

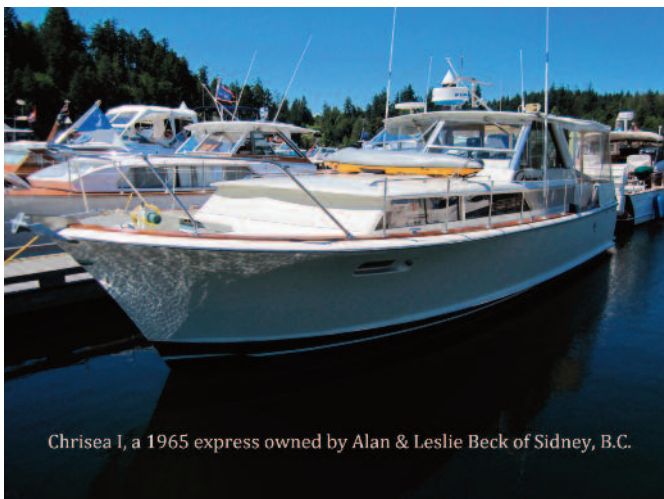
a canadian chris craft rendezvous

by Mike Forrester

Since 1999, a group of British Columbia Chris Craft owners have gathered every summer for a rendezvous. Hosted at one of 3 marinas north of Victoria, we've been lucky enough to attend most of these get togethers, the last 2 aboard our 1966 38' Commander, *Alyeska*.

This years rendezvous was held July 16-18 at Telegraph Harbour Marina, Thetis Island, BC, a convenient location between Sidney and Vancouver, BC. It's always a laid back affair and usually attended by a couple dozen boats, most of which are classic "woodies". This year 8 of the boats were Commanders or Catalinas. Attendees start rolling in early Friday afternoon and by 6:00 p.m. almost everyone's in port and the appetizers are on the picnic tables up in the marina's spacious shore-side pavilion.

Enjoying some of the very best weather of the entire summer we covered 125 miles from Port Orchard, WA to Telegraph Harbour, BC in just over 15 ½ hours of running in 6 days. Average speed about 8 knots. Along the route are excellent marinas, anchorages & marine parks and the finest cruising grounds on the west coast of the U.S. and Canada. On our final night before the rendezvous we are anchored up in a delightful little bay on Prevost Island, B.C. with an amazingly well-restored 35 foot, 1962 Chris Craft Cavalier owned by long time friends David & Jackie Peebles of Langley, BC.



Chrisea I, a 1965 express owned by Alan & Leslie Beck of Sidney, B.C.

Friday morning, July 16th, broke clear and calm. No need to hurry, plenty of time for breakfast and chores. About 11:00a.m. David & Jackie untie from us, we haul anchor and follow them out of the bay on the 17.9 mile leg to Telegraph Harbour. I estimate a little over 2 hours enroute and upon arrival our Coastal Explorer software confirms this with an enroute time of 2 hours 32 minutes. We've tried to time our travels to mitigate the effect of tidal movement but bucking the ebbing tide and trolling dead slow through our anchorage and later up long, narrow Telegraph Harbour cuts our average speed today to just over 7

knots.

Ron Faoro & Tara Kaulback, the marina proprietors, have an excellent dock crew to help us in and we're secured to the dock just after 1:30p.m. The engines are barely quiet when rendezvous committee member Brian Lord arrives with a handshake, our registration materials and welcome packet. Over the next 2 days we renew old friendships and make new ones, take a walk of a couple of miles to the island community center and one-room school and an evening dinghy ride around the harbour...for the first time powering our 9 ft. Livingston dinghy with my dad's mid-60's vintage 3



Tuppence, a 1969 aft cabin owned by John & Hazel Smyth of Coquitlam, B.C.



Men playing with fire, boats and barbecuing just go together

horse Evinrude...a 1960's Chris Craft with a dinghy powered by a 1960's outboard...dad would've loved it.

Saturday night's dinner in the marina pavilion is a lively potluck affair and boy do these crews know how to cook. The marina provides a huge gas grill where attendees lay down their favorites; steaks, chicken and salmon predominate. The center buffet table almost overflows with dishes to share. All this food comes from these boats? How do they do it?

Of course Sunday comes too soon. By 9:30a.m. we need to get underway headed north to Nanaimo, BC. Between us and Nanaimo lies Dodd Narrows and we'd like to make it close to slack water. Current at Dodd Narrows can run 6-9 knots at its peak and things get a little ugly. But that's another story.



Next June, a 1972 express owned by Mike & Sheri Girard of Coquitlam, B.C.

Commanders and Catalinas in attendance at the Canadian Chris Craft Rendezvous included;

- Alan & Leslie Beck, 1965 38 foot Commander Express, Chrisea I.
- Mike & Shari Girard, 1972 35 foot Commander Express, Next June
- Bernie & Phyllis Hopper, 410 model, Chris Tall Craft
- Dave & Cathy McKenzie, 1974 350 Catalina, Irish Mist II
- Lance Richmond's 1974 350 Catalina, Moonraker
- Ian & Diana Stefaniec, 1986 36 foot Catalina, The Sun Lady
- John & Hazel Smyth, 1969 42 foot aft cabin model Commander, Tuppence
- Mike Forrester & Barbara Purrington, 1966 38 foot Commander Sedan, Alyeska