



THE CROW'S NEST

LADYSMITH YACHT CLUB

EDITION: 2026-08 (August)



Photo (above): Rover and Northern Comfort at Smuggler's Cove (2025).

For many LYC members, the highlight of July was the Commodore's Cruise to Desolation Sound. From all accounts, a great time was had by all. The photos are certainly spectacular. More photos and stories may appear in future editions, as the cruise was still underway while I was writing this.

Don't miss the final Club rendezvous at Telegraph Harbour in late August. Reserve your spot now for this fun "Gilligan's Island" event that signals the end of a great season of boating.

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A few notes:

Barbra King of the Ladysmith RCMSAR asked me to remind LYC members that free pleasure craft safety checks are available year-round, not just during planned events. You can book an appointment via email:

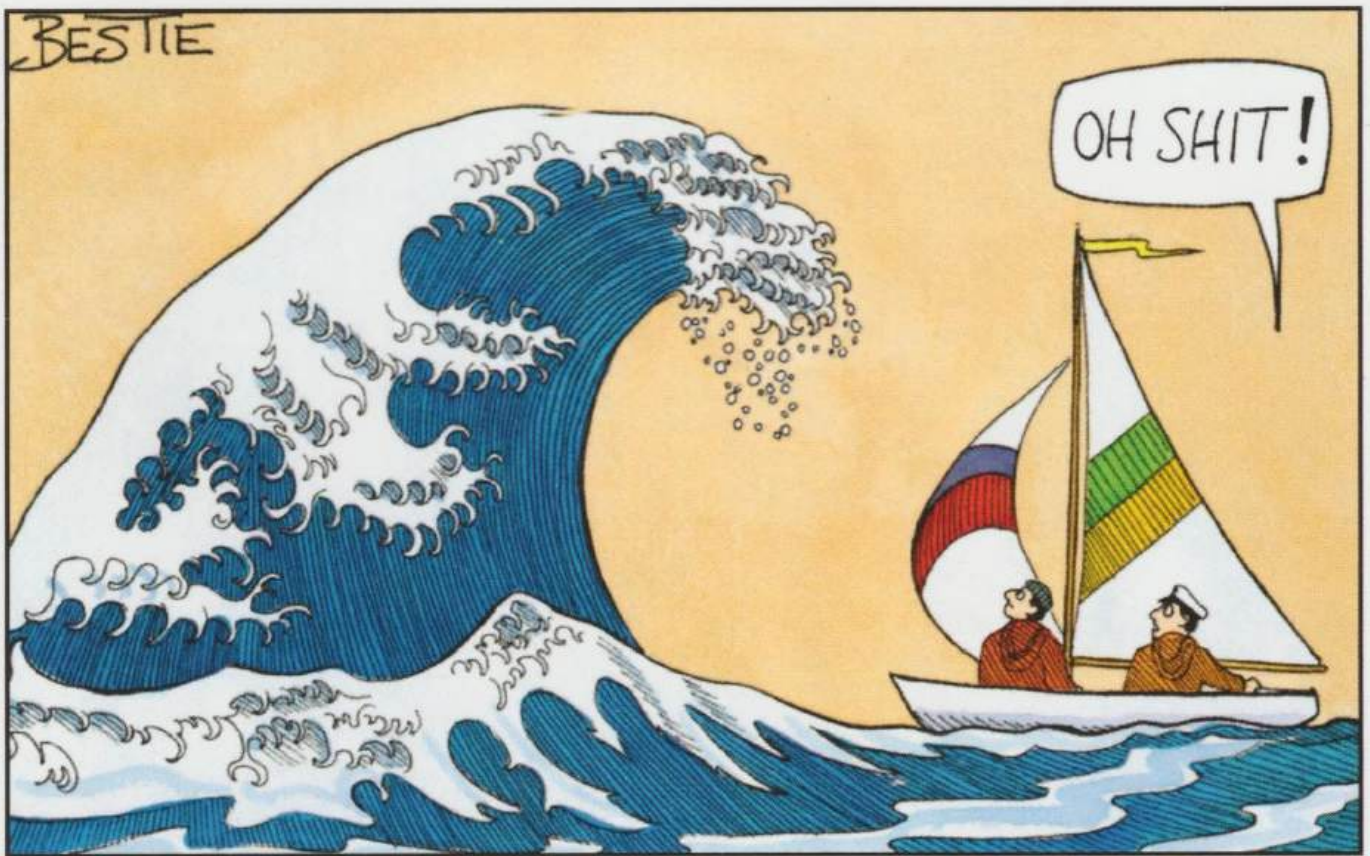
PCSCstn29@gmail.com

If you are a Facebook user, take a look at our recently revived LYC page, courtesy of Marcy Horswill. The easiest way to find the page is to search “Ladysmith Yacht Club” from within Facebook.

