



BC Nautical Residents Association

www.bcnr.org

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter 2012

BCNR Mission Statement

1. To preserve & support the tradition of living aboard one's vessel
2. To promote environmental awareness among liveaboards
3. To establish effective ongoing communications and resolve issues of concern to liveaboards
4. To serve as a voice for liveaboards regarding activities that affect BC waterways

With a mandate to liaise with community and government groups regarding development and activities that affect BC waterways and the people who live upon them.

2011—2012

Board of Directors

Tim Finlay Bob Goth
Bryan Livingstone Kris Samuels
Bill Sassaman Rick Schnurr

Editor: Donna Sassaman
Board of Directors assisted by: Judy Brooks, Denise Finlay, Rina Goth, and Donna Sassaman

From the Editor's Desk, by Donna Sassaman

Where did the Fall go? It was over before I could sit down to organize the next newsletter! However, the unproduced Fall newsletter notwithstanding, the Association's Board of Directors has been busy:

- ⇒ The first Annual General Meeting was held October 2, 2011, with an attendance of 31 members, more than 1/3rd of the membership at that time;
- ⇒ Directors Bob Goth and Kris Samuels, BCNR's Webmasters, have launched the updated, user-friendly website, www.bcnr.org;
- ⇒ Director Rick Schnurr had two letters to the editor published in the Victoria Times-Colonist; and
- ⇒ The Board continues to investigate, and monitor, local issues.

The Board's New Year's resolution is to expand the membership and make the Association a strong voice for liveaboards' concerns, whether you live on a sailboat, powerboat, floathome, or other floating craft.

In order to achieve its resolution, the Board needs your help! Please make it *your* New Year's resolution to provide suggestions and information to the BCNR. Also, encourage your liveaboard and floathome neighbours to join the BCNR. Later this winter, the directors will hold a strategic planning session. If you have a strategic direction you would like the BCNR to consider, please send your idea(s) to feedback@bcnr.org.

Thanks to this issue's contributors. Please send your news, tips, issues, to feedback@bcnr.org. The Spring newsletter will be compiled in later April. In the meantime, enjoy your winter, and dream about warm days on the water.

Photo Contest!

The Webmasters would like to have your photographs to enhance the website! Please send your marine-related photos in **jpeg format** to feedback@bcnr.org by **Friday, February 11th**. The first prize winner(s) will adorn the home page, while the second and third prize winners will be used on other webpages. If the Webmasters receive a wealth of fabulous photos, then all the winners will be exhibited on a rotational basis!



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Who's in My Dinghy? by Kris Samuels, BCNR Director, S/V *Fantasea*, Victoria

This summer a funny thing happened in our anchorage. We were in Handfield Bay (Thurston Bay Marine Provincial Park) on the northwest side of Sonora Island, BC. Tammy and Allen, a couple from Blaine, WA, went to shore with their dinghy to walk about and explore like all boaters love to do. My friends and I were taking in the morning sun and sipping our coffee when we noticed a bear wandering the beach looking for crabs under rocks. What a treat to see!

After a while we noticed the bear nearing the dinghy left by the couple, who had wandered to the other side of the bay, out of sight. As he approached the dinghy, we eagerly watched to see what the bear would do with it. At first there was a sniff and a little punt with his nose, and then he proceeded to climb in. We were all laughing and questioning the safety of the dinghy. Within no time the bear figured out that this dinghy with an inflatable bottom was quite comfy. He curled up in it and laid his head over the side. I dinghied in for a closer look, hoping to capture some great pictures, and perhaps scare him out before he decided to make a chew toy of the dinghy.



I was successful in getting great photos but *not* in getting him out. I yelled, waved my hands, and even threw a rock or two beside him. He just watched them roll along the ground. I even let an air horn blast 20 feet away. Not as much as a glance my way – just a slight ear twitch. He was quite content to stay resting in the dinghy. By now Tammy and Allen were on their way back and wondered what was going on. We yelled across the bay to let them know and they cautiously hurried over to help. The three of us stood there for a while, trying to figure out how to get the bear out, when he finally ambled out himself. He didn't run or anything, just continued rolling rocks looking for crabs. When he got a safe distance away, we grabbed the dinghy and carried it to the water. Minimal damage had occurred. A chew on a lifejacket, a bite to an oar, and a crunch to a water bottle. Tammy and Allen came by later to thank us, exchange emails, and laugh about the odd experience.

