



FACS Spring Thaw 2004 Gulf Islands Itinerary Routes & Anchorage's May 14 – 24th

May 14th, Friday:

(Trailables) travel to Salmon Arm or as far as Kamloops BC. Sleep in boat or truck.

**May 15th, Saturday:
Sunset Marina,
Sunset Beach
Howe Sound
49, 24.40' N
123, 14.70' W**

(Trailables) travel to Sunset Marina (Sunset Beach), Vancouver mainland, Howe Sound. (Just a few Kilometers North of HorseShoe Bay).
Set up boat and launch at Sunset Marina. (604-921-7476)
Dual launch ramps truck and trailer parking, showers, marine store, fuel, ice, bait, fishing licenses.

Caution:

Note: Power wire located over launch ramp. Boats can launch with their masts up if they will clear the wire (I launched 25 footer at low tide in May of 2000) or step them on the water tied to the dock.

May 15th Low Tide 1.7 meters (5.6 ft) 1030 "Point Atkinson"

May 15th High Tide 3.7 meters (12.1 ft) 1655 "Point Atkinson"

**Gibson's or
Plumper Cove.**

(Trailables) Stay at Sunset or sail to Gibson's or Plumper Cove approx. 11 NM via Queen Charlotte Channel, Collingwood Channel to Shoal Channel. Take a slip for the night or anchor off at Gibson's or anchor in Plumper Cove just NE of Gibson's on Keats Island.

Gibson's Entrance 49, 23.98'N 123, 30.2'W

Plumper Cove Anchorage 49, 24.11'N 123,28.5'W

(This will give you a head start in the morning)

The Chartering group and members with Cruisers on the coast will fly or drive to their respective boats. If they are not there already.

May 16th Sunday
Dinghy Dock Pub
Protection Island
49, 10.60'N
123, 55.62'W

(Trailables) Sail to the Dinghy Dock Pub, Protection Island, (Nanaimo Harbour) via Shoal Channel (Howe Sound), Strait of Georgia, Fairway Channel to Nanaimo Harbour approx. 24 NM.

Meet up with the Charters and Cruisers that plan to meet at the Dinghy Dock. Anchor for the night at New Castle Island Marine Park or small boats could possible get a slip for the night at the Dinghy Dock Pub. Showers are available at the Dinghy Dock Pub while the pub is open.

Caution:

A Bar of sand and rock obstructs Shoal Channel.

The Bar has depths of 1.5 meters (4.9 ft) near mid channel. The sea brakes over the bar when the wind opposes the tide.

Check the Tide & Current Tables as well as conditions before you exist Shoal Channel into the Strait of Georgia.

May 16th High Tide 4.3 meters (14.1 ft) 0405 "Point Atkinson"

May 16th Low Tide 1.4 meters (4.6 ft) 1105 "Point Atkinson"

May 17th, Monday:
Conover Cove
Wallace Island
48, 56.18' N
123, 32.64' W

Sail to Conover Cove (Wallace Island) via Northumberland Channel, Dodd Narrows, Stuart Channel, and Trincomali Channel to Houston Passage approx. 21 NM. You can tie up at the dock or throw out the hook at Conover Cove. This might be a tight anchorage. Stern tie to shore if you drop the hook and we might have to raft a few boats on the dock.

You will find a drop box with envelops and a rate for boat sizes at Conover.

Caution:

Dodd Narrows turns to Flood at 0950 (Slack Water Low Tide) it is recommended that you take this passage at slack water.

Dodd Narrows Floods to the north and a maximum of 9 knots and Ebbs south at 8 knots.

Caution:

You will find a couple of reefs that run parallel to Wallace Island in Houston Passage, one just north of the entrance to Conover Cove. The entrance bar is shallow (less than 6 feet at zero tide) The deepest water favors the south shore.

May 17th Low Tide .8 meters (2.6 ft) 1055 Fulford Harbour

May 17th High Tide 3 meters (9.8ft) 1840 Fulford Harbour

May 18th, Tuesday:
Conover Cove

Hike Wallace Island. This is a great island to hike with well-marked trails and a very interesting history. Wallace Island was once owned by David Conover an American photographer who discovered Marilyn Monroe and turned the island into a resort back in the 1950's. The island was named after Captain Wallace Houston of HMS Trincomalee. A Frigate, which served in these waters from 1853 to 1856.

