

## Gunkholing Cruise: July 20-23, 2022

'Twas a fine start to the Gunkholing Cruise; the skies were sunny, the seas were calm and the temperatures were warm. The first stop of the itinerary was Winter Cove off Saturna Island. By early evening, there were 8 boats anchored in the cove: Kim and Karen Laidlaw on *Nest Egg*, Rob Denny and Nighean Anderson on *Mazu*, Peter and Debbie Brouwer on *Switchen to Glide*, Chris Cheeseman and Gillian Taylor on *Winterlude*, Eric and Julie van Soeren on *Second Wind*, Iain Pennington and Lori Johnson on *The Mandalay*, Chris Levan and Ellen Vesterdal on *Nutmeg of Consolation*, Iain Leckie and Aly Markert on *Loon III*.

At 1700 hours, people gathered on shore for the obligatory happy hour or two. Delicious appies, tasty beverages, and lots of visiting made for a fun evening. A toast was made and a card presented in honour of Iain Pennington and Lori Johnston, who were recently married. Congratulations Iain and Lori!



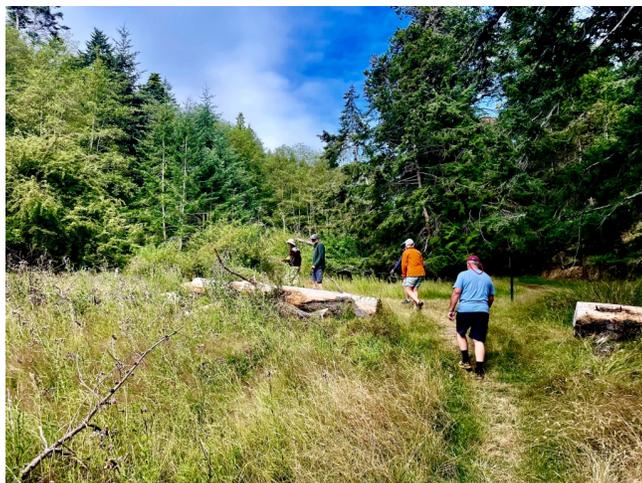
Thursday morning was free time. Some of the crew hiked on island, some worked on their boats, and some like Iain Pennington sailed about the cove. Midmorning, Ted Baldwinson and Barbara on *Snorri B* arrived just in time to head to the Sage Hayward Vineyards. Getting to the winery ended up being a bit more complicated than we'd planned. The renovation on the winery docks didn't get completed in time for our visit but thanks to the trusty Saturna Lions Shuttle, we were chauffeured to the winery by a trio of volunteer drivers. Everyone enjoyed a wine tasting and then lunch on the patio of the Feral Goat Bistro. Bellissimo! And, if that wasn't enough, we got to celebrate Chris Cheeseman and Gillian Taylor's 10th anniversary. Cheers!



By early afternoon we were back on our boats and cruising off to Narvaez Bay. We'd no sooner anchored and it was happy hour. The group gathered around picnic tables in the campground just above the beach and feasted on an amazing spread of appetizers.



Early Friday morning, a few gusts of wind blew through the bay so a couple of boats decided to get a headstart on making their way to Bedwell Harbour. Not to be deterred by the wind, a group of hardy hikers gathered and did the walk to Echo Bay and then to the top of Monarch Head where we took in a panoramic view of Boundary Pass and the San Juan Islands.



By noon, it was time to raise our anchors and head for Medicine Beach at the head of Bedwell Harbour. The beach was the perfect place to gather for the customary 1700 hour happy hour feast.



Some cruisers headed home first thing in the morning but those of us who remained hiked to Woods on Pender for coffee and fresh baked pastries. And then, we bid each other farewell and cruised home.



*“There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”*

