



SALT SPRING ISLAND SAILING CLUB

# TellTales

VOLUME 20 • NUMBER 3 • MARCH 2001

Spring... record numbers of racers on the water and noisy excitement in the waterfowl population along shore while many of the cruisers are still winter slumbering under their covers



## Commodore's report

We have been fortunate to have enjoyed a pleasant winter this year with more sunny skies than usual. As we move into Spring the urge to launch the coming boating season grows in all of us.

I wish to thank Mike Byrne for the able handling of our General Meeting on February 27th. It is obviously a quiet time after the completion of the new fingers and before the summer activity as the meeting duration was something of a record, lasting approximately one half hour. Reports of Officers were given, indicating the activity during the past months, most of which have been reported in TellTales. As well, Barb Todd once again stepped in to the Secretary role and ably handled those duties during the General Meeting and the subsequent Executive Meeting. Thank you Barb.

The new Yearbook for 2001 is out and, along with your membership card, is in the clubhouse. Would you please pick up your copy at your earliest convenience. A very large thanks goes out to Nigel Denyer and Per Rasmussen for the yeoman effort in producing the Yearbook, and to Dan Phelan for collecting all the advertising support for the book. It is a

very concentrated effort for the three months prior to distribution. We hope you find the finished product to your liking.

Please put the dates of the upcoming Spring Workparty on your calendar, Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22, as I am sure there will be the usual long list of tasks to complete.

We wish to welcome three new memberships to our club, Jean-Paul Krauss and Debbie Brandow, David and Grace Peter as well as Ron Besley and Dr. Karen Berg. Please introduce yourselves to them and welcome them to the club. We have two more membership applications under review, Tom and Karen Hosie and Norm Dinsmore and Sally Plunkett; they are currently posted on the club bulletin board in the foyer.

For those of you who may have missed it, our very own Master Circumnavigator of Vancouver Island, Dick Pattinson, is featured in the February edition of Pacific Yachting magazine. Congratulations Dick!

Hope to see you at one of the record number of social functions arranged by Phyllis for the month of March.

—John Farquharson, *Commodore*

## St. Patrick's Day social

Saturday, March 17th  
at 1900 hours in the clubhouse

### The theme

#### 'Truth or Blarney'

has got members putting their thinking caps on and using their imaginations to get the 'perfect' story

Be it 'truth or blarney', it is for us to decide. So come, wear the green, and be Irish at least for a night!

## Flare Night

Thursday, March 22nd  
1900 hours at the clubhouse

Coast Guard officers will be on site to give a short presentation and then it's down to the breakwater to see the real thing put into action

Coffee and a goodie will be served after the demonstration.

## 'Anchoring and Anchorages'

Tuesday, March 27th  
at 1900 hours in the clubhouse

Hugh Greenwood has promised us a very entertaining and enlightening evening.

Whether you're new to anchoring or an old hand at 'dropping the hook', you should not miss this evening!

**Scuttlebutt!**



Saturday, March 24th  
at 1000-1200 hours

A coffee, a goodie and just chit-chat with fellow members.  
PLUS:

*Lorne Shantz will demonstrate the braided line splice!*

**Deadline for the next TellTales is 6th April**

## On the waterfront

All quiet on the waterfront, any activities have been very low key compared with the previous months. The most notable event is probably the turning on of the water to the floats, at the time of writing about 70% of the system is up and running, the remaining 30% will be slightly delayed due to a couple of broken fittings that need replacement, and the odd leak to be attended to.

So let me tell you about the up-and-coming *Flare Night*. Mark your calendars for March 22nd, 1900 hours at the clubhouse. Coast Guard officers will be on site to give a short presentation and then it's down to the breakwater to see the real thing put into action. This is the perfect opportunity to find out if those old flares you have still work and how well (or poorly) they perform. We have invited members of the Power Squadron to join us and coffee and goodies will be provided.

As there is now a rather large gap where my report is supposed to be, I have sent to the Editor a very 'tongue in cheek' short story which hopefully will at the very least give readers a moment of amusement....

Until next month.

—Brian Swinburne, *Rear Commodore*

## Operator Card

If you don't have your Pleasure Craft Operator Card yet, and are interested in joining a club-sponsored training course and test, give Vice Commodore Mike Byrne a call at 537-9988.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I believe the club should develop regulations so that modern technology is not abused, as is clearly the case in the picture of me in the last TellTales where obviously the digital camera was used to add an extra 15 pounds to my sylph-like figure!