A reminder that I am always on the hunt for interesting *Crowsnest* stories, recipes, destinations, and photos. You can send them to:

crowsnest@ladysmithyc.bc.ca

Gord Coulman, Editor.



DAD WAS A KEEN SAILOR AND KNEW ALL THE APPROPRIATE NAUTICAL TERMS

Silva Bay Rendezvous

I published some of the Silva Bay Pirate rendezvous photos within the July *Crowsnest*, but wasn't able to get Carmen's excellent narrative in place before publication, so here it is now:

June 18-21 saw the Club cruise to Silva Bay with the Silva Bay Yacht Club. Boats arrived Thursday afternoon at Page's Marina, and stiff headwinds made docking a challenge. The evening began with shared appetizers in the orchard and an opportunity to sign up for the weekend's events. Friday morning started with Tai Chi, followed by a walk to the Pier Gallery Artists' Collective. A Corn Hole Tournament replaced floating Golf in the afternoon. (If anyone happened to pick up the batch of floating golf balls during the Club Cruise, let Carmen know!) The corn hole competition was fierce - once the rules and scoring were figured out! The partnership of Sheila Berlinghof and Scott Hope prevailed. An afternoon book exchange saw folks refresh their reading material, and the evening was capped off with Pirate Charades in the orchard. Eithne Reichart is to be commended for taking on the charade clue "Between the Devil and the deep blue sea!"

Saturday was a great day! Jaquie Graham limbered everyone up with Yoga in the morning. Jason and Roberta Bowman led a session on "What to do if a crew member goes overboard." Various ways of rescue were demonstrated using a floating (non-human) dummy, and members took advantage of the opportunity to use the dummy to practice off their own boats. The session brought awareness to the need for a Crew Overboard Plan and the gear to enact it. Many thanks to Jason and Roberta.

The afternoon saw a lot of action as Silva Bay Yacht Club members arrived in dinghies, with pets and persons dressed for a Pirate Parade. LYC members were prepared too, and 14 dinghies cruised the harbour and past the judges. Neil and Carmen Hewitt won for Best Decorated Dinghy, perhaps because of the Mad Hatter Pirate Piper on board in addition to the plethora of Pirate flags. It is worth mentioning the bravery of the Piper, who nearly went overboard twice, but Carmen now knows how to drive the dinghy. Clearly, a lot of time and effort went into dinghy decoration, and more prizes will be on offer next time as so many were deserving of an award!

On shore, a parade was held before the judges to determine Best Dressed Pirate Mate (Bob Wood, SBYC), Best Dressed Pirate Wench (Eithne Reichart), and Best Dressed Pirate Pets (Vimy and Juno Tellier). Again, the time and effort put into costumes were significant, and the judges emphasized how difficult the decisions were. A BBQ jointly provided by the two clubs followed, with beer sponsored by Bayview Brewing. Fears that 8 growlers were too much were erased in the 30 minutes it took for the thirsty crew to drain them! In all the BBQ had over 50 participants.

'Bring your own mug' lattes served off the Capercaillie began Sunday morning, followed by a walk to the Gabriola Sunday Market. Page's gave a delayed departure time to allow for an unhurried morning, and by 1 pm all boats were off the dock heading home - except for those staying for some fishing, but that is another story!



Photo: the crew overboard dummy being retrieved

Club Cruise

Carmen also sent me some commentary on the May Club Cruise to Maple Bay and Todd Inlet:

LYC's first Club Cruise got off to a great start on May 20 at Maple Bay Marina with a fabulous Paella Dinner by Chef Santiago Gutierrez. Attendees came by boat and by car, with over 40 members enjoying the evening.

