

# Shaggers Chronicle

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NEWSLETTER@SICYC.COM.AU

Monthly

April 2021 - Edition 85



## From the President

*Ahoy fellow Shaggers.*

It's getting exciting!!

The Season of Sail is about to kick off in Pittwater on the 14th May - I hope all those attending the launch dinner on that night are looking forward to it as much as I am. Ken will be the guest speaker and VIP's from the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia will also be there on the night and look forward to meeting up with old friends and of course meeting some new friends as is the shaggers way. It should be great way to kick off the SoS 2021!

Also as announced in the last newsletter the Shag Islet Rendezvous theme this year (for Saturday night) will be Rasta Party! We will be having the same fantastic band we had for the Rio Carnival in 2019, Kabash, who are of course masters of reggae music as well as the Caribbean/Rio style they played for us last time.

Cape Gloucester Resort has gone under contract to new owners. I have asked the broker to put me in touch with them once the contract is unconditional so we can gauge their interest in supporting the Rendezvous as Julie did for so many years. I will let you know the outcome ASAP.

All in all it going to be a great year of SICYC events and the most important SICYC events of all are when fellow shaggers meet up on a boat for sundowners, on beach, at the regular local meet up, or just bump in to each other somewhere. This is what SICYC is all about. So remember to fly your burgee with pride at anchor and listen in to VHF ch 72 to hear and talk to other shaggers near you and don't be afraid to go and say hi.

I encourage you to login to the SICYC website and see what's changed and upgraded. If you have any issues with logging in, please email [membership@sicyc.com.au](mailto:membership@sicyc.com.au).

Keep an eye on our SICYC Exclusive Merchandise page too (<https://sicyc.com.au/shop/>). There will be a growing range of very cool products here to enhance your cruising experience, support the club and its beneficiaries and make you, just plain look good!

Fair winds and following seas.

**Steve Hartley**

Vice Commodore, Pumicestone Passage  
and President, Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club  
0422 627 896  
[info@sicyc.com.au](mailto:info@sicyc.com.au)



## Season of Sail Contacts & Update

If you're interested in being a part of this exciting 2021 event, get in touch with your local organiser. More contact details will be shared as they are finalised.

Area	Dates	Local Contact Name	Phone	Location of events
Pittwater	14th - 21st May	Leon Wilson	0411 410 874	Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club / Pittwater
Lake Macquarie	23rd May - 26th May	Geoff King	0415 181 290	Lake Macquarie
Clarence River	4th June - 10th June	Glad and Rick	0415 350 974	Various points along the Clarence
Gold Coast	13th June	John Linton	0427 814 553	Broadwater
Moreton Bay	25th - 27th June	Evan Johnstone	0422 433 093	RQ Canaipa
Brisbane	3rd - 4th July	Steve Hartley	0422 627 896	QCYC
Great Sandy Straights	10th July	Warwick Suttor	0418 426 303	Kingfisher Bay GSS
Bundaberg	17th July	TBC		
Gladstone	24th July	TBC		
Capricorn Coast	31st July	Phil Rohlf	0418 184 764	Capricorn Cruising Yacht Club
Mackay	7th / 8th August	Tiana and Gary Fry	0408553005	Mackay
Airlie Beach	20th - 22nd August	Stewie Scarborough	0468 616 295	Airlie Beach CSMR
Shag Islet	26th - 29th August	Greg Canning	0430 340 511	Shag Islet and Cape Gloucester

## The season of sail starts here!



### Shag Island Cruising Yacht Club Pittwater Rendezvous

HOSTED BY ROYAL PRINCE ALFRED YACHT CLUB



## 14 - 21 May, 2021

Friday 14th May - Dinner at RPAYC

Sunday 16th May - BBQ at Bobbin Head

15th - 21st May - Estuary Cruise

Proudly Supporting  
Prostate Cancer  
Foundation of Australia



More details and bookings: [rpayc.com.au/sailing/cruising](http://rpayc.com.au/sailing/cruising)



## Pittwater Friday May 14th

**Please note:** the Season of Sail begins at the Royal Prince Albert Yacht Club at a function at the club house.

Helping to celebrate getting back to the seriously fun business of sailing, founder Ken and president Steve will be there to launch the massive co-ordinated efforts of so many Shaggers and supporters all the way up the east coast.

