



Orca Probus Club NewsLetter

April

2023

Presidents Podium

One of the real added benefits to Probus membership is being part of the Probus extended family. I had the good fortune to attend Shen Yun on a bus trip organized by a sister club. What a nice relaxing outing with a bus of friendly people. One of the direct effects of growth in the valley is equal growth in Probus. Already we have four thriving clubs, with a fifth on the horizon in the

near future. (a perfect chance to get a new Prez, no indictment needed)



Well spring is upon us with all it's outdoor activities to keep us busy, though I think I may find a part time garden body so more time for fun stuff.



Cheers. Neil

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Club News

Dates to Remember

Walking: Every Monday
Bowling: 2nd Wednesday of the month
Singing: 3rd Tuesday of the month
Dining Out: 3rd Tuesday of the month
Quilting: 3rd Tuesday of the month
BookWorms: Last Friday of the month
Golfing: April 27, 2023

next ORCA PROBUS CLUB meeting:
Tues. April 11, 2023

April's Speaker

Nine Years Out

Malcolm and Jackie set sail from Sidney, BC in August 1998 in their 34foot sloop, a Beneteau Oceanis 350. Prior to leaving for their offshore adventure, Malcom had spent nearly two years of his spare time preparing the boat for the blue water experience, while Jackie learned sail repair, short wave radio use and the important skills of food storage and purchasing and provisioning for long voyages away from land and available food supplies for months on end.

Over the nine years they experienced the ecstasy of starlit night passages with just enough wind to propel the boat, to the other extreme of typhoon winds on the Beaufort scale Force 11. They also experienced a major earthquake in Central America, severe flooding in Australia, and the divergent beauty of people in 25 countries.

We offer you a whirlwind tour of where we went, what we saw and the awe of being away from land and other people for weeks on end, with just ourselves and our trusty boat to keep us safe.

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Club News

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See photos of South America, the Galapagos, Easter Island, Pitcairn Island, and across the Pacific Ocean, to Australia, Tasmania and then up the inside for the 1500 mile long Great Barrier Reef, and eventually over the top of Australia and into SE Asia.

Jackie and Malcolm returned to Vancouver Island in 2007: changed people, with different views on the world.

They now reside in Courtenay.

April Birthdays

Mona Wile	Stan Strilchuk
Joan Matheson; Joan Vick	Lynn Pringle
George Fettes	Louise Casson
John Powell	Dave Matheson
Barb Wilson	Al Tippet
Isabel Low	Derek Mowatt
Beth Ritchie; Ken Talbot	Don Bertram

I don't know if Facebook has ever caused the lame to walk, but it has sure caused the dumb to speak.

Club News

Club Announcements

FINAL CALL FOR TICKETS AND PAYMENTS

PRISMA

Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy

Powell River

"Sailing to the Symphony"

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

Dear Fellow Members - you have done a great job snapping up the special seats that your PRISMA Committee has obtained for our Club. We have sold all of the 50 tickets allocated to us and had to ask for 20 more. We still have a few tickets left if anyone is interested.

- Discounted Rate: \$85.50/person (consisting of a round trip ferry; lunch; concert ticket; and bus ride from the ferry to the theatre return)

PLEASE NOTE: Payment is due at the APRIL 11th general meeting. Once tickets are purchased, there will be no refunds!

Cheques need to be made payable to: "Orca PROBUS"

The PRISMA event is always a great day with fine music, good friends, a hearty meal and a lovely cruise.

As always thank you for your continued support.

Marie Knowles and Lawrence Petkus,
Co-chairs, PRISMA 2023

New group being planned

A new BBQ activity group is being considered. Sign up sheets at the April meeting

Club News

Club Announcements

HIGH NOON RAMBLERS (a.k.a. The Lunch Bunch)

Have you ever gone by a new little restaurant and wish you had somebody to go with you to try it out or for you to indulge in treating your taste buds to a new experience? As well lunch time is a good time to try a new restaurant without blowing your budget to bits. Well here is your chance to indulge yourself.

The "High Noon Ramblers" formerly the "Lunch Bunch", will take a more adventurous approach to lunch time dining. We will focus on ethnic foods, hideaway and little known restaurants such as East Indian, Chinese, Japanese Sushi, Korean and "off the beaten path" restaurants. This will be a chance to treat your taste buds to curry, tempura, sushi, hand made pizzas and shellfish.

I will compile a list of venues and take a poll on which ones you would like to attend. I will try to accommodate your choices as much as possible. There may be times when there is a low consensus but if at least six sign up we will still forge ahead.

Also there will be a sign up sheet at the next Orca Probus meeting.

