



Photo: Rob Sampson

After Action Report: May 14-24, 2018, ATUS MA-XVI
The 16th Annual Escape and Messabout
by Phil Marcelis

I'm going to start out by paraphrasing Dick Herman's comments about the [Northwest Messabouts](#). He basically said...

Let's be up front about this – it is not rational to drag a small boat almost 800 miles to spend 8 days pottering around Puget Sound with the almost certain knowledge that you will get rained upon at some point. But that's just what we did. Again.

A majority of the MA-XVI suspects travelled up from the sunny SF Bay Area, with the exception of four skippers who live relatively nearby or were already present in the Puget Sound area. At our most, I counted 13 boats and 17 intrepid sailors. (Don Person, our venerated [EGGNOG](#) has insisted that Messabout folks use the word "intrepid" as often as possible.)

My trip started at 5:50 AM on Monday, May 14 but others were already en-route. I came across John Chille (driving up from Ventura) and saw 'Goose' Gossman just ahead of him ambling down the highway, so we met at a Burger King off the next exit. While they had breakfast, I pulled out my planner and showed my map of perfectly timed stops for cheap gas along the route. They immediately declared they would follow me! I dutifully complained about leading this rag-tag group as we visited every roadside rest stop (ostensibly for the dogs), although I secretly enjoyed the endeavor.



MESSABOUT XVI THE LOG

Monday to Wednesday, May 14-16. Suspects launch at Swantown Marina, Olympia, WA.

Thursday, May 17. Sail from Swantown Marina to Jarrell Cove State Park, Harstene Island.

Friday, May 18. Sail from Jarrell Cove to Longbranch Improvement Club Marina, Filucy Bay.

Saturday, May 19. Sail from Longbranch to Arabella's Landing, Gig Harbor, WA

Sunday, May 20. Layover and daysail Gig Harbor.

Monday, May 21. Layover and daysail Gig Harbor.

Tuesday, May 22. Sail from Gig Harbor to Longbranch Improvement Club Marina, Filucy Bay.

Wednesday, May 23. Sail from Longbranch to Jarrell Cove State Park, Harstene Island.

Thursday, May 24. Sail from Jarrell Cove to Swantown Marina, Olympia, WA.

Most Suspects haul out and head home, while three skippers layover and continue sailing.

Dan Phy was the first to arrive in Olympia. John got a call from him on Monday evening as we sat down to our dinner at [McMenamins Roseburg Station Pub & Brewery](#) restaurant. I had reservations for a hotel but John and Goose were much more freewheeling and spent Monday night camping at the Love's Travel Stop among the truckers with noisy generators.

Next morning, I noticed my tires had scalloped edges and discovered that the air pressure was only about 15-20 psi instead of the 50 psi called for on the sidewall. Luckily, Goose produced a hand pump to ameliorate that problem and we were on our way again. After a few more rest stops, we pulled into [Swantown Marina](#) around 4:30 PM and spent the rest of Tuesday launching, having dinner, and collapsing in our respective bunks.

Wednesday was a leisurely day starting with breakfast at [Budd Bay Café](#), about 8-11 AM, followed by some sightseeing around Olympia and a purchase of macarons & cupcakes from [Mystical Cupcakes](#). A few took a ride on *Banjo*, and then for some it was dinner at Budd Bay Café again while others ate at Dan's choice: [The Oyster House](#).



And then we were in Olympia, capital of Washington State

Photo: Rob Sampson



Launch Ramp with guest dock shown at right



Everyone had arrived at Swantown by the time Dick called the skipper's meeting at 8:30 AM on Thursday morning, except two skippers: Eric Zilbert & Dave Scobie, who met us later. Dick started by announcing, "The motto of the day is: Be Flexible."



Dick Herman leads the skipper's meeting

MA-XVI - May 14-24, 2018

Attendees (aka "[ATUS](#)"):

- Judy Blumhorst & Anton Berteaux – C-24, *Tri C*
- John Chille – M-15, *At Last*
- Jim Ferguson – P-15, *Esmeralda*
- Jim 'Goose' & Gail Gossman – P-18, *ReGale*
- Dick Herman – *Banjo 20, Banjo*
- Dave & Francesca Kautz – O'Day-19, *Trailer Trash*
- Tom Luque – P-19, *Mast Gates*
- Phil Marcelis – P-19, *Family Time*
- Dan Phy – M-16, *Six*
- John Purdy – P-15, *Perky*
- Rob Sampson – Ranger 21, *Mud Hen*
- Dave Scobie – M-17, *Sweet Pea*
- Eric Zilbert & Lisa Erskine – P-19, *Riptide*



He then immediately launched into details of the [Jarrell Cove State Park](#) option shown in the planner, which is really all it took for the cats to start herding in that direction. Shrewd leader, this guy!