The RPAYC is donating \$20 from every \$49 ticket for the Friday night dinner, to the SICYC. So your attendance will not only be momentous, but also support the cause, and all the proceeds from the Sunday BBQ will go to the SICYC for Prostate Cancer.

Rear Commodore for Cruising (VC somewhere unpronounceable in Indonesia), David Williams, is switching up last year's plans, which were ready to go when we all got locked down. Normally they would have at least two cruising events a month at the RPAYC, but during Covid they were forced to be inventive. "*We had a cruise Ashore to the Manley Spirit Company,*" David explained. "*We all piled into a bus and went to a gin factory.*"

Laying claim to "*what is arguably the best cruising ground on the East Coast*" David said that places like Refuge Bay and Americas Bay are beautifully isolated anchorages in National Parks, yet are not far from civilisation. And unlike in the harbour, where you have to contend with the wash from ferries and commercial vessels, the many secluded anchorages are perfect for cruising yachts. The club are tend to do 'rendezvous cruises' (where boats meet at the destination, rather than sail in company) which have become increasingly popular since the foundation of the RPAYC Cruising Division in 1999.

## Cruising the Clarence 2021 From 4th June

Communities around the Clarence River and gearing up for the week long rendezvous, starting in the morning on Friday 4th. June at Iluka.

Visitors will be welcomed with a greeting where welcome packs will be handed out and crews will have the chance to meet their hosts and fellow Shaggers. The bridge will open and the official welcome will be at Maclean at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 5th June. Glad Smith reports they are hoping to organised a bus tour to a brewery, and pizzas will be available to buy for lunch.

On Sunday 6th. Participants need to be at Bushgrove by 10.30 for a trip to a house concert. You can go by launch or in your own dinghy and there will be a sausage sizzle for a gold coin donation.

Grafton is the next destination. Anchor in the evening at Cochrane Park for a jam session and BYO bbq. The following day there will be an opportunity to watch horses train in the river followed by lunch as Ulmarra, and entertainment at the Lawrence in the evening.

The Harwood Hilton will host a quiz and games night on Wednesday after a sail back down the river past Maclean and anchor in Harwood.

The bridge opens again allowing boats to get up to Yamba on Thursday 10th June, where there will be a farewell bash at the Yamba Shores Tavern.

Briefings will be held daily, and more details will be in next month's Chronicle, but this week comes highly recommended by so many Shaggers - its definitely a 'Save the Date week'.



## ***Rendezvous Update***

Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club  
*Presents...*  
**Rendezvous 2021**  
26th to 29th August

# **RASTA**

## *Party*

4 Days of Fun  
and Frivolity  
in the glorious  
Gloucester  
Passage

Only \$30  
per person

 **Shag Islet, Cape Gloucester**  
Proudly Supporting the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia 

***The iconic Shag Islet Rendezvous is well and truly on  
this year and the theme for this year will be***

**“Rasta Party!”**

Think Bob Marley, Reggae music, Caribbean island life, red, yellow and green colours, and some unusual herbal smells in the air (SICYC does not condone any illegal activity). I'm sure as happens every year, we will see some outrageous costumes on the night, accompanied by a superb reggae band and perhaps a Caribbean rum or 2?

The Brochure is being prepared now and will be out on email and the Facebook page soon and will have all the details for each day's activities. As an overview, the format we all know and love, will be closely followed:

### **Thursday 26th at 4pm**

Meet and Greet and new member sign up – wear your SICYC blue polos and wrist band (available on the day) entertainment by a solo artist. Old friendships will be rekindled, and new friends will be made.



**Friday 27th 10:00am**

The Iconic Shag Islet Rendezvous itself held on the sacred ground of Shag Islet – BYO drinks and food, BBQ available, Coconut Radio live, fly your kites, cutting of the cake, dancing and frivolity. This is the event not to be missed! There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world!

**Friday 27th 4:00pm**

Late (meaning 9 ish) Band and dancing, possibly a quiet drink or 2. (note Blanc sur Blanc is on at Airlie Beach on the 4th Sept this year) – see article below

**Saturday 28th 10:00am**

Rasta Party mon!! See details above - feeling Erie!!

