

# RACE CRUISE TO BOOT COVE

*July 27 and 28, 2019*

Six sailboats, stern-tied together in a circle, anchor rodes tight and connecting lines amidships...kind of like a giant spiderweb or a star...pretty creative, loads of fun. We're talking here about the race-cruise weekend on July 27 and 28, a most successful venture.

At the skippers' meeting on the dock on Saturday morning, we discovered that, instead of nine boats, we were going to be five, as some people had to regretfully pull out. It was certainly implied by leader Gyle Keating that we were not racing to international-level rules (e.g. we could motor through Navy Channel if we wanted to), but the crowd was keen to give it a try. Most people were pleased about the obvious informality.

It was a 9:30 downwind start, so Deryn Mor (Kevin and Wendy Vine) and Papillon (Patrick Frisch and crew of 4) hoisted their spinnakers right away, managing to lead the pack, only to fight fickle winds at the head of Ganges Harbour, and need to douse their chutes as they were headed. Papillon quickly disappeared over the horizon and was not seen again from the cockpit of Deryn Mor until we anchored in Boot Cove. Shingebiss (Gyle Keating) sneaked up along the Saltspring shore, overtaking Deryn Mor as her crew dealt with a spinnaker snafu. Gradually, Kindheart (Casey and Kathleen de Jong) and Bluebonnet (Paul Bryant and Laurie Clark) caught up to us in Captain's Passage, by now all of us on a beat. Shingebiss took off after Papillon and the rest of us traded tacks until the Channel Islands. A surprise addition to the group was Winterlude (Chris Cheeseman and Gill Taylor), who made a sudden decision to come and left the dock at 10:30, motoring out to reach us. As the main part of the fleet reached the south end of Prevost, the wind died and motors went on, and we all headed for Navy Channel. Once through there, the wind piped up and we had a very nice reach to Boot Cove, to discover that both Papillon and Shingebiss had actually sailed all the way.

Once into Boot Cove, Papillon's crew acted as the brains of the operation, directing boats and lines and people.

This way of rafting with sterns together and everyone having their own anchor out was a real success on a number of levels—firstly, it

*article and photos by Wendy Vine*

required a fair bit of cooperative problem-solving amongst a group of people who didn't know each other very well so it was a good way to break the ice within the group; secondly, it was a very secure mooring; thirdly, people's personalities came out clearly during the process, which was fun; and fourthly, people could sit in the cockpits of different boats and still carry on a conversation with people in other boats.



An inflatable dinghy in the centre of the web served as a water taxi, with a rope going from the dinghy through some part of each stern. Gyle, acting as the ferryman, was able to maneuver the dinghy to and from anywhere anyone wanted to go. (Far safer, we thought, than clambering over stern quarters and lifelines with a drink and food in hand.)



# RACE CRUISE TO BOOT COVE

*July 27 and 28, 2019*



demonstrate how wearing a lifejacket upside down left your hands free to drink a beer.



Gyle had been to the liquor store and bought out their Kraken spiced rum inventory and was handing them out as prizes for: winning the race (Papillon), taking part in a safety game (Deryn Mor won the draw), and actually doing a man overboard drill at the end of the race (Bluebonnet).



Several people went for a swim (...according to Deryn Mor's instruments, it was far too cold for that...). Laurie and Papillon crew member Vlad went in without a wetsuit, and Jean from Papillon donned her wetsuit to



# RACE CRUISE TO BOOT COVE

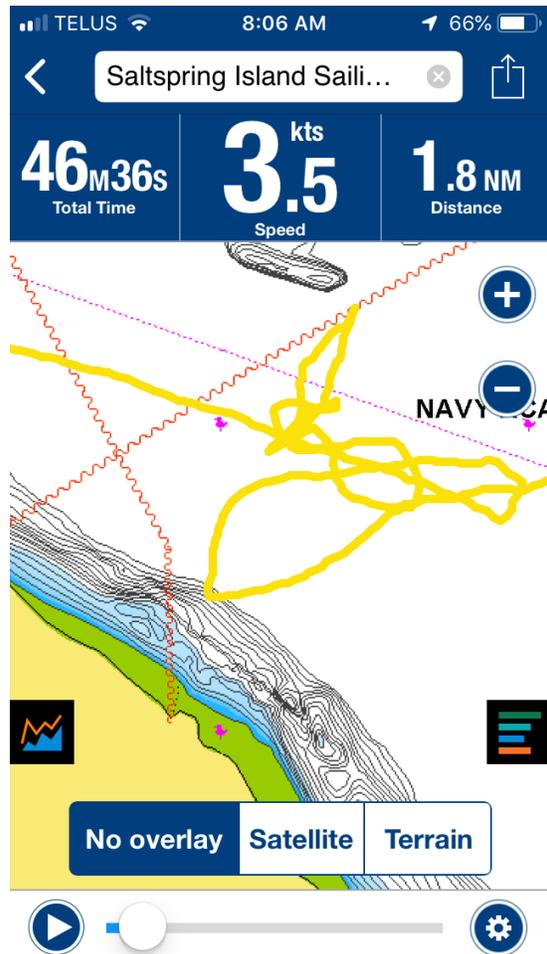
*July 27 and 28, 2019*

Of course, there was a marvelous potluck dinner with lots of laughs, aboard Winterlude, which had the honour of being the highest capacity boat for food and people.



The next morning involved systematic and cooperative dismantling of the raft, and everyone sailing up Plumper Sound against a developing current and wind. Once again, Papillon sailed off into the distance, but the rest of us stayed within sight of each other, trading tacks all the way up in a great NW wind, some boats with reefed sails.

However, once we reached Navy Channel, the wind and current started to truly prevail. Following is a screenshot of Deryn Mor's track for about an hour or more trying to get past Conconi Reef:



Shingebiss made it through under sail and went around the south end of Prevoist. Deryn Mor finally gave up, at about the same time as Kindheart, Winterlude, and Bluebonnet, using our "iron mains" to beat the current. Deryn Mor, Bluebonnet and Winterlude decided to go up past Active Pass to Nose Point, hoping to sail. That lasted about half an hour, when we came upon an Active Pass that was amazingly active with tidal action and loads of traffic. Kindheart followed Shingebiss around the south end of Prevoist.

All in all, a lot of fun. As always, weekends like this strengthen the bonds in our Club and promote the camaraderie which makes it so much fun to get together with fellow members. Many thanks to Gyle for organizing the weekend (and to Greg Taylor, who was one of the people we missed.) *NOTE: look for more photos on the Club Flickr page soon.*