to the security office, it was empty! I could see all the camera feeds but there was no one to be found! Did I mention it was early June, now about 11pm, there’s a cool breeze and I’m basically in my underwear!



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### **Sailing to Desolation Sound, Part 1 – Stephen’s Shower Adventures! (Continued)**

I head back to the docks, all the gates are locked. I went to the South gate, I went North gate, nobody but me and the homeless! I finally saw the security guard up on the street. I yelled to him, he stopped, looked at me, and continued walking away. I went back to the docks and found a spot I could easily scale. Once back on the docks, I went back to the boat and decided the shower would have to wait until morning.

The next morning I went to the office to complain that my swipe card didn’t work. Did you try the upstairs bathrooms? Argh! I went to the upstairs bathroom and sure enough the swipe card works. I check the showers and they are \$2/shower. Back to the boat I go and between the three of us we have no change. I called the marina office, no one is available to make change, but they would be back in the office in 30 minutes. This time the three of us get our toiletries together and go to the office to get change. They gave us a handful of loonies, we divided up and off to the showers we go.

Knowing it’s a “timed” shower, I stripped down, and got in the shower before putting in my money. It didn’t work! I tried multiple times, it wouldn’t work. I get dressed and passed Rick who was shaving as I headed back to the office. It only accepts toonies! When asked why they gave us loonies, they gave me the dead eye stare. Argh! Back to the showers I go, this time with toonies. I sent Rick to give Suzanne the correct change and I went back to the showers. Again, I stripped, got in the shower before I put in my money. It didn’t work! Argh! I tried again and this time it worked.

That was my ordeal to have a shower. Later on during the trip, I cut my hand and required stitches, but that’s another story (see page 15!)

~Stephen Aubut



**Salty Cat**



**Rick, Suzanne and Stephen**



**Sailing Salty Cat**



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### **It's all fun and games...until the bugs arrive - A tale by Gilbert Smith**

We took a week off the dock to visit friends in Eriean. As always we enjoyed some terrific fish dinners at OJ and Molly's, as well as pizza on the deck of the Bayside Brewery. The saltwater pool is also a welcome place to relax on those scorching hot days.

After a wonderful time riding our bikes and eating ice cream, we had to return. We slipped our dock lines at 6:30 and headed out of the harbour, taking care not to get grounded on the shoals that are building at the entrance to the marina.

Initially we were motor sailing with 3 or 4 knots of wind on glassy water, until we rounded Point au Pines where the wind promptly died. We pulled in the flogging headsail and noticed a few bugs getting caught in our slipstream. After an hour the cockpit filled with hundreds of thousands of the little monsters, to a point we had to remove ourselves to the bow for the next 5 hours. Even then, there was no escaping the onslaught (as you can see if you zoom in on my photograph!)

Thankfully these were not biting flies, or I would have had to swim home. But, it took me a couple of hours to wash the sails and deck, as well as vacuuming the salon.

~Gilbert Smith





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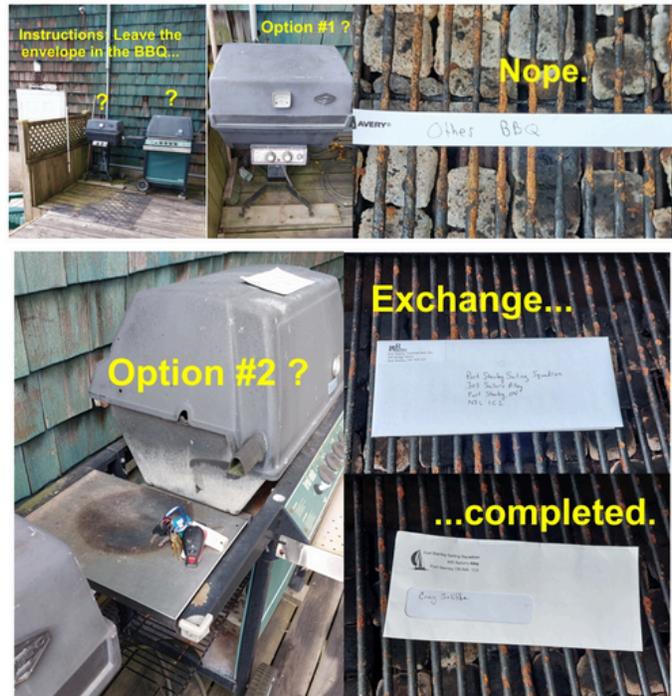
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### The BBQ Drop

