



## Gulf Islands Newsletter

May 5, 2004

### Twenty Boat Flotilla

The **FACS Spring Thaw** sailing trip is got to be the largest Alberta Sailing Flotilla going. It just keeps getting bigger and bigger. The count as of today is twenty boats and fifty- six people.

We still have a couple of boats looking for more crew and one or two that might not make it.

Last years trip to the Sunshine Coast we had ten boats and thirty-three people. We are on our way to doubling that this year. But if we fall short we still have a huge flotilla.

Speaking of huge flotilla, the up side is **“Never a dull moment”** the down side is **“Where do we park all those boats”** We are going to have to be extra careful in the tight anchorages, smaller boats that draw less water will need to get in tighter to shore and give the larger boats the deeper water. **Everyone will need to Stern Tie to shore.** We will most likely find other boats in these anchorages, **be it Power or Sail** we need to treat them with respect, let them know our itinerary, so they know where **not** to be the next night.

Rafting up together is also an option under the right circumstances. If the weather is going to be calm with no surf and little current and both boats of similar size drop an anchor, rafting can be safe and fun.

Always try and anticipate which way you will swing when you let go of that stern-to line or if you are de-rafting. To avoid collisions ask for all hands onboard to help and alert the boats next to you of your intentions.

### Calgary Trailables:

Plan to meet May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at the Petro-Can gas station / Humpty’s Restaurant on the north side of the Trans Canada Hi-way by the Cochrane exit. This is the same place we have been meeting since 1998. I find it convenient for just about everyone, simply get on the Trans Canada and head west until you go under the Cochrane overpass and pull into the gas station.

We will be on the road by 3:30 PM our intent is to drive in convoy as far as we can towards the West Coast. In past years we usually end up around Salmon Arm, sacked out

at a roadside turn out and hit Kamloops for breakfast. This year we are shooting for Merit, if all goes well.

**Note:???** Please let me know via e-mail if you plan to travel in convoy with us. If I don't hear from you I will assume you have made other plans.

**Sunset Marina: Sue 1-604-921-7476**

For the Trailables that are planning to launch and park the truck & trailers at Sunset Marina. The fee is a flat rate of \$100.00 BC that is.

**Note:???** Please let me know if you plan to launch at Sunset Marina. I need to advise Sue on how many spaces we will require.

**Dinghy Dock Pub: Jackie 1-250-753-2373**

Trailables can overnight on the docks if room is available. After hours they set the alarm and you are confined to your boats and immediate dock. I'm still unsure if they charge for this or not considering the amount of people we are bringing in it should be free. I will speak to Jackie and let you all know.

Showers are available during business hours and usually early am when the cleaners and cooks arrive.

Anchoring out is also available.

**Note:???** Please let me know if you will be going to the Dinghy Dock Pub for dinner and if you want a slip for the night. (Small boats only) I need to let Jackie know so she can do some arranging.

**Conover Cove:**

This is a perfect opportunity to make a sign with your boat name on it and hang it amongst the many others in this open room. Boaters from all over have made some magnificent signs using likenesses of their boats.

**Horse Race Game and Poker Night.**

Yes bring your change Nickels, Dimes and Quarters. That is all that is required, to run the this track. Except a deck of cards and dice (supplied) and a simple line called **Pay Up, Pay Up, Pay Up!!**

If anyone else wants to get a poker game or any other game going, the building with the boat signs hanging has picnic table set up. It could get quite dark so bring along lots of lanterns. Just a note the Horse Race Game can and will get load. We need to start early and end early enough as not to keep people awake. Lets shoot for a 19:00 hour start.

**Salt Spring Marina VHF 66A, Ganges Harbour: Lesley 1-800-334-6629 1-250-537-5810**

Moorage will be \$1.00 per foot. Lesley said she will arrange for covered picnic tables set up on the docks. She suggested we have a **Potluck Dinner** and maybe she will throw in a couple of tee shirts to raffle off. This sounds like a good idea to me. Lets work out the details the night before at Concover.

Failing that we have Moby's Pub, with showers and laundry.

**Note:???** If you plan to get a slip at Salt Spring Marina please let me know so I can let Lesley know how many we will be needing.

**Princess Bay, Portland Island:** Who will host this **"Party"** We may need to raft a couple of the big ones together.

**Birds Eye Cove Marina: 1-250-748-3182**

I have left messages on the answering machine and have phoned at different hours. I have not received a call back nor have I spoke to a live person.

I know they have a Tug Boat Rendezvous the following day so I fully expect them to me open. If we can't all get a slip they have plenty of room to anchor.

**Race Day**, will be a lot of fun especially if we get a nice day with good steady winds.

This will also make for good photo and video opportunities.

See the Word doc. Called **"Race Day"** for more details.

**Pirates Cove:** We will be racing to Pirates Cove so lets do it in style **"Pirates Style"** Bring along the **"Black Jack"** or **"Jolly Roger"** fly them from a conspicuous place and round it all out with some pirate garb for you and your crew.

**Silva Bay Marina, Silva Bay: Ivy 1-250-247-8662**

**The Last Night, "Pub Night"** I have reserved 10 slips at \$1.00 per foot. Showers, pub etc. The trailables will need an early start the next morning. Sail across the Straits, pull boat and drive as far as you can to Calgary .

**Note:???** I need to update Ivy on how many slips we will require. Please let me know. Anchoring is also available.

**The Dinty Moor Award:** This is awarded for the biggest boneheaded move of the day. If you are awarded the Dinty Moor Award, don't feel bad simply add something to it and keep your eyes peeled for the next bonehead move. We will try and form a committee every night to give this award out.

I will start the award with some type of foundation so it is easily add to.

This is the **FACS Spring Thaw 2004 Sailing Trip**, please remember whom you are representing. Take lots of photos and video. Fly your FACS Burgee high and proud.

(If you don't have one please pick one up from Jim Feeney)

Join our club if you haven't yet only \$35.00 per year (Family Membership)

Have a safe Sailing Trip.

**Please Note!!!!** Feel free to buy the Cruising Director a beer if you think he looks the least bit thirsty.

Rob Dyer, FACS Cruising Director