Yours truly,  
Liz Anderson, SAORSA

## For sale

Wooden dinghy, with fiberglass bottom. Very stable, easy to row and tows well, complete with oars. Good for two people and a large dog. \$125. Call 537-4207  
—Gary Railer, *STEEL AWEIGH*

## 'As the Prop Turns'

Our story begins as any story should on a beautiful BRISTOL BLUE day ... late in the afternoon the WEE LASS CALISTA and her friend MARY JULIA decided



on a WHIM to go to the local DANCE where they could put the NIGHT MOVES on OSCAR and the boys. So later that evening as they went through the BRAS D'OR of the club, they were pleased to hear their favourite MELODY being played by the band JACANA, however they saw that OSCAR was already dancing with NANCY LEE and that her sister DAPHNE was hanging around also. 'That little HESSIAN,' MARY JULIA thought and they both headed for the bar. "Another WHISKY ... JACK sweetie," the bar-keep asked with a twinkle in his eye. "My name's CALISTA" she snapped back at him, "Don't be such a CHEEKY BUOY." And with that the two girls left, disappointed that things did not work out as they had hoped.

On an IMPULSE, MARY JULIA suggested they go WALKABOUT, "Let's go to one of our three favourite islands, ILAETEA, GWAIHIR or NUMTIJAH" she cried. This meant a short boat trip so they jumped into their sailboat MON AMI and with LIGHTHEART and a gentle GULF WIND behind them they were on their way enjoying the setting sun's RED SKY.

After seeing a DOLPHIN, FLAGFISH and SAILFISH, the girls spotted the first island and in unison cried out "THAT'S IT" and at that moment they checked their watches to make sure they were on ISLAND TIME.

The owner of the only accommodation on the island, THE SPIRIT LODGE, was waiting for them aboard his boat SUMMER PASSAGE. He was a SLY FOX named BEN BOW and owned the island's only WAXWING PELICAN, a quirk of nature found only on this island and a major tourist attraction.

He greeted the girls who appeared a little RESTLESS aboard their boat. As he offered his hand to assist them to shore, he asked them in a quiet WHISPER if they had come to the island for ROMANCE? The girls giggled, knowing he was renowned for making a PASSAT 11 girls at the same time, no matter who they were, and it had been rumoured he kept a HAREM at the north end of the island. To distract him ... they asked how his TOM CAT, ALMUCANTAR, was doing this year. He assured them that it was fine and told the girls he would walk them up to the lodge in short order, he just had to TINKER with his engine for a few minutes. The girls decided to STEEL AWEIGH for a while and visit the BLUE BAYOU beach where they saw the only talking SANDPIPER which came up to them and said, "Don't you just love to let the MISTRAL winds blow through your WINGS?" They were on CLOUD NINE as they returned by the path through CALABASH valley on their way to the lodge. When they finally arrived there they were ready for a tall cool cocktail called a TUTTI AQUILA. This was a special drink made only on the island. It contained a shot of TABASCO together with SAORSA (a special ingredient known only to the bartender). As dinner time approached, the other guests gathered in the bar. ZARA JANE was from the TANQUARY FJORD area of New Zealand, the twins KATIE/LAURA hailed from YEOMAN and their girlfriend PATRICIA was from the very exclusive area of SHAUNSEA and with her strange sense of English humour had everyone in stitches.



Stay tuned for next months thrilling episode—unless it gets cancelled—of 'As the Prop Turns'.

Will our heroines Calista and Mary Julia get drawn into Ben Bow's harem? Will the cat Almucantar get the sandpiper? Will the eggs be fresh for breakfast?

—Brian Swinburne

TellTales is published ten times a year by the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club  
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## The social scene

On February 27th, Lorne and Colleen Shantz showed their video of last year's summer travels to destinations north of Desolation Sound. The evening was well attended. Members got some first hand knowledge of boating for an extended period of time in remote areas. The natural beauty of the water, land and wild life was well depicted throughout the video. As well, we had the opportunity to meet the new members who came out. It is always a pleasure to see new faces at the clubhouse.