Please Note:

Many boaters have made signs with their boat names and hung them up in one of the buildings left over from when the island was home to a boy's camp. Take the time to make a sign and hang it with the rest of them. Maybe we will have a contest for the best looking boat sign.

**Salt Spring Marina
Ganges Harbour
48, 51.45'N
123, 30.03'W**

Sail to Salt Spring Marina (Ganges Harbour) via Houstoun Passage, Trincomali Channel, and Captain Passage to Ganges Harbour approx. 12NM.

Take a slip in the Marina and have dinner in the Pub. You will find showers, laundry, ice and fuel at this marina.

Caution:

You will find many floats marking "Crap Traps" in Ganges Harbour. Steer clear of these as not to foul your (Keel, Rudder or Prop)

**May 19th, Wednesday:
Ganges Harbour**

Hike to the town of Ganges the largest settlement in the Gulf Islands. You will find this quaint little town filled with arts and crafts in the many little shops around this Harbour Town. You will also find that many of the shop proprietors look like they came right out of the old Hippie era. I believe Ganges was a retreat for the Hippies when Disco started to cover the airwaves back in the seventies.

**Princess Bay
Portland Island
48, 43.09'N
123, 22.20'W**

Sail to Princess Bay also known as Tortoise Bay (Portland Island) "Princess Margaret Marine Park" via Ganges Harbour, Captain Passage, Swanson Channel to Moresby passage approx. 12NM.

Please note:

The tide turns from ebb to flood between 1200 and 1300 hours in Ganges Harbor. Expect to push 1/2 increasing to 1 1/2 knots of current depending on your departure time from Ganges.

Caution:

Enter Princess Bay north of but close to Tortoise Islets.

**May 20th, Thursday:
Portland Island**

Hike Portland Island, this Island is also rich in History. Once owned by Princess Margaret Windsor. She was given this island in 1958 on her visit to Canada during the province's Centennial. She latter returned it in 1967 so the island could become a Marine Park.

The island was also owned by Major General Frank "One Arm" Sutton. Sutton who died in WWII after he made millions as a Manchurian Warlord during the Chinese civil war. He retired early in Victoria and purchased this island. He stocked the island with pheasants and built a stable for his 42 race- horses and a beautiful orchard.

The 450 acre island has trails that connect the two anchorages and shoreline trail that loops around the island.

Maple Bay Marina:
Maple Bay
48, 47.85'N
123, 35.99'W

Sail to Maple Bay Marina (Maple Bay) via Shute Passage, Satellite Channel, Sansum Narrows, and Maple Bay approx. 15 NM.
Anchor or take a slip at Maple Bay Marine. You will find fuel a store, showers and a Pub at this Marina.

Caution:

You will find whirlpools and tide rips around Burial Islet and between Sansum Point and Bold Bluff Point (narrowest area) at times of high flow. Under some conditions like wind over tide this area could be hazardous to small craft. Maximum flow is 3 knots in the narrow areas.

Please Note:

The tide turns to flood in Sansum Narrows around noon this will give us a push for the next six hours so take your time hiking Portland Island.

May 21st, Friday:
Pirates Cove
De Courcy Island
49, 05.87'N
123, 43.83'W

“Race Day” (see the separate doc. Called **“Race Day”** for instructions)
Sail to Pirates Cove (De Courcy Island) via Maple Bay, Stuart Channel, Ruxton Passage to Pylades Channel approx. 21NM.
Anchor for the night.

Please note:

The tide switches from ebb to flood between 1200 and 1300 hours in Sansum Narrows and Stuart Channel. This will give us a push north for the next six hours to Pirates Cove.

Caution:

The entrance to Pirates could be deceiving and should be negotiated with care. You will find a port hand day beacon mounted on a mast on this drying reef at the entrance to Pirates Cove. The reef actually extends further north 300 ft past the day beacon. Look for a “Range” on shore, you will find a white line painted on a rock and a white cross on a pole above. Align these two markers before entering the cove. This will take you past the reef extending north. A Right hand buoy “U38” is located just west of the Port hand marking the reef. This Right hand buoy marks a shoal, when entering pass between the Beacon and the Buoy.

