

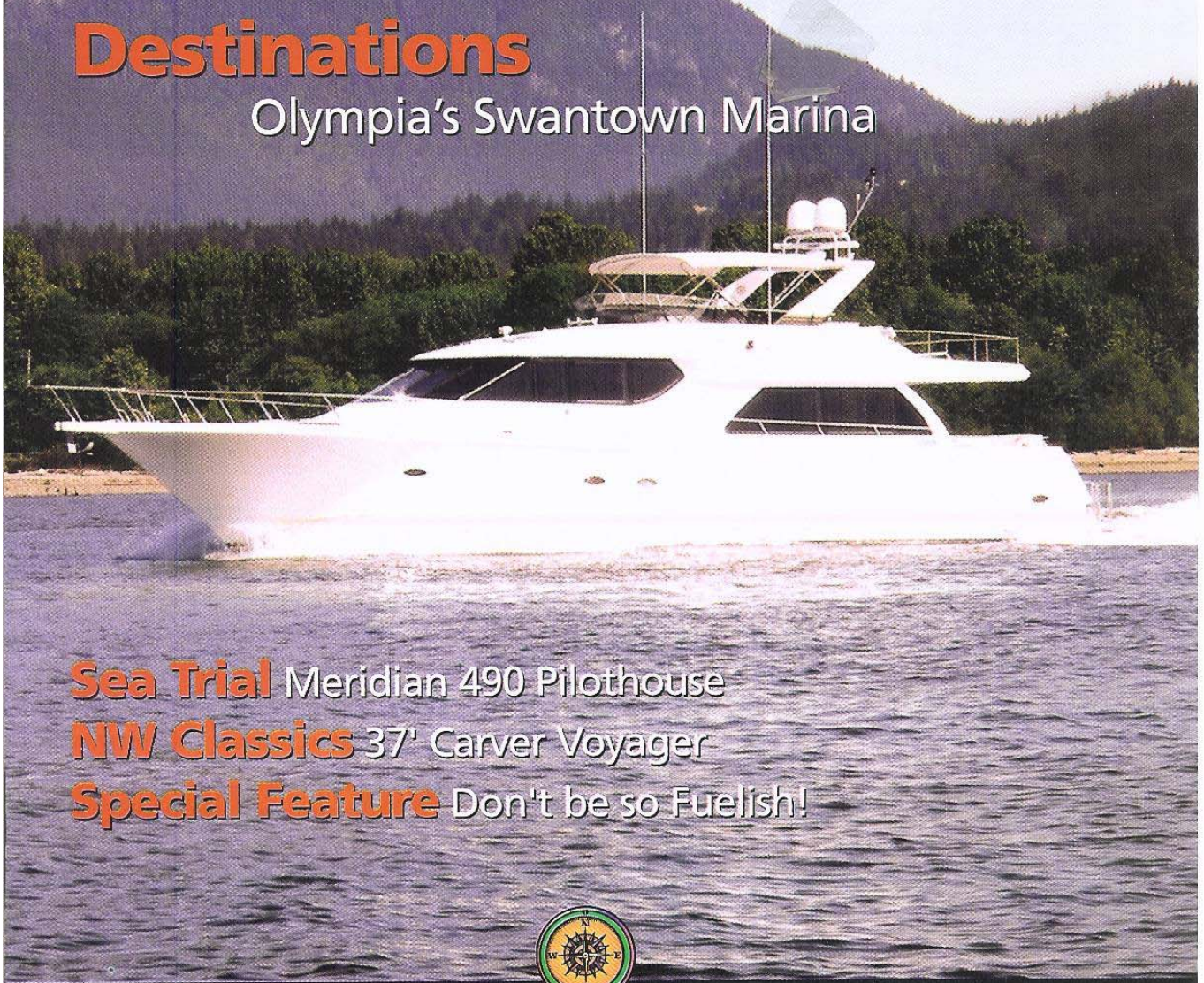
THE FAMILY BOATING MAGAZINE • ISSUE 7 • JUNE 22 - JULY 20, 2004

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# Nor'westing

## Destinations

Olympia's Swantown Marina



**Sea Trial** Meridian 490 Pilothouse

**NW Classics** 37' Carver Voyager

**Special Feature** Don't be so Fuelish!



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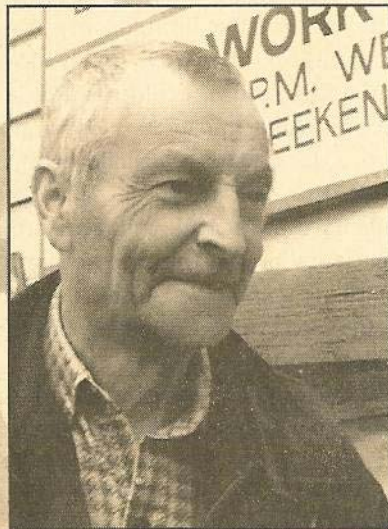
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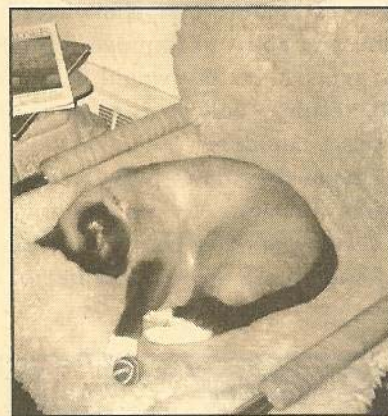
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*Front Cover Photo  
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# Profiles