On March 3rd, Lorne and Colleen hosted the Saturday morning Scuttlebutt. Members are beginning to find it to be quite pleasurable to get together with friends just for a morning coffee and a chat.

March is promising to be a busy month. Saturday, March 17th at 1900 hrs. is our 'St. Patrick's Day' social. The theme of 'Truth or Blarney' has got

members putting their thinking caps on, using their imaginations to get the 'perfect' story. Be it 'truth or blarney', it is for us to decide. So come, wear the green, and be Irish at least for a night.

On Thursday, March 22nd, Brian Swinburne is organising a 'flare night'. See his report for details. Coffee and a goodie to be served in the clubhouse after the demonstration.

On Saturday, March 24th, 1000 to 1200 h, we are having a special Scuttlebutt. Lorne Shantz will be demonstrating double braid nylon splicing.

On Tuesday, March 27th, 1900 hours, Hugh Greenwood has promised us a very entertaining and enlightening evening on 'Anchoring and Anchorages'. This is an evening you should not miss if you anchor or if you are considering anchoring. Incidentally, Hugh knows of an anchorage, quite safe, called Boca del Infierno (Mouth of Hell). Are you curious? I am.

Upcoming in the month of April: April 21 and 22 - The Spring Workparty. April 24 - Hints and secrets of 'Winning the Round Saltspring Island Race'. This is a night for the cruisers to learn from some of our best racers—John Cameron, Pete Drage, Terry Small and Kevin Vine. Even if you are not entering the race, I am sure you can learn a little bit about everyday sailing from these gents.

Looking ahead to June, we have pencilled in the 'Family Day' social on Sunday, June 10th. Our thoughts are to try to put something together to encourage younger members and their children, or older members with their grandchildren, to participate in club activities, i.e., silly things, races, barbecue, etc. Any ideas, or are you really interested in doing something like this at all? Please call me at 537-4932 to indicate if you are interested.

—Phyllis Waltho, *Staff Captain*

## Wharfingering

The new fingers off C dock were completed and ready for occupancy February 1. Do they ever look great! So great in fact that as soon as club members saw the progress being made and their attractiveness, applications for moorage relocations came forward at a fast rate. When everything was said and done, we had moved/involved 31 boats—the relocation list was reduced to 8 from a total of 25 boats. In addition we were also successful in finding moorage for all the new members who had boats recorded on the club's waiting list. As a result we welcome the following new members and their boats—please introduce yourselves to your new neighbours.

**BETHIA** - Allan Buchanan design 30' - on dock C1 - Robert Denny

**SECOND LUV** - Bayliner 32' - on dock E42 - Robert and Carol Scott

**DUNE DAIN II** - Sceptre 36' - on dock D19 - Margaret Barrand and Fulvio Limongelli

**PTERADACTYL** - Tennant 25' - on dock C12 - Pete McKenzie

**ISLAND TIME** - Nordic Tug 37' - on Dock C14 - Bill and Rosie Foster

**FINAL DASH** - Dash 34' - on dock A7 - David and Nancy Wood

**AES SEDAI** - Catalina 28' - on dock D13 - Debbie Brandow and Jean-Paul Krauss

Wilf and Jean Taylor's **ISLAND CHALLENGER** has left the club and her adventures are now being enjoyed by their daughter and son-in-law.

—Tom Locke, *Wharfinger*

## This year's Ladies' Cruise...

will be from Friday, June 15th to Sunday, June 17th. Destinations will be decided upon closer to June. Any ladies wishing to join the cruise—either with own boat or to crew on another boat—please contact Irene Gibbs, Dawn Shaak or Mary Neil. The more the merrier!

Here are a couple of photos from the Ladies' Cruise planning meeting last week.

—Barb Todd

*Susan Paynter with cake she decorated with chocolate sailing boats*



BARB TODD PHOTO

### Visit our club website

[www.islandsails.com/sailingclub](http://www.islandsails.com/sailingclub) and learn more about our club, enjoy the most recent (as well as previous) TellTales in glorious colour, or catch up on the latest racing results. The newly expanded website also features the complete club calendar, the 2001 cruising schedule, information about reciprocal clubs (together with their website addresses), and the latest information about our junior program.

## The 2001 yearbook is now available!

It includes your 2001 membership card and a car/boat emblem, and it's in the clubhouse now, waiting to be picked up.