Director Profile



Director's name	Kris Samuels
Name of boat	<i>Fantasea</i>
Type and size of boat	38' Pilothouse Ketch (Gardner Design)
How many years as a liveaboard	3 'n' change
What inspired you to join the BCNR Board?	I'm passionate about the liveaboard lifestyle and feel that landlubbers too often misunderstand us. I think it's important to bridge that gap for us to co-exist.
Best thing(s) about living aboard	I love the connected feeling to nature and earth! I feel the wind in my rigging, I hear the rain on my deck, I smell the salt air in the morning and watch seals catch fish below my keel. I also love the community and the close bonds developed with people all over this coastline in the past few years. I like being aware of my footprint (the power, water and fuel I use).
Biggest challenge(s) about living aboard	Not having a bathtub. Feeling like I always have something to fix.
Anything else you want BCNR members to know about you	I look forward to being a part of building the BCNR community.



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Liveaboard can mean:

- Someone who makes a boat, typically a small yacht in a marina, his primary residence. Powerboats and cruising sailboats are commonly used for living aboard, as well as houseboats which are designed primarily as a residence.
- A boat designed for people to live aboard it. The liveaboard lifestyle has many attractions and many downsides. Most boats are much smaller than nearly all shoreside residences, they are more exposed to bad weather, and require special maintenance skills. However, they are mobile, provide inexpensive water access, and allow for integrated recreational, transportation, and housing costs. With the high cost of housing, a liveaboard lifestyle is becoming more popular with people around the world. Although it is generally regarded as being a cheaper way to live, this is not always the case. Liveaboard boats can be luxury vessels moored in expensive marinas or small vessels in need of restoration. One attraction of the lifestyle is there is something to suit everyone. Because of this you find that liveaboards are very diverse people coming from many different backgrounds. From: *Wikipedia English - The Free Encyclopedia*

You might be a liveaboard if... by Bob Salnick

- You buy vinegar in gallon jugs. Frequently.
- You glance warily at the house AC ammeter when plugging in your hair dryer
- You check the tide tables when you are making a big grocery buy
- Lightening scares the bejeezus out of you
- Your stove only has two burners
- You've run out of water in the middle of a shower
- In conversations with your friends, the most common topic is "the head"
- When someone says "head", your first thought is not the one on your shoulders
- The phrase "scrubbing her bottom" does not sound kinky to you
- You can catch crabs from your living room
- "Running out to the car" is a half-mile round trip
- Grid power outages do not particularly disturb your life
- When you get a new book, you have to decide which of your other books to give away
- A successful trip is one where nothing breaks
- You have 300' of chain in one of your closets
- You have more than a passing concern about water in the basement
- You take turns with your partner in passing thru a hallway
- You are hyper-alert to strange sounds and strange smells
- You have at least one flashlight with a red lens
- The five-second rule is of no value for hamburgers that accidentally get flipped off the grill
- You have a bottle of vegetable oil in your bathroom
- You have to think about keeping the toilet paper dry when taking a shower
- You don't own a toaster
- You always put everything back where it came from, because really, that's the only place it will fit.
- You unthinkingly use "stern" to refer to the back of your car (unless you own a 1966 Lincoln, in which case it is entirely appropriate)
- All of your windows have a water view
- There's a fishing pole stored over your bed
- The terms "amps" and "amp-hours" come up frequently in your conversations
- You have radar in your living room
- You have at least two electrical systems
- A dorm refrigerator looks large to you
- You have no furniture
- You know how many amps your TV draws
- You have 5200, polysulphide and multiple kinds of epoxy in your "junk" drawer
- (And you know what I meant by 5200)
- Your bed is not a rectangle
- "Vitamin supplement" is not the first thing you think of when you hear "zinc"
- For you, "scope" does not refer to mouthwash
- You unconsciously use "port" and "starboard" when talking to folks on shore



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Book Review

Book: *The Life and Times of the Floathouse Zastrozzi*
Author: Mary Hughes
Publisher: First Choice Books (2011)



In October of 1990, Mary Hughes moved into a floathouse on Victoria's Fisherman's Wharf with her husband, Alan. It was the beginning of a twelve-year adventure in the unique experience of living on the water fulltime. With pathos and humour, Mary Hughes shares her perspective on weather, community, tourists, keeping a home afloat, and not least of all, the exhausting politics of defending a chosen alternative lifestyle.