The next day began with Tai Chi led by Bill and Wendy Rendal, and a Bocce Tournament. In the afternoon, folks walked and dinghied to the Maple Bay Yacht Club for happy hour on the patio in glorious sunshine. Brian and Tricia Adams introduced willing folks to a card game called "Sweep". Which will become a new favourite!

Friday morning saw the boats on the move to the Mill Bay Marina following lattes off the stern of the Capercaillie. The afternoon was spent in a floating golf tourney that saw Greg Whalley take home the prize for closest to the ever-moving floating pin. Honourable mention goes to Neil Hewitt for retrieving the floating golf balls!! Dinner was enjoyed in the Bridgeman's Bistro above the dock.

Saturday morning saw 8 boats head to Tod Inlet. Again, glorious sunshine made for a lovely cruise. Three boats availed themselves of mooring balls at Butchart Bay and 5 boats anchored in the inlet. Most cruisers visited Butchart Gardens, and then gathered in the evening for appys on the shore of Tod Inlet, where an appetizing array of finger foods and cocktails were shared.

Sunday morning lattes via dinghy at the Capercaillie capped off the activities and all boats weighed anchor for home or more adventures.

Monthly Social Barbeques



Photo: The May 29 barbeque with 16 members around two picnic tables with a remarkable turnout from E Dock.

Barbeques are held on the last Friday of the month: ~~July 31~~, August 28 and September 25. These are informal barbecues, just bring your own food, drink, dishes and cutlery and meet at “Roy’s Place”, under the big tent at the marina. It’s a great way to meet fellow club members for some informal conversation in the marina surroundings.

Jeff Reichert
M: (306) 229-8332

Commodore's Cruise to Desolation Sound

The Commodore's Cruise took place from July 12-27th and was a great success. Planned stops included Newcastle Island, Dinghy Dock Pub, Jedediah Island Marine Park, Melanie Cove, Walsh Cove Marine Park, Squirrel Cove, Wiatt Bay (Octopus Islands), Rebecca Spit, and Tribune Bay.



Photo: Melanie Cove



Photo (Mark Weir): Boho Bay happy hour



Photo: Roscoe Bay (Paul - what a nice spot to leave the dinghy...)