# RACING NEWS

## Ben Mohr Trophy

It doesn't get much better than this: a nice mild sunny day, a good wind and 14 boats out racing.

The NW wind meant a spinnaker start and a nice run past the Sisters and out into Welbury Bay. Once there, with the wind building a little and coming more on the beam, some of the bigger boats had some close encounters with the dreaded broach.

A strong ebb in Captain Passage wasn't enough to slow the boats very much and early leaders *ELECTRA* and *FANDANGO* soon made it to Ben Mohr Rock. Once around, it was a one tack beat back into the harbour. Shifty winds close to the finish line forced a tack or two but Roger Kibble with *ELECTRA* held on for line honours and first place on corrected time ahead of Philip and Art sailing *FANDANGO*. Although fifth over the line, *DRAGON* corrected out to third place.

—Pete Drage, *Fleet Captain, Racing*



|    | Finish time | Boat name           | Rating | Skipper           | Corrected time | Points |
|----|-------------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1  | 11:41:51    | <i>ELECTRA</i>      | 188    | Roger Kibble      | 1:33:30        | 100    |
| 2  | 11:42:23    | <i>FANDANGO</i>     | 158    | Philip Grange/Art | 1:38:09        | 93     |
| 3  | 11:58:09    | <i>DRAGON</i>       | 242    | Peter Drage       | 1:40:47        | 86     |
| 4  | 12:02:03    | <i>CHEEKY BUOY</i>  | 267    | Tony Brogan       | 1:40:48        | 79     |
| 5  | 11:45:54    | <i>HESSIAN</i>      | 161    | Sam Sydneysmith   | 1:41:05        | 71     |
| 6  | 11:55:52    | <i>ALMUCANTAR</i>   | 214    | Hugh Greenwood    | 1:42:36        | 64     |
| 7  | 12:05:27    | <i>NUMTIJAH</i>     | 268    | Neil Buchan       | 1:43:30        | 57     |
| 8  | 11:58:47    | <i>BALLATER</i>     | 223    | John Farquharson  | 1:43:54        | 50     |
| 9  | 12:11:30    | <i>WHISPER</i>      | 280    | Harold Brochmann  | 1:46:51        | 43     |
| 10 | 11:58:24    | <i>ATALANTA</i>     | 189    | Stuart Farson     | 1:48:32        | 36     |
| 11 | 12:13:45    | <i>LONE RANGER</i>  | 237    | Suzanne Ambers    | 1:54:50        | 29     |
| 12 | 12:28:55    | <i>GWAIHIR</i>      | 306    | Dick Pattinson    | 1:57:11        | 21     |
| 13 | 12:25:00    | <i>DRAFTY ACRES</i> | 196    | Sheila Bull       | 2:11:38        | 14     |
| 14 | DNF         | <i>FINAL DASH</i>   | 163    | David Wood        | 0:00:00        | 7      |

## McMillan Trophy

"Except for the frost on everything, it could be summer." Words by veteran sailor Hugh Greenwood as he stepped on board. A crisp morning, clear blue sky, and moderate northwest wind saw a fleet of fourteen boats hoist spinnakers and race down Ganges Harbour. *OSCAR*'s early advantage ended near Chocolate Island as Roger Kibble's sleek blue *Aphrodite 101*, *ELECTRA*, took the lead. In what can only have been a sporting gesture, Roger seemed to be holding crew drills near the turning buoy at Beddis Beach (Batt Rock) and allowed several boats to get by.

A strong adverse tide began to separate the fleet. Those choosing to look for back eddies on the Prevost shore came out ahead. Rob Portingale and John Cameron aboard *OSCAR* were first around Ben Mohr rock near Galiano. They report the large male eagle there showed them the best route home. With the tide behind them now, and some with spinnakers up again, speeds of 8.5 knots across the bottom were registered. Jackets came off, sunscreen went on and smiles broadened on every boat. It could be summer, except of course if you live in Toronto where all the boats are still ashore bundled up for winter.

After the club handicaps were applied, the results show Tony Meek on *MINKE* third, Kevin Vine single-handing *DERYN MOR* second, and *OSCAR* first.