Mary Hughes relates her experiences of re-floating a twenty-ton structure (with the help of many friends and neighbours), negotiating with the wharfinger(s) for basic services such as power and water, struggling for the preservation of a working harbour, and working towards a mutually respectful relationship with the authorities whose many and conflicting 'rules' govern the floating lifestyle. She also shares the joy and beauty of living close to her aquatic environment, building a unique community, creatively finding solutions to both physical and political challenges.

This book is also a retrospective on the important role that floathouses and floating communities played in the history of British Columbia on the coast as well as inland lakes and rivers. These unique communities made it possible for many early pioneers to live and work in an environment where it was impossible to build roads or have any access other than by water. This experience continues into the present all along our rugged coastline. Hughes also relates the history and importance of Victoria's working harbour. Over the past four decades, the working aspect of Victoria's harbour has been sacrificed to gentrification. Large condos and resort hotels have largely replaced the facilities and services of a real working harbour. Hughes documents her and many others' valiant struggle to slow this process. Unfortunately, the power of money and politics has been too great and now there are only a very few marine business and services left in the harbour. The floathouse and liveaboard communities in the harbour are part of that history.

As those of us who have also chosen to adopt a nautical live aboard lifestyle know so well, it takes a determined commitment of the heart, head, and bank account to make our choice work, but as we view a beautiful sunset over West Bay, admire the seamanship skill of the Coho's crew backing into the Inner Harbour, or watch the small fish swimming under the hull, we know how special our experience is and all the rest is worth the effort.

Available soon at Bolen Books, Hillside Mall. Call 250-595-4232 to reserve your copy.

Rick Schnurr and Judy Brooks
MV *Julie May*

Members' Forum

From an email sent by members John and Sara aboard S/V *Moya*: "Here is a new descriptive term that might interest the Association's members: 'Chyptozoic', which means to live peacefully alongside civilization."



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New Members Wanted!

Do you know a sailboat, powerboat, or floathome liveaboard who is not yet a member of the BCNR? If so, encourage them to sign up! \$10 per person signs them up for a **lifetime** membership! (Did you know that you're a **lifetime** member, too?!?)

People can apply to the BCNR by sending: The name of **each** applicant, e.g. Joe Smith and Mary Jones; the name of their vessel, e.g., S/V Happy Boat, M/V Happy Ship, F/H Happy Home; their email address(es) and phone number(s); and a cheque for **\$10 per person**, payable to BC Nautical Residents Association, to:

BC Nautical Residents Association, 309 – 1521 Church Avenue, Victoria BC V8P 5T7

Benefits of BCNR Membership

Capital Iron's Marine Department, Store Street, Victoria, offers a 10% discount to BCNR members on most marine items! Check out their line of 'green' products. They also stock the Air Head composting toilet (discount *not* available on this item).

Plan "B" Dive & Yacht Service 20% discount for any dive maintenance (zinc replacement, inspections, props, hull & drive cleaning on vessels from Sidney to Maple Bay). Contact Kerry Blaauw at planbyachts@live.com, 250.858.7342

Tradewinds by and for Members

For Sale: *La Sonrisa II*. Seabird 37, 1982. www.lasonrisa.ca. Fwd: galley with propane stove/oven, raised dinette; settee plus small double bunk; two pipe berths; head. Propane hot water, wood heat. Aft: cabin with comfortable double berth, shower and head, fold-down computer desk. Centre cockpit: hard-top with water collection, new Sunbrella enclosure. Radar arch, davits, hard-bottom inflatable dinghy, and swim grid. \$50,000. Contact Thomas Harding at tharding@lasonrisa.ca.

For Sale: Air-X 400 Watt wind generator. 2008 model recently (September 2011) re-conditioned by factory and unused since. Sophisticated circuitry prevents over-charging the batteries and stops the unit in winds over 35 knots. The boat owner can also switch the unit off from below decks. \$550.00. Contact John at 250.885.5783.

Members with businesses can now advertise on the BCNR website and in the newsletter! \$20/year buys you a business card-sized ad on the website or the newsletter. \$35.00/year buys you advertising space in both! The BCNR doesn't charge an annual membership fee and revenue from members' ads will help defray the cost of the website and the AGM, while the ads will help to get the word out to members about BCNR member-owned businesses. Send your ad in Word or PDF format to feedback@bcnr.org and your cheque, payable to BC Nautical Residents Association, to 309 – 1521 Church Avenue, Victoria BC V8P 5T7.

Windquest Bookkeeping, Rina Goth

Tax Preparation and Bookkeeping for Business and Personal Finances

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