**Sunday 29th 12:00 Midday**

The Pirates are back arggggh!!

**Be there! It's bound to be a cracker event!**



## Is your Burgee up to scratch?



Fly your colours high and proud this cruising season and let everybody else on the water know you're a proud SICYC Member!

Grab yourself a new Burgee now. We can post to anywhere you like! Even as you sail up the coast.

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- MEMBER PROFILE -

## 50 Something Girl With A Boat



Would ten days on a 32' boat change your life? It did for Glynda McNaught (VC Maclean). Within six months of her introduction to sailing with her brother, she had bought an S & S Tartan 37' and had begun her new life as 'Boatgirl'.

The beginning was interesting. It was three months until she got to take the boat out of the harbour. But then, she says "*I was absolutely ecstatic - just so happy!*" She went to her local TAFE to do a Coxwain's course and she sailed as crew with other people, more for the experience of how to handle crew as much for the sailing experience.

Nine years later, she's sharing all that accumulated knowledge and wonderful contacts to help others. Her Facebook page: 'Australia and Pacific Sailors - Crew Connect and Shore Support' is helping to make cruising more connected. *"People who don't have a boat any more are more than happy to help sailors, take them to the doctors etc.."* Her site connects people wanting crew or wanting to be crew; shore based seagoing people and anyone interested in cruising. It presently has more than 1200 followers.

She also documents the highs and lows of sailing life on her FB and youtube sites: 50 Something Girl with a Boat (and a couple of cats). *"I love living onboard, but sometimes its gut aching lonely, but if you go to the dock, you'll find someone to talk to, and people invite you for sun-downers."*

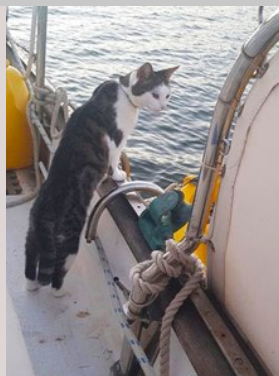
The Facebook page and Youtube channel were a result of being on the boat alone and experiencing "Magical things such as the sunsets. I wanted to share them. Then I discovered 'going live.' I love doing that, you can see who's watching and comment back. It felt like they were actually there with me."



Back in 2012 she was working as a prison officer in Grafton, when she had the opportunity to sail with her brother from Airlie Beach to Cairns. And she was hooked. *"He gave me the love of sailing. I've always loved boats, my aunt had a Hobby Cat, but I didn't really sail until my 50s. My brother taught me how to anchor and how to passage plan, and an idea of what to look out for with the weather."* Back at Coffs Harbour she was looking at boats that could possibly sail round the world, when she found "Rani" and bought her. Soon after the jail was downsized and Glynda moved down to near Port Macquarie and began living onboard.

Early experiences were daunting. *"I'd work a night shift and then go and get the dinghy back to the boat. I was scared of the water when it was jet black at night. And the tide there was really strong - I was scared I'd be washed out over the bar."* And there were teething problems with the boat. Later she broke her back in two places, but that didn't stop her. Within three years she was back living in Grafton, where she had a small farm. *"It never occurred to me to actually live on the boat, but then I found myself going past the farm and back to the boat."*

When she knew the boating life was for her, she looked for a bigger boat and bought a Hans Christian 38 Mk11 'Raven Song', with room for other people to join her sailing.



She's loving the life and enjoying the people she meets through cruising. But she admits there are occasionally a rotten egg in the world of sailing. *"If I get a bad complaint about someone, I'll remove them from the site."* One male sailer had weapons onboard to the consternation of his female crew, and there are always the chancers. But, on the whole she has had very positive experiences, especially a recent delightful Lithuanian who was 'fabulous and a cook!'

Glynda is keen to get to the Shag Islet Rendezvous. *"I've never made it yet! Two years ago I was racing at Hamilton Island Race Week. We thought we weren't doing very well so could make it to the Shaggers. But it turned out that 'Hard Yakka' came second, so we had to be at the presentation."* It's an aspiration I'm sure many of us share.