The sail/motor to Jarrell Cove was fine, although Judy had to take her tall-masted trimaran the long way to avoid a bridge which was of absolutely no concern to the rest of us, and I may have purposely run aground on the rocks just to make everyone else look good. Upon arrival, we consumed a great portion of the dock space and ditto for snacks at the festivities thereupon.

For being the only Suspect to attempt (and survive!) all 16 Messabouts, Post Captain Dan Phy received a special *Certificate of Certification* and pin to commemorate the event. I even gave a speech written for the occasion by Don ‘Council of Elder’ Person! It was great fun!



Longbranch was our next stop, where we picked up *Riptide* and *Sweet Pea* to round out our fleet. We took shelter from the inevitable rain and the party commenced. Having noted there were first-time Messabout attendees among us, and all were sufficiently boozed up, Admiral Herman yielded the floor and I incanted the recitation... er, recited the incantation! Their geezerliness quotient was measured and we inducted Nautical Order of Geezers (in training) members Eric Zilbert, Lisa Erskine, and Dave Scobie. You’re a NOGit now. Congratulations on being added to a group of sailors with proven fortitude, questionable judgement, and undeniable geezerness. We are known to those among us as All The Usual Suspects!



NOG induction ceremony at Longbranch Marina
(Note the important gesture brought to the forehead)




Photo: Rob Sampson

From there we caught a ride on the speedy current of the Tacoma Narrows on our way to Gig Harbor, where we languished in the opulence of [Arabella's Landing](#) for three days and presented them our burgee. (While coming back from a daysail, my phone went for a swim – 25-feet down in the mud of Gig Harbor – where it continues to languish, but at least I saved all my photos to my laptop that morning!!)

We refueled and then retraced our steps to Longbranch, Jarrell Cove State Park, and finally Olympia, where most of us retrieved and made the long drive back to home waters. Judy & Anton had to leave early, and Goose & Gail went to Port Townsend to extend the fun.

A quick count revealed that the same number of boats returned that started out in the first place. Admiral Herman was pleased, “The count of boats just needs to match.”

Yes, there was rain and we got wet. There were mishaps and misadventures mixed in with the adventures. We drove a long way to sail with friends, surrounded by beauty. But was it worth it? Should we do it again? You bet! — 



Two of the NW Potters, *Esmeralda* and *Perky*

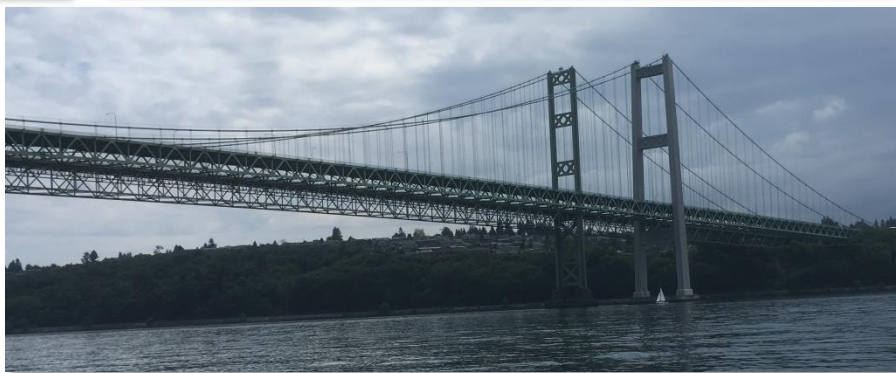


Banjo was appointed as gas delivery vessel



Upon successfully returning, ATUS take a group photo and chant “Cheated death again!”
 (from left) (front) Lisa, John C, Rob, Goose. (standing) Phil, Tom, Dick, Eric, Dan, Jim, John P, Gail, Francesca, Dave.

More Messabout XVI Photos by Phil Marcelis



(Clockwise from upper left) *Trailer Trash* sails north of Gig Harbor; *Banjo* tops 30 knots on a speed trial; Rob and Winnie cruise in style through Balch Passage on the way to Gig Harbor; *Riptide* makes over 8 knots going under the Tacoma Narrows Bridge; Francesca, Dave, John P & Jim at Tides Tavern in Gig Harbor; Tom Luque on *Mast Gates*; Phil and Rob have drinks.



More Messabout XVI Photos by Rob Sampson



(Clockwise from upper left) Phil on *Family Time*; the view from *Mud Hen*; guest dock at Arabella's Landing; Judy and Anton on the *Corsair*; Phil, Dave & Rob pose on the way home.



Francesca worked the shutter