

2018 ICOYC Cruise: Princess Louisa Inlet (by PC John Robertson)

The International Council Of Yacht Clubs (ICOYC) conducted a 10 day early September Cruise to Princess Louisa Inlet. The Cruise was co-chaired by Val and PC John Robertson from RVYC , Pam and PC Chuck Lowry and Bob Miller from Seattle Yacht Club. The ICOYC schedules Cruises throughout the world, which are open to all participating yacht club members, and generally held every 2 years. The next tentatively scheduled Cruise will be chaired by the Royal Southern Yacht in September 2020. Updates on the Solent Cruise will be available at <https://www.icoyc.org/>.

This year's Cruise consisted of 26 yachts (8 power, 17 sail and 1 catamaran) with 95 participants from 11 yacht clubs. This 220 mile Cruise began with a fabulous dinner at RVYC where Commodore Alan Stovell served guests fine cuisine at one of the food stations. A welcoming activity was presented by fellow RVYC member Carol Boothroyd and her husband PC Bob Andrew.

The next day saw the cruisers off to Alexandra Island in sunshine. After wharfing PC Burns managed to moor all vessels, RVYC cruise volunteers Don and Randy Vick, Carol and PC Bob Andrew, Brian Angus and Dorothy Stauffer prepared a barbequed sirloin steak dinner. The highlight of the day was an Orca show between the dock and the Island as Orcas went after lazing seals on the log boom.

Off to Pender Harbour, the group departed in light north westerlies where they split up between RVYC and SYC Outstations. Planning for the next few days took into consideration yacht cruising speeds, the distance to Princess Louisa Inlet (42 miles) and those seeking optional adventures during the transit. Groups of yachts were formed whereby some stayed at Garden Bay, some went to the Harmony Islands, some to Back Eddy Marina and others to Goliath Bay. The next day all proceeded to Princess Louisa with the objective of transiting Malibu Rapids (max current 9 knots) at close to slack. I am pleased to report that all made it through safely and most were accommodated at the Marine Park dock with a few anchored out.

Princess Louisa Inlet is a spectacular fiord with high mountains (5500 feet) on both sides. Chatterbox Falls, at the head, is glacial fed year round. Our guests marveled at the incredible scenery on the way in and appreciated numerous "extra" waterfalls during periods of rain. Later a dinghy armada went to the Malibu Club Young Life Camp for a tour - a definite "must see" if you are there.

Leaving Princess Louisa at this time of year can be a challenge due to the need to transit the slack through Malibu Rapids and to arrive at a destination before sunset. To this end one group left at 0515 to get the first Malibu slack. It was an astonishing sight to see half the fleet leave in total darkness on a moonless, overcast early morning as the only thing visible were lights glowing from cockpit chart plotters and bright navigation lights. Again all made it safely to their destinations.

After arriving back at Pender Harbour, and despite the rain, cruisers experienced considerable positive synergy during a hamburger dinner at the Garden Bay Pub. We

now crossed our fingers for good weather (no blasting southeaster) for the next part of the journey to Snug Cove. Luck was with us, the winds were light but we were deluged by a rainstorm on the way down. Awaiting us was an **outdoor** Salmon Barbeque at Snug! However as the group arrived, the sun came out for the delicious barbeque at Doc Morgan's. The Union Steamship Marina did a fabulous job in mooring all of our vessels.

The final night was highlighted by another exquisite dinner (with many guest compliments) at RVYC. There was a feeling of joy and sadness as this fabulous cruise was now over and newly found friends would soon depart.

Photo's of the cruise can be found on the ICOYC website
<https://icoyc.smugmug.com/2018/BC-Sunshine-Coast-Cruise-September-2018/>,

One of the five Orcas at Alexandra



The dock at Princess Louisa filled with ICOYC Cruisers