*(photos copyright Glynda McNaught)*



## Casting off the lines...



**If ever we need inspiration, Jacquie Hope is it. Not only did she set off to sail around the world single handed at 65, but now, back after the epic four year voyage, she's facing even an even greater challenge.**

Seeing the positive in everything, Jackie says of her rare leukaemia, *"Thank God I'm here in Melbourne with access to the best haematology team in the world."* And she recognises that had she been at sea when it manifested *"I'd have died in weeks."*

During her circumnavigation, at one stage, she was at sea for seven long weeks after sailing away from the Panama Canal. Crossing the Pacific Ocean, mostly out of radio contact, she didn't make landfall until Tahiti. *"By the time I anchored I had just 5 litres of diesel, 50 litres of water and half a pumpkin."*

What that trip taught her, was to accept. *"There were times, especially during the big storm, I just felt like screaming at what's going on. You want it to stop, make it change. But you can't. A lot of people make it hard on themselves. There was a woman in the hospital bed next to me in Melbourne who kept moaning 'why me?'"*

And learning to accept what is, has given her patience, acceptance and humour. *"For many people, living through the Covid epidemic is the first time they have lost their autonomy, the freedom to do what they want. The isolation at sea is a bit like being isolated by Covid."*

Last year, Jacquie was adjusting to being back on the Gold Coast on her 32 Sadler, 'Shanti,' when she decided to 'pop down' to Melbourne to see meet her new granddaughter. That was in June 2020, and then she found herself locked down by Covid, staying in a studio unit for seven months, rather than the few days planned to redecorate. But ever the person to look on the positive side of things, she used time constructively to write the first draft of her book.

*"I was waiting for the borders to re-open, and I was booked to fly back to Shanti on December 1st, and that was the day I went into hospital."* And even that she sees as 'serendipity'. *"I had a sore shoulder and the doctor said I should rule out heart involvement. 'You'll thank me for this later' he said, and that's when they found I had low white blood cells. I had no immune system at all. This type of leukaemia is very rare, and if left untreated it kills very quickly"*

Jacquie realises just how lucky she is to be Australian and in Melbourne when all this happened. *"it would have cost hundred of thousands for all the treatment. I've been wheeled down for tests at midnight. Everything is open 24/7."*



*"When I was at sea, I went knowing I was courting death. I knew I may not return."* But that didn't deter her. She explained how the narrow window of opportunity allowed her to put into action the dream she had had since the age

of seven, when she sailed a dinghy in New Zealand. 'We get what we get' she said, "BUT I didn't mean to give out that I'd give up at 70," she quipped. "it would be tacky of me to die now, after the doctors have invested so much in me." Not that she's worried about dying. "You need to come to terms with the concept of dying. We are taught death is not something to be considered in our culture. It's concealed."

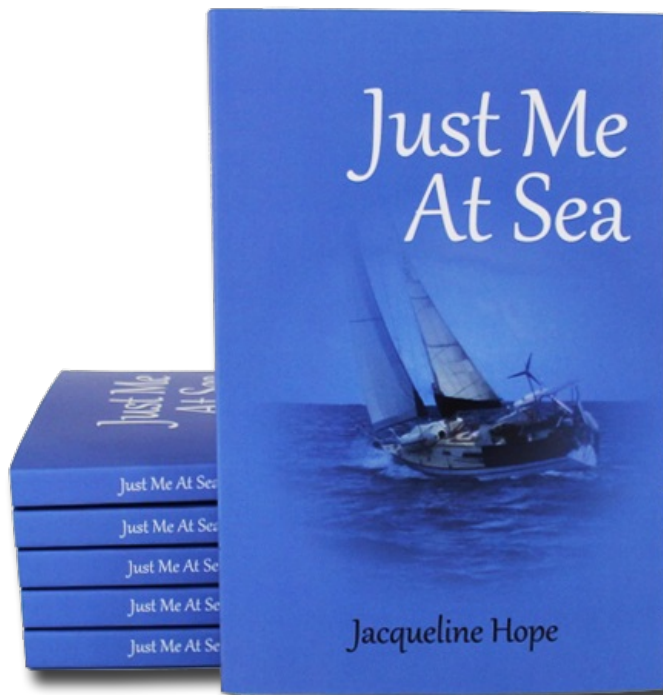
The coming few months will be hard as Jacquie goes through cycles of treatments, including drilling holes in her hips to do biopsies, dosing her with arsenic and a very concentrated dose of Vitamin A, 'which really knocks me about', but, with her typical humour she rationalises "at least they aren't throwing buckets of cold water over me," which was what sailing was like at times.

