

# CATSS Ayes

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Editor: Lowell Anderson

[lowellanderson@qwest.net](mailto:lowellanderson@qwest.net)

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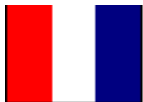


## Catalina Association of Tacoma and South Sound

Commodore: Jim Lee [jwestonlee@mac.com](mailto:jwestonlee@mac.com) 253 226 2719 cell

Vice Commodore: DeVere Lindh [devere.v.l@comcast.net](mailto:devere.v.l@comcast.net) 206 919 9131

Treasurer: Lynden Ward [lward@wamail.net](mailto:lward@wamail.net) 253 759 3955



### March CATSS Cruise to Gig Harbor

## Spring Sailabration Gig Harbor Cruise

For those who ventured out on Friday it looked like a stormy weekend. Saturday was a cold but sunny day for the eight boats joining the cruise to Gig Harbor, our first on the water cruise of the year. On the water is what it is all about, so it was gratifying to see this many brave souls venture out for the event, hosted by Jim and Kelly Hettinger.

Members in attendance were:

John and Neena Stoner > *Cache*  
Bob and Kate Richmond > *Chimera*  
Carl and Mary Lou Rafello > *True Love*  
Jim and Debbie Lee > *Pure Joy*  
Jim and Kelly Hettinger > *Cutting Edge*  
Tom and Sandy Brosius > *Odysseus*  
Bob and Barbara Buck > *Summer Salt*  
Lowell Anderson and guest > *Tourmaline*

Anchored out in front of Anthony's in the harbor, the group enjoyed a pot luck dinner on the water. A scavenger hunt was invented by Kelly, and among the items not

located aboard these well equipped boats were Beano and Preparation H. This had to be a healthy bunch to not locate these items.

I was a late arriver, and was not sure when the dinner hour was scheduled and thought I had heard the possibility that we might dine out at Anthony's. To cover myself I brought a couple of steaks, not exactly pot luck fare, but we arrived right at meal time and were welcomed by the group to share. By 10 pm everyone had paid us a visit and my friend was impressed by the quality of our group. As folks began to settle down for the night Tourmaline slipped quietly away in the dark but clear night. We were back to our dock by midnight, hitting only one log along the way. Twelve hours later I was performing in a concert at PLU's Lagerquist Hall with the community college band. It was raining and I was glad to have made the night trip home.

Thanks Kelly and Jim for the excellent "Opening Cruise" on the water. The theme of the cruise, Spring Sailabration, refers to the fact that Spring officially arrived on March 20 at 9:15 am ET. That was just before the first boats arrived, so this whole weekend was in celebration of Spring. Do you know what Spring is?



Sit down kids and listen carefully now. Spring is on different days each year, between March 19 and 21. The day depends on when Equinox occurs.

"What is equinox, teacher?"

Equinox is the two times each year that the sun crosses the earth's equator. Spring is identified by the crossing when the sun is moving north. Autumn is identified by the crossing when the sun is moving south.

"Why does the sun move back and forth like that?"

The sun really isn't moving back and forth. It is the earth that is actually moving around the sun. The earth is like a wheel that goes around on its axis. Every time it goes around one full turn we call a day. When a wheel goes around it usually is moving somewhere. So as it moves around one rotation each day it moves the earth's relative position to the sun. Approximately every 365 days the earth travels all the way around the sun.

The sun's magnetic pull keeps us from traveling off into space. If the earth's axis were parallel to the sun's axis we would travel around the sun with no changes in seasons. The equator would always be extremely hot and the north and south poles would be even colder than they are. But the earth's axis is actually tilted 23.5 degrees, so our earth wheel is not very well aligned. This forces our annual circumnavigation of the sun to be elliptical rather than a true circle.

Every time the propeller on your boat goes around it pushes your boat forward through the water. If your propeller axis (the shaft) were offset by 23.5 degrees instead of being perfectly aligned with the center of your boat, your boat would travel in a circle rather than a straight line. It would take a lot more than 365 rotations of the propeller to get you around your circle, and lots of other variables would enter into the shape of the circle (such as wind, current, weight distribution, etc.) and the result would be an elliptical circumnavigation rather than a true circle.