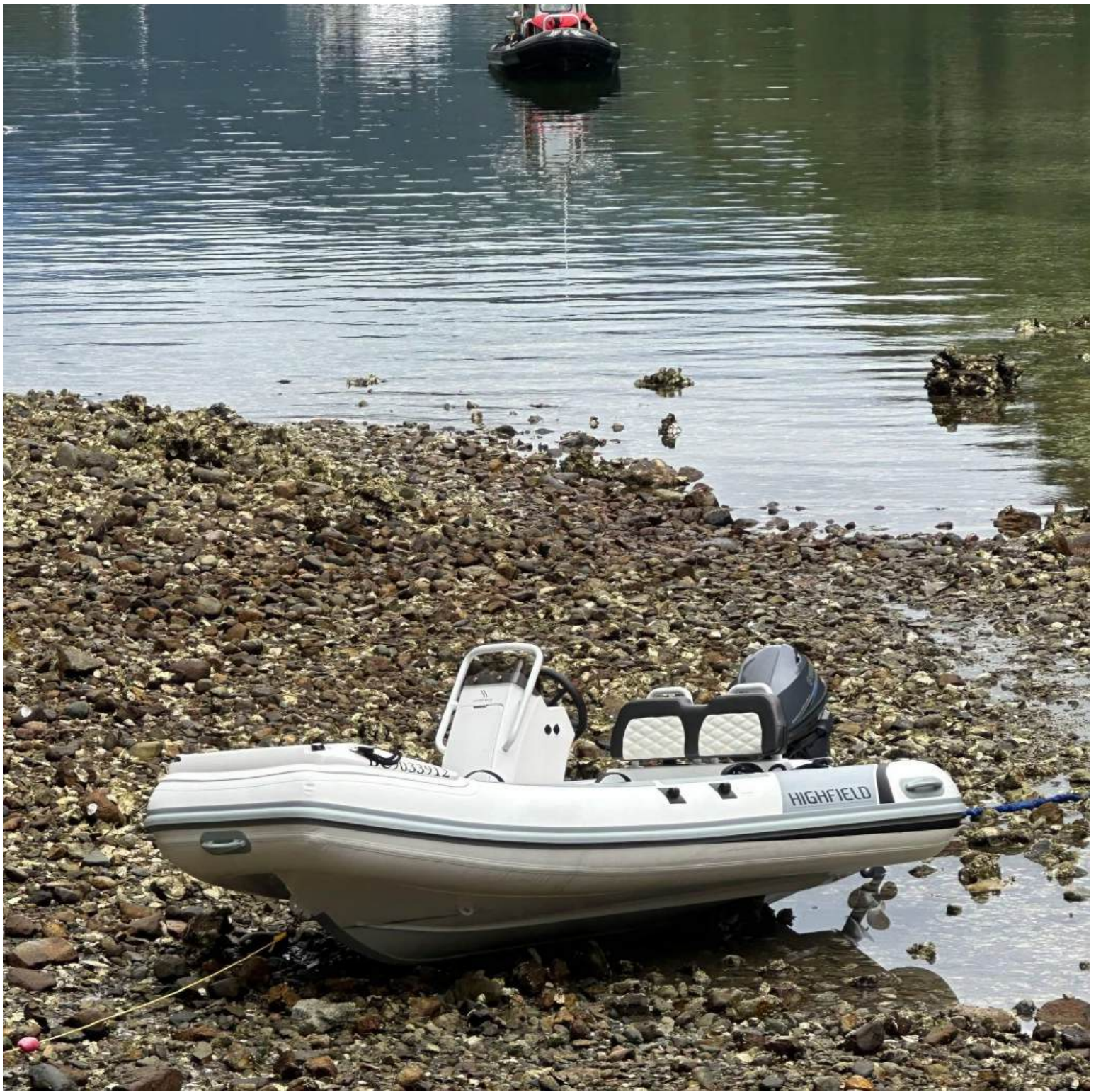


Photo: Roscoe Bay (oops! maybe not...)



Photo: Roscoe Bay hike - the view

Destination - Otter Bay Marina

Otter Bay is located on the west side of North Pender Island, tucked behind a point of land just big enough to provide shelter from the numerous ferry wakes as they ply the waters on their way from Swartz Bay to Active Pass. The marina is small, but resort-like, with a pool, bistro, and cozy outdoor lounge areas with gas firepits. There were activities for kids, plus bike rentals, laundry, and a small store. Imagine: a marina with more than one shower!

On the other side of the bay is Roseland Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, within easy kayak or dinghy range. We stayed a couple of days last September, as the cruising season was winding down. The marina staff were friendly and helpful. Due to a family emergency, Laurie had to depart early, but fortunately the ferry to Swartz Bay was only steps away, then a short taxi to Victoria Airport.



Photo: Otter Bay Marina grounds, with garden-like amenities.