We use all manner of communication to connect with PSSS suppliers...some have more fun with it than others... 😊

PSSS thanks Craig Joliffe and Port Stanley Terminal Rail for providing summer cradle storage (and the added humour).

~Shawn Buchanan



### Sailing to Desolation Sound, Part 2 - The Injury!

We departed Nanaimo, Rick, Suzanne and myself on Salty Cat, and Paul on Whippoorwill, and continued our trip to Desolation Sound. We were joined by another Nonsuch at Powell River. We had great sailing northwards on the Salish Sea, we made stops in Smugglers Cove, Refuge Cove, Squirrel Cove and Desolation Sound. Beautiful, rugged country.

On our return trip, the weather turned on us and we were force to take shelter and anchor in Smugglers Cove. We wanted to take a break and planned to stay the next day and explore. The next morning, Suzanne launched her kayak and went exploring the area. Rick was relaxing on Salty Cat and I took the dinghy to shore to go hiking along the trails. It was a beautiful day and the area is very scenic. This is where I got hurt!

I was having a great hike and was returning to the dinghy when I came upon a spot on the trail that had about a two foot drop. I grabbed a tree with my left hand for support and stepped down. The tree appeared smooth, but I didn't see the stub of a branch on the right side. As I stepped down, my left hand came around the tree and the stub sliced my hand open at the base of the thumb! I looked at the 1.5" wound and I swear I saw bone! I knew immediately I would need stitches. I closed up the wound, packed my hand with moss to absorb the blood and wrapped my hand with leaves. With my makeshift dressing secured I continued hiking to the dinghy. I was able to launch the dinghy and went back to the boat. Back on Salty Cat, Rick proceeded to utilize their well stocked first aid kit and cleaned my wound, and closed it up with a dressing. I found a glove that would fit and was able to immobilize my thumb and secure the dressing.



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### **Sailing to Desolation Sound, Part 2 - The Injury! (Continued)**

When I arrived back on the boat Rick called Suzanne to let her know we had a medical emergency. Suzanne was along side another boat in the cove, chatting with Alison. Alison offered assistance if needed. Rick and I made a few phone calls, Coastguard, Search and Rescue, and 911. When they asked for our location we told them Smugglers Cove and their reply was, "Where is that?" After consulting the charts, we deduced we were near Secret Cove. Again, "Where is that?" Frustrating! In the end, I was told to get to the nearest dock and call 911.

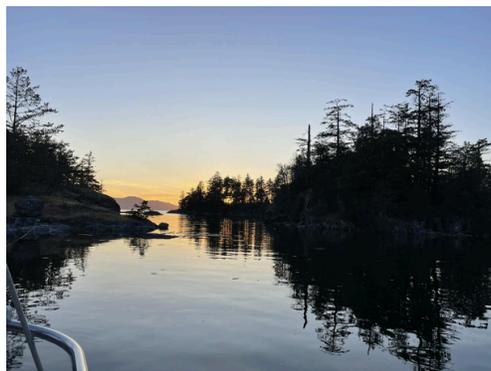
All of three Nonsuch sailboats had small dinghies. Secret Cove wasn't that far away but we had to go out into the Malaspina Strait, which was a little too lumpy for any of the dinghies. Remember Alison, she was on a 36' Carver with a nice size dinghy. We called her and she offered to take me to Secret Cove. She picked me up and the two of us headed to Secret Cove. It was a lumpy, wet ride, but we made it safely. Alison asked if she could catch a ride in the Ambulance to town. I said "Sure, just pretend we're together." Once at Secret Cove, I called 911. After a couple more phone calls, an ambulance was finally dispatched and arrived 30 minutes later. Alison and I were loaded up and we were off to Sechelt Hospital, approximately a 25kms ride south. The paramedic, Dave, was impressed with Rick's dressing and didn't touch it, he said, "You're not bleeding, you're not dying." He was cool, and the three of us told stories and had laughs all the way to the hospital. When we arrived at the hospital, Alison jumped out of the ambulance and said to me "See ya," and walked away. I said "See ya later," and she was gone. Dave gave us both a confused look.