Her book '**Just Me at Sea**' charts her journey, which is not only a fascinating sailing story, but all those hours gave her time to reflect on the important things in life, a 'journey of the human spirit.' "It's a celebration of life". She also hopes she will inspire others to pursue their dreams.

"The toughest thing" she said, "is casting off the dock lines."

**If you'd like a copy of Jacqui's book, we have a limited number of copies remaining and you can order them now through the SICYC Website Shop below.**

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**One SICYC Member's story  
of her  
single-handed  
circumnavigation.**

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## Covid boat sales...

**If any of you are thinking of selling your boat, now might be the time. Due to Covid, boats, caravans, motor homes and places in the country are going like hotcakes.**



One Gold Coast yacht broker reported they had sold almost everything, even one boat that had been on their books for eight years! Prices have risen markedly since Covid.

In Lefkada in Greece, David Rogerson of Network Yacht Sales said they have sold several boats sight unseen. The new normal is to do walk through videos. *"We can't get enough boats" he said. "One international sale was particularly difficult, we had to take it a mile offshore and 'sell' it at sea."*

But buyers beware! Now, more than ever, may be time to get a comprehensive survey. A yacht at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club described by the creative broker as 'in immaculate condition', had water up to the floor boards, rust under the paint on the mast and cobwebs of spectacular proportions. Asked if the description was not a little disingenuous, the broker assured me, *"Oh No, I removed lots of 'superlatives'".*

Despite the uncertainty of what is ahead, many people are hoping life aboard is better than being onshore. But, as many cruisers found during the lockdown, when it comes to having to dock and go ashore it can be a nightmare.



*In Turkey, cruising yachtsman Andy Leake is pictured 'social distancing' in a marina. If you are isolated on your boat, you stay on your boat. Friends visiting, BYO chair and chat from the dock!*



## ***Member Benefits everywhere!***

*For discounts offered by SICYC partners, click the link below to see the growing list.*

<https://sicyc.com.au/sponsors-benefits/>



## **The Escape Hatch**

Welcome to the second edition of '***The Escape Hatch***' (and they said it wouldn't last!).

**This month VC Never Never River reviews the 1974 film**

### ***'The Dove'***

*Based on the true story of Robin Lee Graham's 5 year circumnavigation (of the world, and the world of young love) from 1965, when at the age of 16 he sets sail from California alone in his 24-foot sloop 'Dove' (or 23-foot, depending on what scene in the movie you pay more attention to).*

*This movie has all the right intentions, and is an engaging, if not cheesy, depiction of what was an amazing adventure and achievement. Joseph Bottoms plays Graham in a style that's part 'Brady Bunch' part 'Jaws', and if you're a fan of orange tank-tops and knee-length cut-off jeans, this flick is for you.*

*Graham stopped off at many ports in his quest (including Darwin – keep an eye out for the classic Holden HK station wagon, and the cringe-worthy photo shoot in Kakadu). He meets Patti Ratteree (played by Deb Raffin) in Fiji and she follows him from port to port on his journey. They even marry along the way.*

*There are some quite unnerving scenes, including early on when Graham is woken by a loud humming sound, only to emerge from below to see a ship's bow towering past his little tub at speed. "Hey, watch out" he yells, as the shadowy bulk fades into the mist. Ah, pre-AIS unfortunately.*

*Another scene has Graham fighting force-9 and 20ft seas with full canvas up and no life jacket on, before Dove is dismasted when a chain plate pings off to a cry of "oh no" from the stoic skipper.*

*But these are the things that make this film so endearing – you tend to ignore the flaws and focus on his challenges and achievements... because he actually did this. When things get tough his thoughts of Patti help him push through, along with her beige corduroy flares.*

*After arriving back in Los Angeles to a huge welcoming flotilla, Graham and Patti settled down and in 1972 Graham co-wrote the best-seller of his experience – 'Dove', on which the movie is based.*

*Enjoy it with a glass of Chianti and a yearning for your youth.*



The Dove can be found on YouTube, and an old VHS in a box in your shed.  
2.5 Shags

Do you have a favourite sailing movie or doco you'd like reviewed, or perhaps you'd like to write a review? Let us know and we'll publish it in the Chronicle.