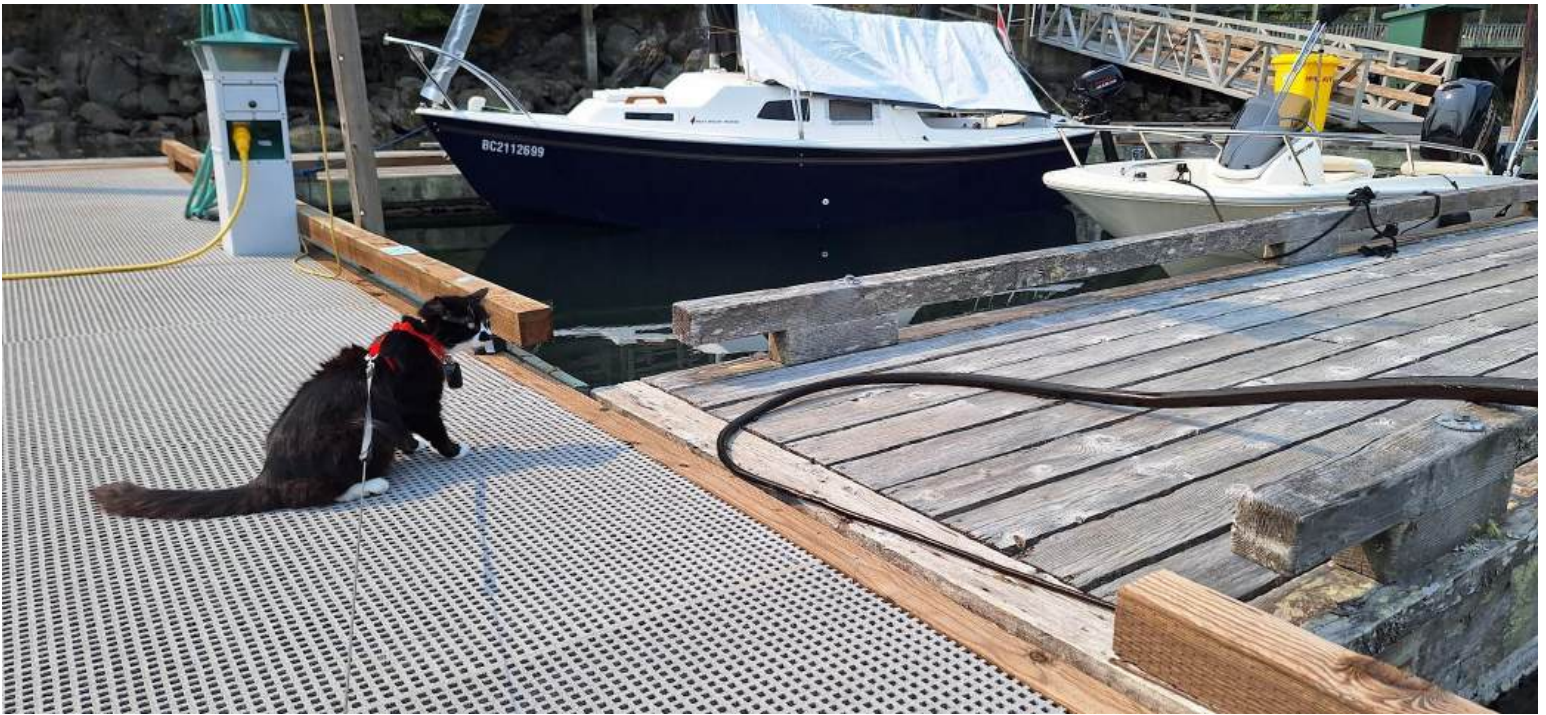


Photo: Squatchy didn't know what to make of this piece of kelp!



Photo: looking outward at the marina, with the point on the right.

Recipe

Tomato Strawberry Bruschetta Salad

August is a time to enjoy all of the fresh items available at the market. This salad is a perfect combination of sweet and tangy flavours.



Ingredients

- 4 ½ C sweet cherry tomatoes, halved
- 4 C strawberries, halved
- ¼ C olive oil
- ¼ C balsamic vinegar
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- ½ small red onion, sliced into thin strips
- ½ C fresh basil leaves
- 1 C parmesan chips, broken. Bocconcini balls or shredded mozzarella are good substitutes.
- black pepper to taste
- Smoked salt (optional)

Instructions

Mix it all together, except for the parmesan chips. Top with the chips.

