

By Brock Arnold

C-Dory Wrap-up



With an early October venture to Victoria and Sequim Bay State Park, and a November dash up the Snohomish River, C-Dory enthusiasts have concluded their fourth year of magnificent group cruises. Our October 1-3 Sequim rendezvous was yet another C-Nut crowd-pleaser. Sunny skies and temperatures in the upper 60s merged with calm to nonexistent easterly winds. Those favorable conditions inspired eight of 12 boats to dash from the park across a glassy Juan de Fuca Strait to quaint Victoria.

After a mass dockside customs clearance via telephone, C-Brats were set loose, and they scattered into the tourist-friendly maze of commercial establishments

just steps away from Victoria's Inner Harbour. What a fun city! But we needed to stuff into two hours as much sightseeing as our sea legs would allow, because US customs agreed to meet up with us at

4 p.m. Easygoing cruise director Jon Beltrami had summoned his considerable charm to induce agents to meet us at the park, thereby alleviating a run to Port Angeles. Thank you, Jon.

In 15 years and thousands of Puget Sound miles cruised in my 16-foot C-Dory, I'd never before crossed the strait. Too scary, I figured. But on this tranquil early fall day the two-hour jaunt proved to be the most memorable run of the year. Maybe many years. With stately Mt. Baker to the east, the regal, rocky Olympic Range behind us, splendid San Juans and Victoria off our bow, and the strait's wide expanse looking west, the land and waterscape was bejeweled in all directions. Huge seagoing freighters and tankers plied the marine highway, leaving behind imposing wakes. But cruising



Top: Saturday Morning at the Sequim Bay State Park dock.

Bottom left: Smiles all around in Victoria!

Bottom right: Enjoying some "refreshments" at the Elephant & Castle in Victoria.

(Photos by Pat Anderson)



with seven other boats surely can lend confidence to the captain of a tiny craft. Meanwhile, I was surprised to see the multitude of sea birds floating, squawking, and flying in groups throughout the strait. Seemingly more numerous than found in Georgia Strait, often we needed to alter our course to yield right of way to the colorful and feathery denizens.

Our intrepid group had the dock and campground to ourselves at Sequim Bay State Park, and exploited that fact with another award-winning potluck and a warmly assertive campfire amid droopy cedars. We talked about the day's adventures and celebrated our good fortune. We laughed, and reacquainted.

And finally, nine C-Dory's met November 6 at Everett for a day on the Snohomish River. It sprinkled for much of the day but didn't deter our wind to the town of Snohomish, and around Ebey Island. Our group convened for an after-cruise dinner and made our annual Seattle Boat Show plans. We expect 50 people from five states to meet for a factory-sponsored party at their new location in Auburn. As always, see what we're up to at www.c-brat.com and feel free to meet our lighthearted gang on the water somewhere in 2005. ■



At the Everett dock: Fred (Anita Marie), Dave (Anna Leigh), and Joe R (Matey). (Photo by Ruth and Joe)

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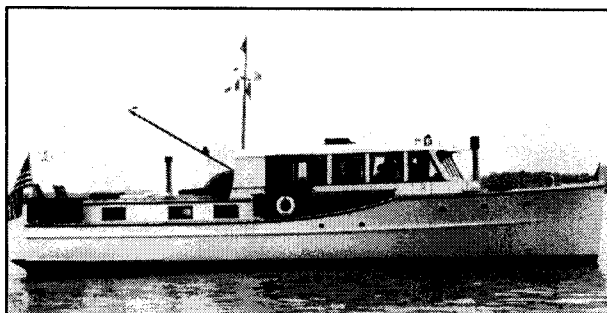
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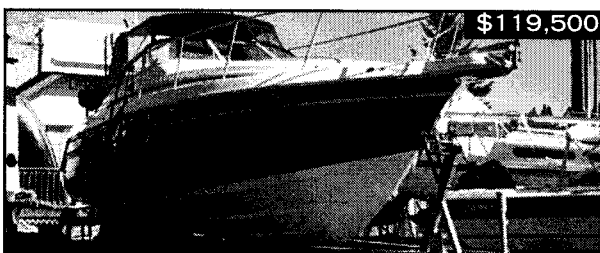


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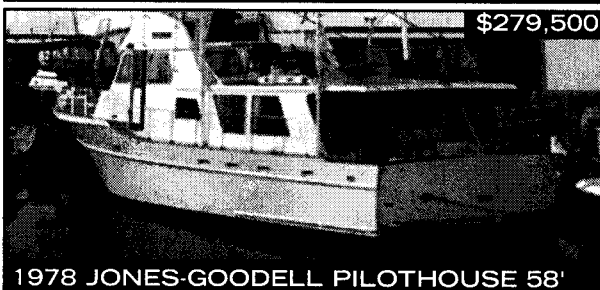


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