## Thanks for the memories...

*Here's just a few fun memories (aka evidence) from the vault...*

Got some images you'd like to share? Email them to [newsletter@sicyc.com.au](mailto:newsletter@sicyc.com.au)





Just for fun...

## ***The Confessional...***

We all have them, and now is your chance to dust off a favourite Shaggy (dog) story or embarrassing misdeeds and share them.

A VC who wants to remain anonymous is kicking this off. (Some of you may know who this culprit is!)

*Nara Inlet, in the Whitsundays, can be crazy busy especially during the race weeks. And so it was, on a dark night when there were well over 100 boats all anchored close together. There was a 15kn breeze straight down the inlet and a late comer motored in just before midnight. She dropped her anchor close to the boat in front, and the exhausted crew went to bed.*

*Very early the next morning, the up-inlet boat was ready to leave. She pulled up her anchor and motored slowly out on a glassy sea. Then they realised that the boat that anchored in the middle of the night was following close behind. But there was no one on deck! A quick look over the stern explained it all (you've already got it haven't you?). Yup, the tired crew had dropped their anchor into the other boat's dinghy!*

*So what to do? Shame to wake the tired crew (who still hadn't stirred), but they did deserve some comeuppance for such slack anchoring. So our VC and crew carried on to Macona Inlet (the anchorage inlet on Hook Island), before jumping into their dinghy and throwing the other boat's anchor into the water. (And still no one came up on deck, maybe there was rum involved).*



Love to have been a fly on the wall to see the skipper and crew's reaction waking up to find themselves in a totally different anchorage.



## *Keeping sailing longe.* **Your suggestions wanted.**

**As we age, the desire to sail doesn't diminish - it's just all the hard yakka that puts many off.**

Tips please!

What do you do to make sailing as easy as possible?

Obviously the choice of boat comes into play. Having all the halyards and lines led back to the cockpit is becoming the norm, as are lazy jacks and sugar scoop sterns. But there are a myriad of inventive ideas out there.

We would love to share some of those ideas, such as easy ways to launch and stow the dinghy and outboard, making extra workspace in the galley, storage solutions and ways to prevent getting dirty fuel.

If you are happy to share, (ideally with pictures) we'd love to share them in the coming Chronicles. Please email: [newsletter@SICYC.com.au](mailto:newsletter@SICYC.com.au)



## **Just for laughs...**





*Good morning*

"Life becomes more meaningful when you realize the simple fact that you'll never get the same moment twice".



EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE CAPTAIN

UNTIL IT'S TIME TO DO CAPTAIN SHIT!



## SICYC Merchandise

Looking to be the snappiest dressed Shagger at Sundowners?  
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**This month's featured products**



### **"Salty" SICYC Mascot Boat Sticker**

"Salty" SICYC Mascot Boat Sticker (23cm X 18cm)  
Full colour and UV resistant

[Buy "Salty" now](#)



### **Short Sleeve Polo**

Sunsafe white with blue trim. Short sleeve Polo with SICYC Logo embroidered on the pocket area. Very snappy looking polo! Available in both Men's and Women's sizes.

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Sunsafe white with blue trim. Very flash, long sleeve Polo with SICYC Logo embroidered on the pocket area. Available in both Men's and Women's sizes.

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Fly your colours high and let everybody else on the water know you're a proud SICYC Member!

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### **Car & Boat Sticker**

SICYC car/boat sticker (13cm X 15cm) – excellent quality, shadow cut and easily applied.

[Buy a Sticker now](#)

*That's it for this month. We look forward to hearing from you with any feedback or input you'd like to offer. Happy cruising and stay safe.*

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