

Pacific Yachting, November 1999

Rendezvous '99 Commander Port Sidney Marina July 10 – 11

The first Commander Rendezvous, "Calling All Commanders," could be likened to a family reunion, as members of the Commander family met, in many cases, for the first time. Commanders cruised from ports in Puget Sound, the Vancouver area and parts of Vancouver Island to the gathering at Port Sidney Marina.

The event was convened by Morley Munro of Canmar Yacht Sales, the only retail outlet that deals exclusively with Commanders. Of the 300 boats that have been built, 30 were at the Rendezvous. Early editions, built in 1979 - *C'mander I*, owned by Ron and Peggy Bergen and *Haidaway Too*, owned by Harry and Margaret Erickson--were reminders of Commander's 21-year history.

The Commander has a standardized design which has changed very little over the years. Most are 26 or 30' in length, but one of the two 38-footers built most recently was also at the Rendezvous. *Swish* became the queen ship of the weekend as its proud owners, Jim and Sherry Chisholm, welcomed people aboard for tours.

The informal, practical nature of the boat and its owners, reflected in boat names such as Blue Jeans, was evident in the spirit of the event. The mood was upbeat and friendly as people walked the docks looking for fellow owners. Time passed quickly with the swapping of cruising tales and the exchange of ideas for electronic gadgets, adaptations and additions for cruising comfort and safety. Folks had plenty of time to enjoy the beauty of Sidney Harbour or take a shopping trip down Beacon Avenue if they wished. A barbecue dinner was served in the tent on Saturday evening, ending with draws for prizes for everyone.

The camaraderie of the weekend contributed to new friendships and traditions that will call the Commander family together again next year.

-Hazel Magnussen