Howard

NEW SECTION OF NEWSLETTER BEING CONSIDERED CALLED "SHARING MEMORIES"

What have you be up to since we last saw you. Share pictures and description of your travels, fun times shared with friends around town, or how about that wonderful garden design that you want to create. Another example might be a picture of your cat scoping out a hummingbird, etc. Whatever you want to share with the members of Orca Probus.

Club News

March's Meeting Clips



Club News

Club News

At our March meeting we had a great turnout to hear the presentation by James MacKenzie from MARS wildlife rescue. He gave an excellent talk about Hummingbirds present here in the valley.



Lots of pictures with facts and directions on how to feed and attract these lovely birds.

In the presentation he gave contact sources for additional information.

ebird.org <https://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/accounts/toc.jsp?show=species>
allaboutbirds.org birdsoftheworld.org (paid) jamesmackenziephotography.com



**Dave, Brenda
and grandchild
at MARS.**

Club Activity News

Bowling



We had a league of champions at the March event:

Jill Ackerman (299); Ron Richie (264); Mike Wilson (244); Louise Casson (231); Barbara Wilson (205).

The rest of us are trying to catch up and we are forever optimistic we will.

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Details for April's game are as follows:

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM (please arrive by 12:45 pm)

PLACE: CODES COUNTRY LANES
(307 – 6th Street, Courtenay)

COST: \$13.85 per/person – **CASH ONLY**
(Price includes two games; shoe rental and taxes)



Coffee time afterwards at "Rhodos" has become a big hit where we can chat about other things and expand our friendships.

Marie Knowles

Club Activity News

Dining Out



At the latest Dining Out we were discussing ChatGPT, which is a really smart computer that can understand and talk to people like us.

We were amazed at how ChatGPT can understand natural language, which means it can talk to us just like a real person. We also thought about how it could be helpful in situations where people speak different languages, or if someone needed help answering a question. As an example of its ability we asked it to write a report on our outing. Here's what it said:

"On March 20th, 2023, eleven members of the Probus Club gathered at the Golden Carriage Chinese Restaurant for a lunch outing. The group was looking forward to a delicious meal and some pleasant conversation in a comfortable atmosphere.

The members were not disappointed. They found the food to be exceptional, with a wide variety of dishes to choose from. The presentation was lovely, and the portions were generous. Everyone at the table enjoyed their meals and was impressed by the quality of the food. The service was excellent. The staff was friendly and attentive, answering questions and offering recommendations. The dishes were served promptly, and empty plates were cleared away quickly.

Overall, the Probus Club members had a wonderful experience at the Golden Carriage Chinese Restaurant. They found the food and service to be excellent and left feeling satisfied and happy. The group would highly recommend the restaurant to anyone looking for a delicious meal in a welcoming atmosphere."

Submitted by Chip Ross and his assistant scribe ChatGPT



Club Activity News



ORCA PROBUS HIKING REPORT MARCH 2023

There is no bluffing in that we had 13 hikers and two dogs out and ate lunch in the sunshine at the Comox Bluffs on our last outing. We started out hiking along the Puntledge in the Bevan area towards the Comox Lake Dam, once there 3 hikers broke off to do the loop trail back to the trailhead.

The rest of us traversed a few runoff creeks in the Ecological Forest to reach the bluffs and enjoyed lunch with the elevated views.

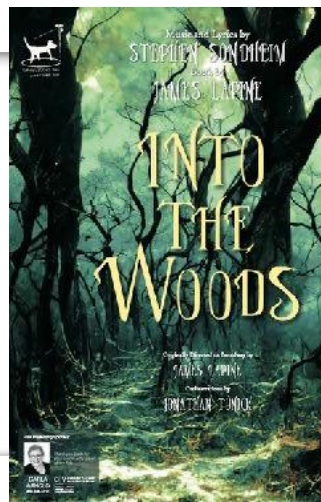
Thanks to Dave we have these photos to share.



Club Activity News



Two events were attended this past month. The stage production of "Into the Woods" and "The Rocket Man", a tribute to Elton John.



Club Activity News

Pub Club News

Good conversation and food enjoyed at the Flying Canoe 🍷



**Who is this "Moderation"
we're supposed to be
drinking with?**



Things to Ponder!

Easter Eggs

Easter is a religious holiday, but some of its customs, such as Easter eggs, are likely linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century, according to some sources. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.



My wife and I are sitting on the couch watching tv and I hear a text, realizing I left my phone in the kitchen, I get up, go to the kitchen to check it . . .

and its a text from my wife:

Please bring the chips on your way back !!