

GARDEN BAY SAILING CLUB

Carol Ships

The Carol Ship parade eventually took place on Sunday, 23rd December. Charlie Park is to be congratulated on getting a total of seven boats out, at very short notice. The GBSC was well represented by *Jenny L* (David Pritchard), *Frendy* (Charlie Park), *Wings II* (Andy Paulus), *Encore* (Ian Wright), and *Peregrine* (David Twentyman). A special mention should be made of *Wings II*, which looked spectacular in an icy blue and white light display. This is always a fun event and I should like to encourage members to bare it in mind for next year, and lets see if we can make it an even better parade.

Skipper's Profile

Diana Valiela

When *Yippee-Ki-Yae* first crossed the start line we knew this was a fast boat, but when you read the skipper's profile the reason becomes clear.

Diana Valiela was born in Argentina, and following a childhood in which she travelled through the Americas and Europe with her family, she ended up with a PhD in Biological Science. Her initial work studying the effect of insecticides on the New Jersey salt marsh organisms brought her into contact with powerboats and ships. But the allure of sailing was there, and Diana spent short stints learning on *Sailfish*, *Flying Junior* and other dinghies on the lakes in the US. It was only when she moved to Vancouver in 1973 that her addiction began.

Working for Environment Canada and UBC she came to know most of the coast, rivers and lakes of BC. She also worked on *Lake Titicaca*, as well as in Mexico. But this was not enough for Diana, who quit her job with the Government and went

back to UBC where she got a law degree. This then led her to practice with a major law company before forming her own environmental law practice. She was also on the 2004 Federal Independent Review Panel in the Queen Charlotte Region.

Even with a full time job and two children Diana still had time to indulge her passion for sailing. She started in Lasers, and then went on to buy a 1970's Thundebird. In this she and her kids explored the many areas of Desolation Sound, Howe Sound and the Gulf Islands.

In 1980 she started to crew on *Thoreen* a T'bird built for the 1979 Worlds in Vancouver. In 1981 the Worlds were held on Lake Ontario. Even though they broke an axle of their trailer in the Rockies, they managed to get there in time, and placed third. Diana continued to race with *Thoreen* in Thunderbird International and Regional Championships for the next 25 years. Diana described this time: "One of the most memorable was in Seattle, with 72 boats on the start line. Preliminary races were run to split the boats into a gold and silver fleet. *Thoreen* finished mid-fleet of the gold fleet in heavy winds and fierce competition. There is nothing like one-design racing!"

Diana's sailing was not restricted to T'birds, as she crewed on other boats in the Swiftsure, Round Bowen, SIN, Maple Bay, Cow Bay, Howe Sound, Gibson, Deep Cove and other regattas a number of times.

Diana's attraction to T'birds is that they handle like a dinghy. In 2002 she bought *Yippee-Ki-Yae* and raced her in Vancouver. Most T'bird racers had by this time moved on to other boats, so most of her racing was PHRF, and her major competition came from Dragons. Shortly

after meeting Gregg they moved *Yippee-Ki-Yae* to Dingman Bay, and now are members of our club.

Once again the Garden Bay Sailing Club are fortunate to have as a member a skipper with such depth of experience. Diana and Gregg welcome.

Next Meeting

The first meeting of 2013 will be held at the Garden Bay Pub on **Saturday, 12th January**. As usual it will start at either 12.30 or after the Race. Please contact Tom Barker 604-883-2689 or David Twentyman 604-883-1199 on Saturday morning to get the final time.

Skipper's Corner

This part of the Newsletter has usually been devoted to issues of racing. I would be happy to entertain any other subjects that you might like covered, bearing in mind that there is only a limited amount of space. Any suggestions that you may have, can be sent to me at davidtwentyman@dccnet.com

New Year Greetings

We are about to start a new year and I should like to wish all our members a Very Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you at our monthly Pub meetings, as well as out on the water. A club is only as good as its members and by getting involved you can help make the Garden Bay Sailing Club an even more fun and member oriented club. We hope that this year we will manage to try some new things like week end cruises, boomerang races, different course layouts etc. We welcome your feedback and will try whenever possible to implement the changes that you would like to see.

Happy New Year!