

# NEWS FROM MARGARITAVILLE

NEWS FROM MARGARITAVILLE • volume 1 • number 1 • september 7, 2017 • price: priceless



## A WELCOME LETTER FROM JEFF MESSMER



Jeff Messmer, VP, Ranger Tugs & Cutwater Boats

I finally realized that it wasn't turning 50 that was the problem. It was this: where did the time go?

As I started to reflect on the last 10 years it became apparent that each year is defined by our summer together as a family, and the highlight of our summer is our annual trip to Desolation Sound.

I turned 50 in Desolation Sound this summer! Ok, I said it.

I am 50!

It took me some time to figure out why I was having such a problem admitting that I was turning 50 years old. Was it that I still think of my parents as being 50? I don't feel any older than when I turned 40.

This year we spent two weeks aboard our R-31, "Messmerized". I am not going to lie. The first few days without our smart phones was a bit painful, but by the end of the second day "without service" we had forgotten about the phones and were having fun.

Now that the kids are teenagers, we spend our



2016 Rendezvous Group Photo

days swimming in the warm waters of Pendrell Sound, catching ling cod on our favorite pinnacle outside of Teakerne Arm, cliff jumping into Lake Unwin in Tenedos Bay, or going off the same rope swing in Laura Cove that I did at their age 40 years ago. How sweet these summers have been.

As we embark on our 9th

annual rendezvous, I cannot think of a better way to wrap up the summer than to spend this time at Roche Harbor with our extended family.

Thank you for choosing to spend it with us! As my mom would say, "Time flies when you're having fun." I must be having a lot of fun! - Jeff Messmer

### THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE

- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Registration: Party barge
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Customer service desk: Party barge
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Garmin tech support (free software updates) available on first-come, first-served basis: Party barge.
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Boat display: Promenade
- 10:30 a.m. – Volvo seminar: Covered area in parking lot near bocce ball courts
- 1 p.m. – Yamaha seminar: Covered area in parking lots
- 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Welcome party: Bocce ball courts
- 7:21 p.m. (sunset) – Roche Harbor Colors Ceremony: Enjoy from anywhere

### ROCHE HARBOR DISCOUNTS

Rendezvous Attendee Discounts at Roche Harbor! Wear your name badge to Dominique's House, Roche Harbor Sportswear, or Louella's Gifts and you will receive 20% off a one-time purchase in each location!

The Afterglow Spa will also honor a \$10 discount off of any spa service!

# THE NEW RANGER TUGS R-27

When Barry Sharp was recently shopping for a new Ranger Tug, he looked seriously at the R-23, the company's new pocket trawler with an 8-foot, 6-inch beam. It is much roomier than the 6-foot, 8-inch beam on the R-21 EC Sharp owned at the time.



Barry & Gill Sharp with their granddaughter aboard LAXEY

But then someone piqued his interest in the soon-to-be-released R-27 OB (outboard), and told him about its first public viewing, slated for the May 2017 Trawlerfest in Bremerton.

Sharp attended, and pored over the new R-27 OB, inside and out. He asked questions,

lots and lots of questions. Then he did the math.

"From a financial standpoint, it made a lot of sense," says Sharp, who lives in Edmonds but hails from the UK and has been boating since his early teens. "And from a design standpoint...it made it quite clear that it was the right boat to buy."

Others agree.

In fact, if you order an R-27 OB today, you'll get it in May. If more production lines are added, as the company is contemplating, probably sooner.

Ranger Tugs builds four R-27s a month at its Kent plant but demand is more than twice that, says Jeff Messmer, vice president of Ranger Tugs and Cutwater Boats.

"We have people pre-ordering the boat before they've seen it," says Messmer.

The popularity of the R-23 and its Yamaha 200 outboard



The new R-27 underway in Puget Sound

suggested a similar market opportunity in the 27-foot boat category, Messmer says.

"We saw a larger set of customers who love the styling and use of space. They love fuel efficiency and ease of operation. But they wanted to go faster...they wanted the tug character with a little more speed."

The change is part of an industry-wide trend away from inboards to outboards. Younger enthusiasts want speed AND comfort.

So does Sharp, who is 74. He took delivery of his boat on Aug. 16, and as of Sept. 1 he had used it about 20 hours.

What's impressed him so far about the boat is its layout – especially the "forward saloon," aka the V-berth – cabin layout, obstruction-free curved windshield, clear view to the stern and center cockpit storage.

He's also a big fan of the "rugged, very sturdy" Yamaha 300 outboard, and its ability to get the boat up on plane between 12-15 mph, as well as propel the boat up to 40 mph. Sharp also noted as an enticement a full Yamaha dealership at the Edmonds marina.

The demand for the R-27 OB is so strong that the company didn't even have one to bring to this rendezvous. So it "borrowed" a boat destined for the "Port Boat House" retailer in Port Alberni, B.C. You can see it for the next four days in the new boat display on the promenade.

## MARGARITA BOB



The theme for this year's Ranger Tugs & Cutwater Boats Factory Rendezvous – Cruise to Margaritaville -- conjures up a Jimmy Buffett-style excursion that includes

brightly colored shirts, tropical breezes and music, all kinds of parrot-head gear and, of course, margaritas.

There will certainly be lots of those during the Margaritaville Happy Hour from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, on the Seaside Lawn Tent, courtesy of Roche Harbor Marina.

This year's happy hour is a course adjustment from an earlier rendezvous tradition started by long-time members of Ranger Tug family, Bob and Nita Oslund, owners of the 29-foot Nellie Too. Bob started offering margaritas

informally at the first Ranger Rendezvous in 2009 in Bremerton.

"We didn't advertise it," recalls Oslund, 72, affectionately known as Margarita Bob on the docks wherever he and Nita tie up. "When somebody walked by we just asked them, 'Would you like a margarita?'"

Turns out lots of folks did. Ranger Tugs took notice and joined the party by adding two more margarita mixers the following year. Soon the walk-by traffic doubled, then tripled, and Oslund says several hundred margaritas

were made each year. With the addition of Cutwater Boats to the Ranger Tug Rendezvous in 2011, the popularity of Margaritaville Happy Hour has reached epic proportions. Not wanting to run afoul of state liquor laws, this year's event will move off the docks to the lawn tent. But the camaraderie, fun and good spirits will remain. So for those who want to keep the tradition alive, come join the fun from 4-6 p.m., Saturday, in the Seaside Lawn Tent.

PICK UP TOMORROW'S NEWSLETTER IN THE WELCOME TENT AFTER 10AM