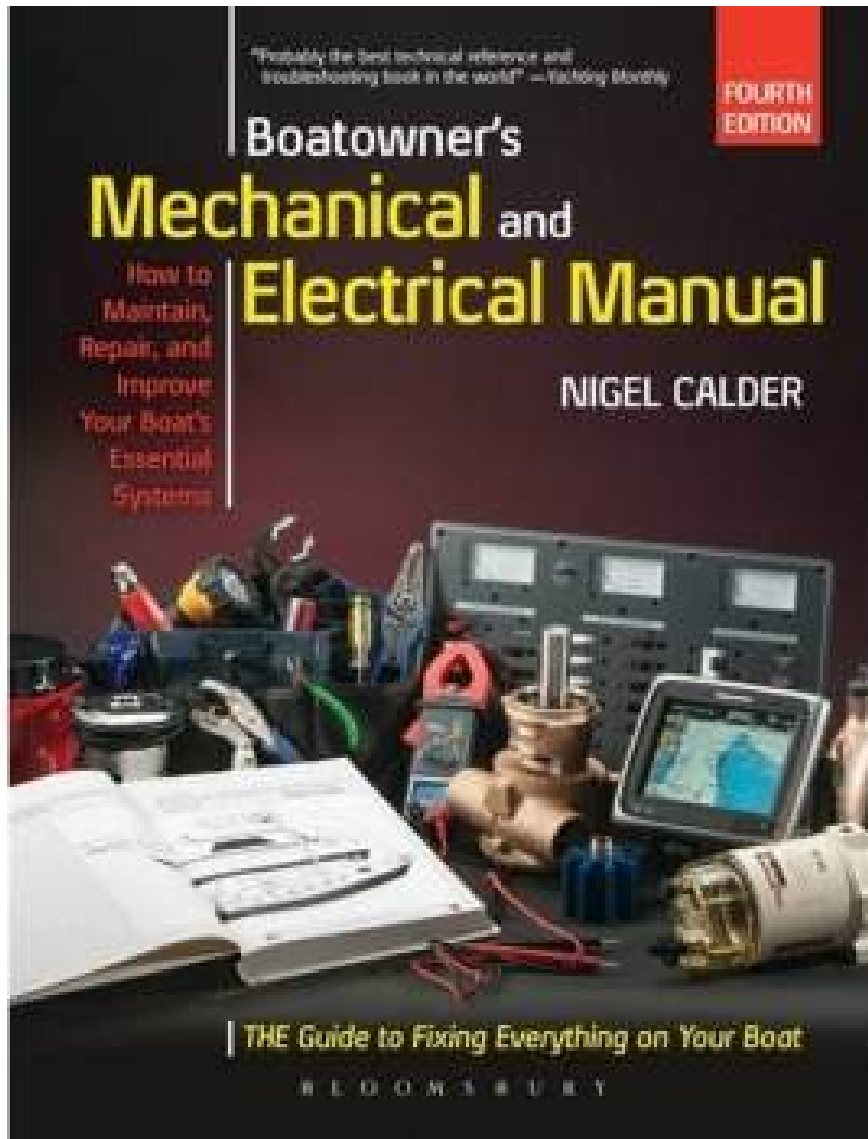
This salad would be fine in the fridge for a day, but no longer.

Do you have a boating recipe to share? Include a photo if possible and send it to me: crowsnest@ladysmithyc.bc.ca

Book Review

Boat Owner's Mechanical and Electrical Manual

Nigel Calder



How to maintain, repair, and improve your boat's essential systems.

This manual takes both novice and experienced boatowners through minor and major repairs of electrical systems, engines, electronics, steering systems, generators, pumps, cookers, spares, and rigging.

When it was first published in 1990, this book broke new ground. It was hailed as the first truly DIY manual for boatowners and has sold in its thousands ever since.

Packed with new and updated information on every system found aboard virtually every pleasure boat.

If it has screws, wires or moving parts, it's covered in this trusted manual.

Includes a troubleshooting chart and clear illustrations. Nigel Calder, a diesel mechanic for almost 30 years, is also the author of numerous articles for nautical magazines and other books - all of which have helped tens of thousands of boatowners deal with mechanical problems at sea.

The best price I found for this book was from [Binnacle.ca](https://www.binnacle.ca), \$89.95 CDN. If you buy some other small item to bring your total past \$99, you will get free shipping. The free shipping might be useful, since at 944 pages, this book isn't light.

Technical - Primary Wiring Colours

A cruising boat has a lot of wire in it - probably several kilometers. What do all the colours mean? Fortunately, there are standards governing wire colours, which I will explain.

First of all, we need to understand that there are two separate systems of wiring on the boat: AC and DC.

AC (Alternating Current)

This system runs regular household items such as kettles, microwaves, toasters, heaters, and battery chargers. Usually we use these items while connected to shore power, but some boats will have the capability to supply this kind of power while away from the dock, although it takes a lot of battery capacity. The outlets for this system will look exactly like the ones you see on land. The wire colours will be similar too: black for power, white for neutral, and green for ground.



Photo: a typical AC outlet (although usually crimp connectors are used).

DC (Direct Current)

The DC system refers to everything that runs on battery power, normally about 12 volts. Most of this stuff is “hard wired” into the boat and may be controlled by a switch or circuit breaker on the DC panel. Examples include running lights, interior lights, radios, depth sounder, chart plotter, windlass, water pumps, fridge, and many other items. Boats will sometimes have “cigarette lighter” style outlets for powering accessories, plus some USB plugs for charging electronics. The wire colours for this system are red for positive (power) and yellow for negative (ground).



Photo: a typical small vessel DC panel, post 2008.

