

# First 2024 SISC Small Boat Cruise

by Jill Oakes

We've been talking about a small boat cruise all summer, and with drive from Kelly-Ann Haslauer and some Club officials, we made it happen! As a result, on August 30<sup>th</sup> five small boats headed out of SISC for Chocolate Beach, with a picnic lunch and a new anchor with the price tag still attached stowed in each of our F15s. Eight sailors feeling eight years old, setting off to explore the world.



## Boats and Participants

The Four Flying Fifteens—*Foenix* (Kelly-Ann Haslauer, Ruth Riddell), *FireFox* (Jane Squier, Jan Macpherson), *Bluebird* (Melissa Symynuk, Simon Wheeler), and *Robyn Hood* (Wes, Jill Oakes)—and Bernadette Mertens-McAllister's beautiful 100-year-old wooden row boat (*a true work of art, see photo below*) all set off on our first SISC small boat cruise of 2024.

Martin Herbert explains about Bernadette's wooden boat..."it comes from an era where people would row from island to island to go to dances, a time when you had to know the tides to socialize, and orcas could hear themselves think. Rowboats were so much more efficient than the modern boats that we use now, and rowing was a pleasure."



Members of the group were mostly familiar SISC sailors who participate in our Wednesday Night Races. Guests included Melissa (who teaches in Ganges) and Wes (who sails out of Maple Bay). Wes was visiting SISC to free up his space at Maple Bay for a regatta. Being an avid sailor, he welcomed our invitation to join the cruise and is getting his daughter participating with F15s.

### **Anchoring**

This was the first time most of us had ever anchored. This spring, Rob Denny, Martin Herbert and Lawrence Stuart provided us with an anchoring demo shortly after Greg Slakov's evening anchoring presentation, so we were loaded with advice and zero experience. Bluebird and Robyn Hood dropped anchor mid-ship, following Martin's wise advice to avoid the belly crawl to the bow. It seemed like we were so close to the beach that our keel would touch the bottom. As the chain and rode sunk, our F15s drifted even closer to shore, the rocks approaching quickly; the anchor finally hit bottom and our boats continued even a few more boat lengths to shore. Once we were onshore looking out, it looked like we were actually anchored well away from the rocks.

FireFox and Foenix used a different mooring system. Jeremy was practising anchoring his large sailboat in the bay, so FireFox was tied up to Jeremy's boat's stern line, and Foenix tied up to FireFox's stern line.

### **Getting to Shore**

FireFox towed a light inflatable kayak which would be useful if we were close enough to shore to make a clothesline. Robyn Hood carried an inflatable tender that fits into a bag the size of two water bottles. It would also have required us to anchor closer to shore to set up a clothesline, as only one person fits at a time. So instead, Jeremy provided taxi service using his sailboat's tender. The F15 keel is only 2½ feet deep; next time we will try to gauge distance from shore and rocks more efficiently so we can wade in or set up a clothesline.





## Chocolate Beach

What a weird feeling to see our boats sitting out in the bay without us on board! Great chatter, laughter, food and soaking up the sun together on the west coast Gulf Islands in summer. Jane's fresh apple-pears, Simon's amazing chocolate, Kelly-Ann's plums... As Jan Macpherson says, "Life's a picnic".

### Next Outing: Sept 17th

It was a ton of fun and some great practise. Other SISC members wished they could come but were away at the Classic Boat Festival in Victoria or racing, so we are planning a second small boat cruise.

Our next SISC 2024 Small Boat Cruise is another day trip set tentatively for **Tuesday, Sept 17th, departing 10 am** for

Chocolate Beach or Prevost Island (the group will decide on the destination at 9:30 am). Expect to be home by 2 pm.

Get your dinghy/tender/rowboat/paddleboard/Laser/kayak/F15/other small motor or sailboat ready to join the fun. If you don't have a small boat, email [flyingfifteen@saltspringsailing.ca](mailto:flyingfifteen@saltspringsailing.ca) to see if there's a Flying 15 available for you to use (conditions apply).

Good idea to let us know you're planning on coming (use email address above) so we know who to inform if date gets changed due to weather or wind.

