

2007 Spring Rendezvous

2007 Spring Rendezvous It was, to put it simply, another wonderfully memorable WWBA event.

Our host, Cowichan Bay Fishermen's Wharf Association, and their wharfinger, Chuck, put in a huge effort to make us welcome, as did the merchants and residents of Cowichan Bay.

As usual, the weather gods cooperated. A miserable drizzly Friday dried up just in time for the Friday afternoon "Appie" hour hosted by many of our members throughout the fleet. Both Saturday and Sunday were spectacular with the odd members sporting the first shorts of the season. Truly a grand sight!

On Friday the wharfinger was having a little problem with the freighter-sized "Dominion" sitting in the way of his docking plans for us. No problem. WWBA members to the rescue! Various WWBA gear-head types swarmed the engine room, and other WWBA members handled the massive lines. Terry Hill and "Eagle Rock" got to play working tug, and pulled "Dominion" clear of the dock. Now that's a picture that will make a great WWBA poster some day!

Another picture would be the member vessels at the Transient Dock rafted 5 deep. David Erickson and his docking crew sure know how to fit 'em in! Of the 39 vessels that attended, we ended up with only 4 vessels on the breakwater, and one anchored out, by choice.

The steam bending demonstration provided by the Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre was well attended and very informative, and as always the displays were interesting.

The Saanich Marine Rescue Society climbed in and out of many of our member vessels, and pronounced them "passed" in their safety inspections. Many of us are now sporting lovely little stickers on our windows to confirm the fact. Of course, some of us had to take a quick trip to the local chandlery before the Auxiliary volunteer arrived. I could have sworn that we had 12 flares on board, but for some reason Mr. Bill could only find 6..

Our Pot Luck Dinner, hosted aboard "Pacific Coaster" was another huge success, and we were joined by the members of the lively band "Uncle Muck & Friends" who entertained us during Saturday afternoon as well as after dinner.

Thanks to Terry Hill who conducted a 50/50 draw throughout the weekend to help defray the cost of the band. The winner of the 50/50 draw was Al Danes of "Jackson Fran".

Thanks also to Bill Rathlef who conducted a raffle for two gift certificates generously donated by Newcastle Marina in Nanaimo for discounts on vessel haul-outs. Gift certificate winners were Allan Liimatta of "Madrona", and Ron Finlay, a guest aboard "Lady Allysha".

And, as always, thanks to George Karras, our sail-past was impressive and went smoothly. As commander of the most motley fleet on the west coast, George once again tactfully shepherded us in to some semblance of order. Everyone's homework before the next rendezvous is to learn the difference between clockwise and counter clockwise. Can you say "clockwise"?

I also hear that although, for most of us, the trip home was pretty uneventful, Al & Trudie Collishaw, the new owners of "Beamsville" also had the chance to show what their little tug can do. Recognize anybody in the picture attached? Thanks for coming to the rescue guys. Shows what can happen to even our most experienced members.

Once again, thanks to all of our members for making it another great rendezvous. We are looking forward to seeing you on the water during the summer, and visiting with you at the many events that we will be attending over the summer.

Loretta Zink
WWBA Secretary