(Reported by John Cameron)



Jim Taylor helms lead boat *OSCAR* and trims the chute. *HESSIAN* is close behind during the recent Round Prevost Race

|    | Finish time | Boat name           | Rating | Skipper           | Corrected time | Points |
|----|-------------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1  | 12:17:30    | <i>OSCAR</i>        | 168    | John Cameron      | 2:09:54        | 100    |
| 2  | 12:35:02    | <i>DERYN MOR</i>    | 228    | Kevin Vine        | 2:14:42        | 93     |
| 3  | 12:51:56    | <i>MINKE</i>        | 297    | Tony Meek         | 2:16:47        | 86     |
| 4  | 12:29:48    | <i>ELECTRA</i>      | 188    | Roger Kibble      | 2:17:31        | 79     |
| 5  | 12:42:18    | <i>DRAGON</i>       | 242    | Peter Drage       | 2:18:27        | 71     |
| 6  | 12:25:46    | <i>FANDANGO</i>     | 158    | Philip Grange/Art | 2:19:44        | 64     |
| 7  | 12:48:24    | <i>CHEEKY BUOY</i>  | 261    | Tony Brogan       | 2:20:09        | 57     |
| 8  | 12:51:47    | <i>SLY FOX</i>      | 258    | Bob Borbas        | 2:23:32        | 50     |
| 9  | 12:44:40    | <i>SAORSA</i>       | 218    | Tony McEwen       | 2:25:03        | 43     |
| 10 | 11:48:13    | <i>ALMUCANTAR</i>   | 214    | Hugh Greenwood    | 2:28:58        | 36     |
| 11 | 12:24:26    | <i>DRAFTY ACRES</i> | 196    | Sheila Bull       | 3:05:35        | 29     |
| 12 | 13:54:11    | <i>NUMTIJAH</i>     | 268    | Neil Buchan       | 3:13:12        | 21     |
| 13 | 14:22:44    | <i>GWAIHIR</i>      | 306    | Dick Pattinson    | 3:26:45        | 14     |
| 14 | DNF         | <i>WHISPER</i>      | 280    | Harold Brochmann  | 0:00:00        | 7      |

## Club races coming up

Sunday, March 25th  
**CHANNEL ISLES #1 RACE**

Course: Start - Channel Isles (P) or (S) - Finish  
Start 1000, Skipper's meet in the clubhouse 0900

Coffee and donuts 0845

*This is the crew invitational, so come out and experience club racing—bring a friend—we will find you a place on a club boat.*

Sunday, April 8th  
**WALKER ROCK RACE**

Course: Start - Welbury Spar (P) - Walker Rock (P) - Welbury Spar (S) - Finish

Start 1000, Skipper's meet in the clubhouse 0900  
Coffee and donuts 0845

## You are invited to come and crew...

on a club boat for the Channel Isles #1 race on March 25th.

Here is your chance to try club racing with experienced skippers and crew, all members and friends are welcome. Please let Fleet Captain Racing, Pete Drage, know you're coming at 537-1358

or pdrage@saltspring.com. Extra crew places will be drawn from a hat—everyone will get a boat!

This is a 10 mile race, starting at 1000. The time limit is 1500 hrs but could last until 1700 with the extension, so plan to bring food, drink and waterproof clothing.

Skipper's meeting at 0900, after coffee and donuts in the clubhouse.

## Order your custom Round Saltspring 2001 T-shirts now!



Once again the RSI Committee is offering T-Shirts with an embroidered logo and your boat name. A sample is hanging in the clubhouse—it's even better than last year's!

Cost is \$18 each. Place relevant information, size, boat name in the Fleet Captain Racing's message slot with a cheque made out to Saltspring Island Sailing Club.

Delivery will be on the Friday, pre-race. Final orders must be received by May 4th, no exceptions, but it will make life easier for me if you do it now!

