

August Race/Cruise Event

August 21/22

Pictures by Sam Keating, Bob Jones, and Greg Taylor



Five boats enjoyed two phenomenal sails, appetizers aboard Oasis, and a great dinner this past weekend. Saturday was a 'steady' southerly 5 - 8 knot breeze. Steady in that it came from the south. But 'south' encompasses a big chunk of the compass, and that variability, combined with big tides that seemed to have failed to read the tide book, led to some interesting tracks. Sam described their track as looking like someone for the first time time, attempting cursive writing, after a few of Bob's G&T's.

Skeena Cloud was complimented to the point of blushing for making the brilliant tactical decision to seek current relief along the Pender Island shore. I was brilliant alright. If brilliance is looking at the people in front and determining, 'I sure don't want to join in whatever square dance those guys are doing.'

Paul and April joined us in their new, self-described, 'big-assed cruising boat': Spree. As the two days went on you could see them dial the new boat in as they got a handle on the Nonsuch's Wishbone Rig. Asked to describe the new boat, Paul said, 'it's like sailing, only slower'.

One of the pleasant surprises of the weekend is upon arriving Saturday morning, we discovered that Holly and Greg were joining us: with two boats, Sorcery X and her dinghy. The latter gave Paul some pause when it came to handicapping Sorcery X for the weekend.

After all the shenanigans in Captain's Pass, where the boats were widely separately, we gathered again in Swanson Channel, where Shingebiss and Sorcery X engaged in some spirited match racing, with Spree not far behind. And where was the old fox Oasis, forever now known as Dancing with Whales? In the lead, of course. Bob had the wonderful crew of Keith and Suzanne aboard for the weekend.

Bob arrived at the finish line first, followed close behind by the rest of us. We all ran into a tide wall at the mouth of Bedwell, just feet on there good side the finish line. We all went from 5+ knots to 0, or even backwards, within two boat lengths. I almost suffered whiplash. How did Paul, who set the finish line, know this in advance? He wasn't telling.

We left at 10:00, sailed 20+ miles upwind (including the cursive tracks), motored into Poet's Cove tied up, cleaned up our boats, and were having appies and G&T's aboard Oasis by 16:00. It was a great day, although I was glad I brought a wool shirt as the day had the first hint of fall in it.

We had dinner in the restaurant, and after a very full day, were all heading for our bunks early, after agreeing, due to huge tides the next day, to delay our start until 11:30, to catch the flood.

After breakfast, we looked at the sky doubtfully, wondering if we might be motoring home. Motoring out past the tideline, things remained doubtful, but soon, I saw Sorcery X and Shingebiss raise their mains, and both appeared to be moving well. There was hope.

I was caught going back, against the grain of the other boats, at the 11:30 start, as the current had taken me past the start line while I was sorting things out aboard. I was never to catch up after this mistake, A mistake I would just compound later.

We began the day upwind on a close reach in Swanson Channel, but first Oasis, followed by the others raised their spinnakers in the 6 – 8 knot southerly breeze, as they changed course to round Pender Island and head for home. I was the last to raise my spinnaker as it would be the first time hoisting it single handed without the furler. I had it set up on the wrong side, so I had to channel all April's lessons to re-rig and hoist it on the starboard side. It came up out of the bag with a twist in it. By the time I had it sorted, the others, had turned up the Pender Shore, leaving me in the middle. I decided, being I was out of the race, unless I ran into 'lady luck', to take a flyer and head further out before turning for home, hoping a more direct line would be my savior.

Instead of 'lady luck', I ran into the tidal turd. In 8 knots of true wind, I was doing between 3 and 4 knots against a tide that was supposed to have turned, but hadn't. What's worse, I could see the change, but it was retreating ahead of me. I didn't catch the change until almost abeam of Shingle Bay. My speed immediately increased to well above 5 knots.

But the dye was cast, I could see Shingebiss pulling away from everyone under her symmetrical, followed by Sorcery X, Oasis, and Spree. Spree, with her huge main, had a relaxed sail home, gybing just twice.

I was not quite as relaxed, I was able to fly my A1.5 to keep the number of my gybes down, by judicious use of the tack line, alternating between wing on wing, and staying with a very broad reach. It was slower, but not a slow as if I were to screw up yet another gybe (it turns out sailing can be kinda slow with the spinnaker wrapped around the forestay). I need more practice steering with one hand, pulling in the leeward sheet in with the other, releasing the working sheet with yet another, tending the tack and mainsheet with another, and sorting out the tangle at my feet with the final one. I am sure I will get it someday. Maybe if I am reborn as an octopus.

I spent the last 20 minutes reviewing how April told me to drop my asymm in a bit of a breeze. That I did well. Terror can inspire.

So, I was the slowest, but even I completed the 12.5 nm course in just a touch over three hours. (I am unsure how you get this tired and sore after sailing for only 8 hours over an entire weekend).

Arriving home, we gathered on Shingebiss to toast the weekend, Paul, April, and Sophie arrived last, 'asking if non-spinnaker people could join in?' My thought, finding out that they gybed twice, and April slept for two hours, was that they may well be onto something. One sail, with few strings attached, attached to a cabin cruiser, sounded pretty attractive

Thanks to all for a great weekend.

Our next race/cruise event is Round Penders on September 25/26th.





Shingebiss (engaged in her cursive writing exercise) and Skeena Cloud heading to the same place, in the same breeze (sort-of), in very different currents.

Club Rating	Boat	Skipper	Finish Time	Corrected Time	Place
274	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	14:40:08	03:49:20	1
149	OASIS	Jones	14:15:05	04:07:50	2
201	SPREE	Faget	15:13:35	04:42:42	3
119	SHINGEBISS	Keating	14:39:53	04:44:42	4
97	SORCERY X	Slakov	14:36:05	04:50:51	5
119	SHINGEBISS	Keating	13:47:10	02:19:32	1
274	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	14:35:36	02:31:56	2
149	OASIS	Jones	14:07:42	02:33:13	3
201	SPREE	Faget	14:22:10	02:35:13	4
97	SORCERY X	Slakov	13:58:38	02:36:35	5

20 second rating credit for Sorcery X dingy tow

POETS COVE RACE/CRUISE RESULTS

YACHT	SAT	SUN	TOTAL	PLACE	POINTS
SKEENA CLOUD	1	2	3	1	100
SHINGEBISS	4	1	5	2	80
OASIS	2	3	5	3	60
SPREE	3	4	7	4	40
SORCERY X	5	5	10	5	20