

FRIDAY EXTRA!

The Daily Astorian

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Weekend Edition



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Yacht Club member Curt Yoder, right, sails his boat Shearwater as another boat sails in the distance during the club's Downtown Rally in June on the Columbia River. Yoder named his boat after the sea bird. "Sailboats seem like birds to me, the way they can fly," he said.

DOWNTOWN RALLY

New date on the sailing calendar

By **DANNY MILLER**
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Yacht Club has added a new event to the sailing calendar.

Every other Thursday the group meets in their clubhouse at 5:30 p.m. for a Downtown Rally. The rally activities include an informal sailing session and a meal. "It's a chance for us to get out on the water without competition," said Curt Yoder, a Yacht Club board member.

The club organizes sailboat races throughout the year, so this event is aimed at gathering both new and current members interested in socializing out on the water, Yoder said. After meeting in the clubhouse and determining a route, the group separates into a handful of boats before loading up and setting sail on the Columbia River for a couple of hours before the sun sets.

Sailing on the river offers a new look at Astoria. "You get a different view and a bigger picture from out here," Yoder said.

In addition to a social experience, the Yacht Club is also a learning environment. "If you don't know something, somebody in the club does," said Toby Dyal, who has been a club member for 18 years.



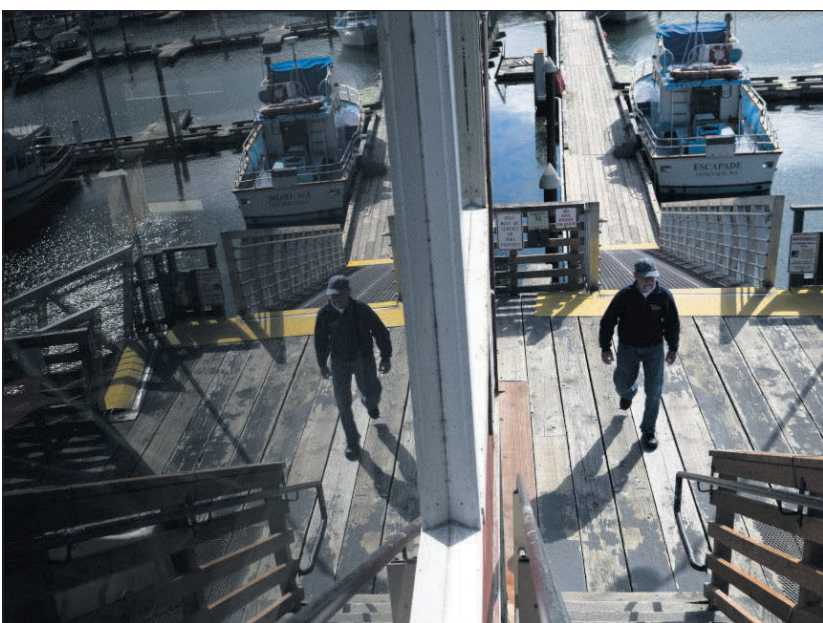
Yacht Club member Paul Winiarz, left, shares a laugh from aboard the Shearwater.



Curt Yoder prepares to sail.



Paul Winiarz prepares to tie the sailboat to the dock.



Curt Yoder walks up the steps to the Astoria Yacht Club clubhouse at the West End Mooring Basin.



Sea Scout Josh McConnell, right, sails with other Sea Scouts participating in the Astoria Yacht Club Downtown Rally in June.