Changing Standards

On older boats, the DC system will have a slightly different colour coding - red for positive, but black for negative/ground. Do you see the problem? Black is also the colour for the power side of the AC system. Accidentally connecting a black wire from AC power to DC ground could cause a shock or a fire. That is why the new standard (yellow for DC negative) was put in place, starting in 2008. Black can still be used for DC negative, but it should have yellow tape or heat shrink.

The Standards

The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) develops voluntary, consensus-based safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of recreational boats. Over 90% of North American boats are built to these guidelines, making them the industry baseline for boating safety. The ABYC collaborates with global agencies. For example, Transport Canada accepts ABYC construction requirements as an alternative to some small vessel Canadian regulations.



LYC Member's Forum

If you have not already done so, please register to use the new Member's Forum. It might take a day or two, as Owen and Fiona might not see your request right away. Feel free to post anything related to boating or the club.

1. Visit www.ladysmithyc.bc.ca and click on *Members Registration*
2. Enter this one-time passcode to request an account: *myLYC*.
3. Enter your information on the account request form and click *Register*. We'll confirm your membership by email and activate your account. This may take a couple of days.

Once registered, you will have full access to the forum and the exclusive members-only part of the LYC website (log in with your personal password and check the "keep me signed in" box for instant access going forward).

If you are unsure if you are already registered, you can try to change your password. If you are registered, you will be able to change it. If you have any difficulty, just email forum@ladysmithyc.bc.ca for assistance. We hope to see you soon in the virtual club-house!

A Three Hour Tour - Gilligan's Island

At Telegraph Harbour, we are having a “Gilligan’s Island” themed Rendezvous, a light-hearted gathering inspired by the spirit of Gilligan’s Island, where castaways come together in a playful, tropical “marooned but making the best of it” setting. The rendezvous blends adventure, teamwork, and humour as participants explore island-style activities, and dockside storytelling...



Every great island adventure needs a crew! We invite everyone to channel their inner castaway and come as a favourite Gilligan’s Island character — Be the Skipper in a captain’s hat, Ginger in glamorous island style, Mary Ann in farm-girl gingham, the Professor with a clipboard of “scientific discoveries,” or Mr. & Mrs. Howell dressed for yacht-club luxury marooned at sea! Costumes can be simple, silly, elaborate, or just tropical-themed — Hawaiian shirts absolutely count.

Participation is completely optional... but highly encouraged for maximum island spirit! We have put together a full schedule of island-style adventures that you won't want to miss

If you feel the call of leadership on your deserted-but-delightful island, please let Mindy know at mindycoles@shaw.ca or **250-802-6682** if you're able to captain one of the group activities listed below. Without a brave volunteer stepping up, that particular island adventure may remain shipwrecked on the planning table.

Marina and Reservations

Gilligan's Island Arrival date and time: Aug. 24, 2026 - after 1pm
Departure date and time: Aug. 27, 2026 - by 11:00 am.

To attend a rendezvous at Telegraph Harbour Marina **you must book online** rather than calling the marina. You will see "Ladysmith Yacht Club 2026" as a rendezvous option if the date(s) you are reserving for includes one or more of Aug 24 through Aug 27, 2026.

Telegraph Harbour will save dock space for the Club until August 3rd so please reserve online at your earliest convenience.

<https://app.telegraphharbour.com/book-select>

Have a great Rendezvous!

Mindy Coles- assistant to LYC Staff Captain

Questions: Contact Mindy Coles by email at

mindycoles@shaw.ca or by phone at **250-802-6682**

2026 Cruising Schedule

~~April 24-26: Thetis Island Marina (Susan)~~

~~May 20-24: Club Cruise~~

~~Maple Bay Marina, May 20, 21 (Carmen)~~

~~Mill Bay Marina, May 22~~

~~Tod Inlet, May 23, 24~~

~~June 18-21: Pages Marina, Silva Bay (Carmen)~~

~~July 12 - 27: Commodore's Cruise to Desolation Sound~~

~~August 24- 27: Telegraph Harbour Marina (Mindy)~~

Upcoming Events

9 September - Executive Meeting

18 September - Potluck/Education (RCM SAR)

25 September - Monthly Club Social

21 October - Executive Meeting

31 October - Crew Overboard Certification Training

7 November - Cooks Night Out

18 November - Executive Meeting

24 November - Special General Meeting

4 December - Christmas Party

16 December - Executive Meeting

Honey, how did the boys at the yacht club like your new all-electric boat?