**Suzanne, Rick and myself sailing north on the Salish Sea**



**Arriving at Desolation Sound**



**Sunset at Smugglers Cove**



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### **Sailing to Desolation Sound, Part 2 - The Injury! (Continued)**

At the Sechelt Hospital, triage did a quick check of my vitals and sent me to the Emergency overflow waiting room, not a good sign. During my wait I did some research into exactly where I was, with respect to the boat. If I had continued hiking the trail at Smugglers Cove, past the dinghy, it would have taken me to a road. This trailhead was just off the Gold Coast Highway which runs south to Sechelt, approximately 20km. I also saw a taxi drive by so I copied the number for future use. My wait time was approximately 3 hours, I was seen by a doctor and he confirmed I needed stitches. He froze my hand and made sure the wound was thoroughly clean. What I had thought was bone, was actually the muscle sheath, and the doctor said I was very lucky I hadn't damaged it or I would be on my way to a Vancouver Hospital to see a hand surgeon! He stitched me up and sent me on my way.

The approximate timeline on my day so far, hurt my hand 11am, made it to the dock in Secret Cove 2pm, arrived at Sechelt Hospital 3:30pm, seen by a doctor 6:30pm, discharged about 7:30pm. My first order of business was to get some food and drink. Luckily, there was a grocery store about a block away. I got myself a bottle of water and a sandwich, and some dishwashing gloves for future use. I called the taxi and received a message, "We are closed due to the lack of staff." There was a young guy sitting outside and I asked him about the taxi and he confirmed there was only one taxi in town and I had the correct number. I asked him if he, or a friend, would like to make a \$100 to drive me to the trailhead? His reply was, "Not at this time of night!" It was 8pm? No taxi, no bus, and no ride share, so I started walking. I made my way to the Gold Coast Highway and started walking, and hitchhiking north. It was approximately 20km to the trailhead and sunset was 9:30pm, there was no way I was walking in the dark in northern BC. My plan was to walk and hitchhike for about 2km, and if I didn't get a ride, I would walk back to town and wait until the morning. There was a Tim Hortons, or I would just go back to the hospital.

At the last stoplight exiting town I was picked up by an elderly lady. I told her I was heading to Secret Cove. She said "Sure, jump in." She lived in Halfmoon Bay which was about 5km away from Secret Cove. During our ride, I explained how I ended up hitchhiking and as she said, "I'll give you ride to the trail, I have no one at home." She ended up giving me a ride right to the trailhead. Very nice lady. I called Rick and told him I would be at the beach where we had tied up the dinghy in ten minutes. He picked me up and I was back on Salty Cat, hand stitched up, before sunset.

We continued our trip back to Ladysmith without further incident. It was a great trip, great sailing and beautiful scenery.

Final thoughts, I was told I would get a bill for the ambulance ride, and sure enough 6 months later one arrived in the mail, \$849! Flat rate for non-BC resident. Unfortunately for me, the travel insurance provided by my credit card, with the purchase of my flights, wouldn't cover this fee! All-in-all, I feel very fortunate, I had an excellent start to my day, had a bit of a hiccup, but met some fantastic people and have a great story.



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**See you next season!**

Thank you, all, for a wonderful year at the Port Stanley Sailing Squadron.

See you again in spring 2026!