## Season Totals

| Boat          | Skipper           | Ground Hog | Ben Mohr | McMillan | Total Points | Total with one |
|---------------|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 MINKE       | Tony Meek         | 100        |          | 86       | 186          | 186            |
| 2 ELECTRA     | Roger Kibble      |            | 100      | 79       | 179          | 179            |
| 3 DERYN MOR   | Kevin Vine        | 83         |          | 93       | 176          | 176            |
| 4 OSCAR       | John Cameron      | 75         |          | 100      | 175          | 175            |
| 5 CHEEKY BUOY | Tony Brogan       | 92         | 79       | 57       | 227          | 170            |
| 6 DRAGON      | Peter Drage       | 67         | 86       | 71       | 224          | 157            |
| 7 FANDANGO    | Philip Grange/Art | 58         | 93       | 64       | 215          | 157            |
| 8 NUMTIJAH    | Neil Buchan       | 50         | 57       | 21       | 128          | 107            |
| 9 ALMUCANTAR  | Hugh Greenwood    | 33         | 64       | 36       | 133          | 100            |
| 10 BALLATER   | John Farquharson  | 42         | 50       |          | 92           | 92             |

## Team Results

| TEAM        | Captain      | Ground Hog | BenMohr | McMillan | Total |
|-------------|--------------|------------|---------|----------|-------|
| Privateers  | Pete Drage   | 233        | 306     | 242      | 781   |
| Elephants   | John Cameron | 300        | 143     | 257      | 700   |
| Rum Runners | Tony Brogan  | 108        | 214     | 136      | 458   |

## White Sails

| Boat           | Rating | Skipper          | Ground Hog | Ben Mohr | McMillan | Total |
|----------------|--------|------------------|------------|----------|----------|-------|
| 1 Drafty Acres | 196    | Sheila Bull      | 8          | 14       | 29       | 51    |
| 2 Whisper      | 280    | Harold Brochmann |            | 43       | 7        | 50    |
| 3 Gwaihir      | 306    | Dick Pattinson   |            | 21       | 14       | 35    |



HESSIAN during the recent Round Prevost Race

JOHN CAMERON PHOTOS

# Sailing around Vancouver Island

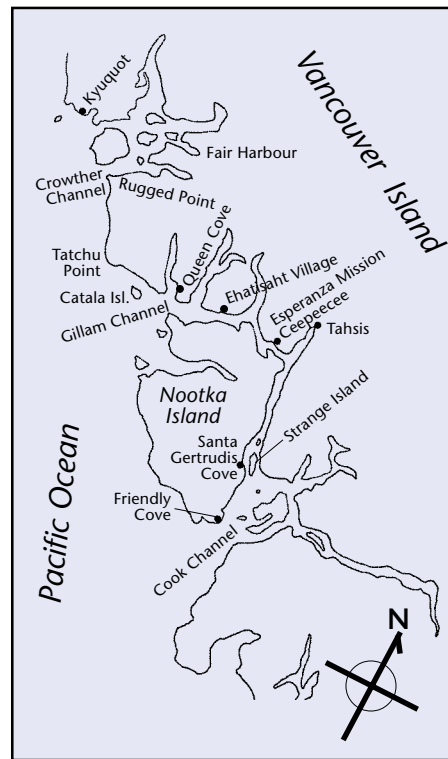
By Dick Pattinson

## Part 7: South from Kyuquot

On leaving Kyuquot, one can retrace a course back to the 'outside', which is the safest way, or go behind Rolston Island like the *UCHUCK THREE* does. Kyuquot Sound itself may be entered via Crowther Channel or farther down the coast via Kyuquot Channel. The latter is wide open while the former is a bit tricky at the entrance. Inside Kyuquot Sound are many interesting spots and it is 'inside water' which means it is a lot smoother going. The kayakers make use of Fair Harbour to get out to this part of the coast as there is a road connection from Zeballos to this former logging camp townsite. People at Kyuquot sometimes get their supplies via this route. On Hohoae Island there is a protected anchorage in Dixie Cove. For a very well protected anchorage go to the entrance of Amai Inlet on the left hand side where there is an unnamed four fathom secluded cove. Amai Inlet had a gold mining prospect but it did not amount to anything. Cachalot Inlet was the site of an early cannery. Chamiss Bay is the site of one of the earliest logging camps in the area and is still operating.

I usually bypass Kyuquot Sound but do anchor at Rugged Point, in the cove behind the light. From this base one can walk through the woods on a good trail to the outside coast for a walk on sandy beaches which extend down as far as Kapoose Creek. Once I found the skeleton of an old sailing ship which had been wrecked, but the following year the ribs and keel were reburied in the shifting sands. There are some intriguing off-shore islets which border Clear Passage. This is the best passage to take in leaving Rugged Point. Go close to Grogan Rock to avoid a shallow spot on the port side. The open ocean is reached by turning out after McQuarrie Islet.