“So what is the big deal about the sun passing over the equator twice a year?”

This semi-annual occurrence is what creates our seasons. As the sun crosses the equator heading north, it warms the northern hemisphere and cools the southern hemisphere. The crossing day we call spring means warmer weather is coming as the sun shines longer each day north of the equator. In the southern hemisphere this same day marks the beginning of their autumn.

“If this is how spring and fall happen, how do you know when it is summer and winter?”

In the northern hemisphere as earth travels around the sun, the sun shines longer each day until it virtually never sets on the north pole. The angle of the sun is not as high in the sky, but it's light never disappears at night. That is what they call the midnight sun in arctic areas. At this point in the annual trip around the sun we mark another ¼ of the trip complete and we now begin to travel back toward the south. As the earth reaches these polar extremes on its orbital track, the north pole is light for 24 hours and the south pole is dark all day (and vice versa 6 months later), we call these “mileposts” a solstice. Winter solstice, for us in the northern hemisphere, is when the south pole is in the sun's light all day and the north pole is dark. Our summer solstice is when the north pole experiences 24 hours of light without seeing the sun set. These are the center of the north and south turns on our track, while the equinoxes are like crossing the 50 yard line on a track surrounding a football field.

“Wow! I sure hope the next cruise hosts don't pick a fancy name like Spring Sailabration, 'cause I am more interested in sailing fun than all this school stuff.”

Play if you must, but if you want to make the most of yourself I recommend a good

education. Google University is a great school. **Go nerds, go!** I took the course at [livescience.com/environment/090319-spring-equinox](http://livescience.com/environment/090319-spring-equinox).

## Next Cruises : Plan Ahead. We might run out of

**Bell Harbor Cruise – April 24 – 26**  
**Hosts: Tom and Sandy Brosius**  
**Reservations required.**

**Call Bell Harbor Marina at (206) 615 3952 to make slip reservations. Tell them you are with the Catalina Association that has C dock reserved. Cost \$1.25 per foot.**

**Call or e-mail Tom and Sandy for dinner reservations at Anthony's – 6:00 pm Saturday - Complimentary parking available in Art Institute Parking Garage if you come by car. Validate ticket at Anthony's.**



See email sent to all CATSS member from Tom Brosius on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for many activity options available at this destination.

**Plan NOW for next months cruise**  
**May 15 - 17- Bob and Candy Turner hosting**  
**Boston Harbor (Olympia) Fuel available.**  
**Always good food by marina catering.**

## Don't miss our regular monthly dinner meeting at Fife Bar and Grill Thursday, April 16 @ 6pm.

**Special speaker: Jim Kitchen from Puget Sound Sail Repair.**

Come on out to get the latest information on future cruises, special summer meetings in homes, including speakers and special presentations.



Commodore Jim Lee has lots of interesting speakers and events to introduce to CATSS. Attend the meetings and be in "the know."

Last month's speaker was Andy Schwenk, of Northwest Rigging. His presentation included excellent visual aids and answers to questions concerning sail boat rigging.

Andy Schwenk Phone: (360) 293-1154  
Cell: (360) 770-7035 Fax: (360) 293-1837  
Email: andy@northwestrigginginc.com



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## Check out member services

[www.ays.com](http://www.ays.com) This is Mike Jameson's new website for Admiralty Yachts. Now is a great time to trade up. If you have ever thought of moving up to the next level in boating, NOW is the time. Check with Mike or his staff regarding your next upgrade.

[CruisingConcepts.com](http://CruisingConcepts.com) Mike Powell is an associate member of CATSS. He sells hatch

doors, cockpit tables, and other enhancements for your boat. Mike is located on Orcas Island. His contact information is available in your CATSS photo directory.