May 22 Saturday:
Pirates Cove

Hike De Courcy Island. De Courcy Island was named after Captain Michael De Courcy who was in command of “HMS Pylades” from 1859 –1861.
The most interesting history of this island dates back to the late 1920’s when it was home to a most fascinating cult. Edward Arthur Wilson became known as Brother Twelve. A charismatic man who convinced many sensible people to donate large sums of money to his cult called “The Aquarian Foundation”
Brother Twelve turned this island into a secluded retreat. If you entered the cove you would most likely be turned away or rammed by the tugboat. Some visitors with wives sometimes found them talked in to staying by the mesmerizing leader. The husbands would be turned away unless they could make a sizable contribution. The men lived in the south end while the Brother Twelve lived in

the north with the women. When the authorities shut the place down after about seven years they found many bunkers with machine guns. Brother Twelve slipped away with boxes of coins weighing half a ton. This was one of his three retreats in the area.

Silva Bay Marina
Silva Bay
49, 09.05'N
123, 41.78' W

Sail to Silva Bay via Pylades Channel to Gabriola Passage approx. 5NM. Enter Silva Bay between Tug Boat Island and Vance Island. Look for Silva Bay Light on Shipyard rock. (This marks a reef extending north from Tug Boat Island) You will see a port hand daymark. Vessels entering the bay should pass this light on their port side.

Anchor or take a slip for the night. You will find Silva Bay is a full service marina c/w a Pub.

Caution:

Gabriola Passage turns to Flood at 1250 (Slack Water Low Tide) The distance between Pirates cove and the West end of Gabriola Passage is approx. 2NM. It is recommended that you take this passage at slack water especially when you are heading east.

May 23rd Sunday:
Sunset Marina
Sunset Beach
Howe Sound
49, 24.40N
123, 14.70W

Trailables sail to Sunset Marina (Sunset Beach, Howe Sound) via Strait of Georgia to Queen Charlotte Channel approx. 25 NM.

Caution:

The distance from Thrasher Rock to Cape Roger Curtis (Bowen Island) is about 14NM. This is the recommended route from the Small Craft Guide. It avoids the "Traffic Separation Scheme" used by merchant vessels bound for Vancouver Harbour.

You will still have to cross the Ferry Routes from Departure Bay to Horseshoe Bay. Also keep a good watch for the many Ferries coming and going in Queen Charlotte Channel.

Trailables:
Travel to Calgary.

The trailables will pull the boats at Sunset Marina, shower and hit the trail to Calgary, drive as far as they feel comfortable, sleep in truck or boat.

May 24th Monday

Trailables continue the drive to Calgary till safe and sound at home.

May 25th Tuesday

Get wife & kids to clean out the boat!!!!

Charts:

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|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Howe Sound: | 3526 Large Scale | 40,000: 1 |
| | 3311 Strip Charts | Small Craft Charts |
| Strait of Georgia: | 3512 Central Portion | 80,000: 1 |
| | 3463 Southern Portion | 80:000: 1 |
| | 3462 Juan de Fuca Strait to Strait of Georgia | 80,000: 1 |
| Gulf Islands: | 3313 Chart Atlas | Small Craft Charts |
| | 3443 Large Scale Thetis Island to Nanaimo | 40,000: 1 |
| | 3442 Large Scale North Pender to Thetis Island | 40,000: 1 |
| | 3441 Large Scale Haro Strait to Satellite Channel | 40,000: 1 |

Please note all distances are approximate and sailed the most direct route over safe water. Sailing against the wind could add many miles to your route.

Waypoints are from (Exploring the South Coast of BC) By Don Douglass & Reanne Hemingway – Douglass

Tidal Flows are from (Murray's Tables)

All times are in PST and corrected for daylight savings time.

Please use the above information as a guideline only. Each Skipper is responsible for the safety of his or her vessel. Plot each waypoint on your own charts and double check the Tide and Current Tables for depths and tidal flows.

Always keep a diligent watch.

Happy sailing.

Robert Dyer
Cruising Director FACS