The next inlet of interest is Esperanza Inlet. It can be entered two ways. If the weather is clear and not too much sea is running, go down past Tatchu Point and the foul ground called High Rocks and turn in when the magnetic reading on Peculiar Point is zero. This will take you in between High Rocks and Obstruction Reef. Then turn to the starboard to go behind Catala Island through the Rolling Roadstead. The other course, which is bit longer but a lot less worrisome, is to go to the entrance can bouy and then turn into Gillam Channel. Go ashore on Catala Island at the small peninsula off Rolling Roadstead. Nearby are some interesting caves and beaches to explore.



Queen Cove makes a good place to over-night. It is quite protected and reached by going through Birthday Channel. This spot at one time had a cannery and part of the remains can still be seen on the left hand side. A swimming lake is nearby through the woods at the head of the bay. An old Roman Catholic church is nearby at the small Indian village on the right hand side of the entrance.

## Part 8: Esperanza Inlet

This inlet runs in from the sea on the north side of the large Nootka Island. I have not investigated the Nuchatlitz area south of Queen Cove. There is a village site and a float on one of the islets where a native lady made baskets—but she may not be there now. The area is quite shallow and has numerous rocks. Let's leave this area for another time and proceed along Esperanza Inlet. Believe it or not, before the war, two brothers had a thriving vegetable garden on Center Island and sold their produce to local camps. Further along, we pass the site of Ehatisht Village where there once stood one of the best carved totem poles on the west coast. When it fell, it was taken to Victoria where two copies were made at the museum. One copy was returned to the tribe, who now live at the head of Espinosa Inlet. The story is that they burnt it up as it was not supposed to be kept once it had fallen.

At the end of the inlet we come to two channels. Zeballos Inlet running north to the frontier type town of Zeballos. In the late 1930s this became an instant town as rich gold discoveries were made. The whole countryside was staked, and a lot of money made on speculation. The gold

mines ran out of ore but then a rich iron ore mine was developed farther up the valley. It too ran out after shipping all the ore to Japan. Logging took over and is now the mainstay of the town. There is a source of pie and ice cream at the hotel which is the drawing card for me. I think it is worth a trip there for the ambience, and is not far from our course around Nootka Island.

The other channel is Hecate and it leads us past Esperanza Mission operated by the Shantymen Society. I usually get my fuel replenished here to help them out. Sometimes there are coffee and muffins available. Just past the mission we come to Ceepeecee, the site of a former cannery and pilchard reduction plant. This is where I had my first paying job working as wireless operator and oil man in 1937. Through the Tahsis Narrows we come to Tahsis Inlet where, at the head, the town of Tahsis is located. A pulp plant is the economic engine. Proceeding down the inlet we pass Tsowwin Narrows, a constricted point in the channel which is well marked. Farther along we come to Princesa Channel at the north end of Strange Island. A large scale chart of this would be helpful as there are a couple of rocks which need to be avoided. Keep close to the north of the light and then favour the Strange Island side of the pass. If there is any doubt keep proceeding down Tahsis Inlet to Eliza Passage. I have found that Plumper Harbour makes an excellent spot for a worry-free night. It is very well sheltered though a bit deep. An active logging camp is located there.

Proceeding south down Cook Channel one can go between Saavedra Islands and Nootka Island. Santa Gertrudis Cove is favoured by many as an overnight spot but there are rocks to avoid, going and coming. A stop at Friendly Cove is a must. This was Chief Maquinna's village when Captain Cook was there. Now there are only a couple of houses and the Roman Catholic church which has stained glass windows sent over from Spain (in recent times) and inside a lot of Indian totem designs. Over on the ocean side there is a nice walk along the shoreline to a fresh water lake. Of course there is the brightly painted Coast Guard Nootka Lightstation which is still active. There is a lot of sports fishing activity in the area.

## Next time...

we follow Dick's island circumnavigation southward around Estevan Point, past Hot Springs and into Tofino. Then his journey takes us to Ucluelet and Barkley Sound, to Bamfield, past Pachena and Carmanah Points, Race Rocks, Victoria, and finally—after 700 miles—home.