**Can you identify this island in the sound?** Surprisingly few could do so at our last meeting.



This is McMicken Island, just off the east shore of Hartstene Island in South Sound. It is a state marine park with buoys located on the north side of the island. No shore facilities.

A good way to get acquainted with South Puget Sound is to get out a chart and study it. To see photos of places in question, go to the latest photos of Washington's entire shorelines. Select the area you want to see on the map. Then select the actual photo from the dot showing location of photographer. Copy and paste this website:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlantlas/viewer.htm>

Here is a 2006 image of Boston Harbor at low tide. This will be the site of our May cruise.



This summary of our south sound islands may be of help. Get acquainted with South Sound. It is a great place to sail and enjoy.

Islands shown indented are satellite islands to the island above it.

## **Islands in South Puget Sound / south of Narrows Bridge**

### Thurston County:

Steamboat Island / bridge / residential

### Mason County:

Hope Island / private boat access only / **State Park**

Squaxin Island / Indian Reservation

Hartstene Island / bridge / residential / **State Park** dock at Jerrol Cove

McMicken Island / private boat access only / **State Park**

Stretch Island / bridge / residential / **State Park buoys** – boat access only to park

Reach Island (aka Treasure Island) / bridge / residential

### Pierce County:

Anderson Island / Pierce Co. Ferry / residential

Eagle Island / private boat access only – **State Park**

McNeil Island / Pierce Co. Ferry / State Prison

Gertrude Island / off limits - state prison

Pitt Island – off limits – state prison

Fox Island / bridge / residential

Tanglewood Island / private access only / anchoring ok – no shore access

Cutts Island / private boat access only – **State Park**

Ketron Island / Pierce Co. Ferry / residential

Herron Island / Private HOA Ferry / residential

Raft Island / bridge / residential

Day Island / bridge / residential

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## Other Interesting Happenings in our area

Enviro Fair named “Clean, Green Boating Fair” will be held on Opening Day of Boating Season, Saturday, May 2, 2009. This event is sponsored by Delin Docks Marina, Dock Street Marina and Foss Harbor Marina. It will be held in the Delin Marina parking lot. There will be boating education opportunities, environmental awareness demonstrations, fire extinguisher recertification on site, Coast Guard boat safety inspections, and hands on activities for all ages. Free fun for the family.

New glass art display is being installed in the reflection pond between Woodys Restaurant and the Glass Museum. The Esplanade walkway is currently being extended under the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge and should be open soon. The new Esplanade Condo is now completed and personal tours are always available by the on site agent.

Check out the new Foss Waterway Seaport Museum. It is now in its infancy, but the building has been totally restored for museum use by federal funding. There are now three rooms with displays, ongoing wooden boat building and restoration, and a new dock available to the public for day and overnight use. Shore power will be available by mid summer. A week ago I visited the dock and talked with members of the Corinthian Yacht Club, which held a cruise venue there. The museum itself is limited in its displays, but does have space for groups to have a pot luck indoors with a rest room available. We have been to Dock Street Marina two or three times, but the Seaport Museum dock is only .6 miles north, still within easy walking distance of downtown and a good view of ships in Commencement Bay. There is a pub available by the museum. Maybe someone would like to sponsor a cruise there during the winter months when we don't want to venture too far from home. The area is improving every day.

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Invite a friend to join CATSS. Don't forget to check out our web site frequently.

Lots of good information there! [CATSSps.org](http://CATSSps.org) Simple as that.

Membership application available on last page of this newsletter or on our website.

Carry an application for membership on your boat and invite Catalina owners you meet along the way. We have lots of fun cruises and interesting meetings lined up. No

Catalina owner should be out there alone, when they can have so much fun being part of our CATSS family.

Bye for now!



## ***MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL***

Please fill out the form below and  
mail to:

Lyn Ward  
3506 N. HUSON  
TACOMA, WA 98407

### ***CATSS Membership Application***

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type and Length of Boat: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Boat: \_\_\_\_\_ MMSI # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Port: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

First year membership: \$36/year, General Membership: \$30/year, Associate Membership: \$15/year