By Marilyn Michael



## Princess of Westlake

If you walk into the office of LodeStar, Lynne Reister's marine survey business on Westlake, you'll be greeted by a princess. This irresistible little Snowshoe Siamese is a real ambassador for Lynne and joins other "animal ambas-

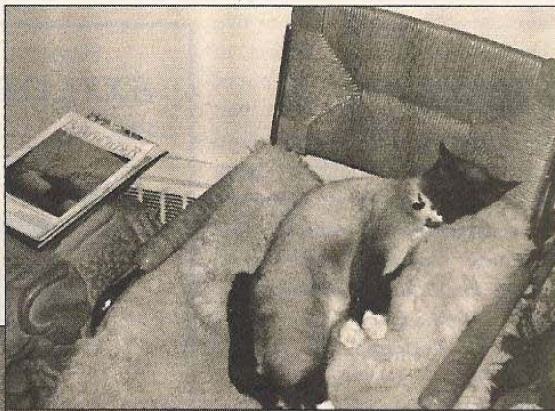
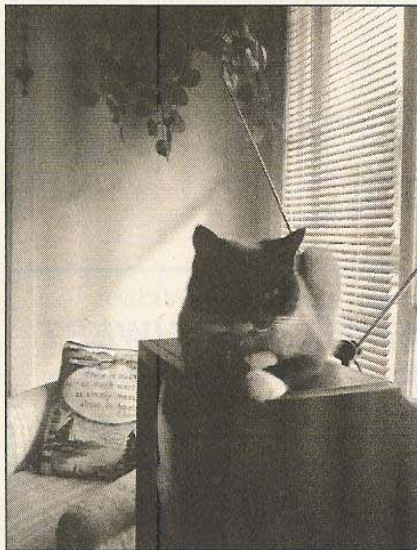
sadors" for marine business around Puget Sound. Boaters needn't look far around their own marinas or the larger maritime community to see many pets that are thriving on boats and amidst the dockside life.

Lynne Reister has had her boat, a 1939 Monk bridgedeck cruiser called *Grandy-Lusion*, at her current marina for seven years. Several years ago, when she was striking out on her own as a marine surveyor, she thought downsizing would be good and made the decision to live onboard (only a block away from her

office). She loved it and decided to share her new way of life with a cat.

"I hadn't had a kitty for a very long time and knew there must be one for me, so I went to the 'second-hand kitty place' [Seattle Animal Shelter] and Princess found me," said Lynne.

*I came to live on a boat. When I arrived, Lynne gave me a room of my own that she kept me in for three days so I could learn to feel I had a safe place. I stayed on the boat until Lynne took the portholes out to polish them. How nice, my own perfectly sized kitty doors!*



Clockwise from top left:

Princess on the TV at the office.

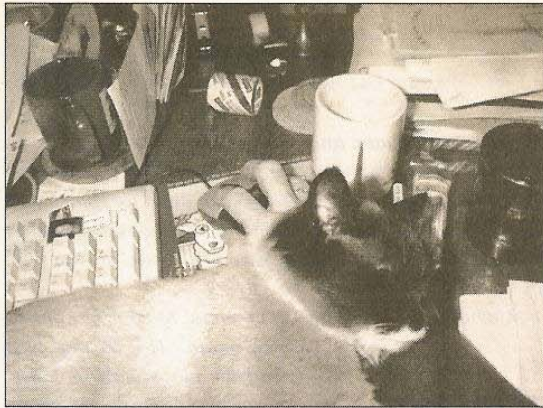
Lounging at the office.

"Some days this ball just tuckers me out."

Snoozing in the car.







### "Pay attention to ME!"

*My first adventure happened when Lynne was out of town. I made my way three boats away, down to Christine Green's varnish shop. I couldn't help it—they were having sushi for lunch! They didn't know me yet and allowed me to spend the night at our neighbor Andy's workshop, not realizing I was only 40 feet away from home.*

Because Lynne had the foresight to have a microchip placed in Princess, when the neighbors stopped by a vet to check, they learned where Princess lived. Princess had gotten a taste of the world and continues to find her way out of the boat through the portholes, but she uses them to return to the boat only if Lynne isn't home, preferring the door be opened for her if someone is there.

### THE LIFE OF AN ONBOARD CAT

"Princess is the kind of cat who would love being a 'spokescat' for animals onboard," said Lynne. "She would be glad

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to tell others what it's like to live onboard a boat, about the special challenges of getting on and off a moving boat, what happens when wakes come by and birds land on your boat, and about favorite spots to sit on the boat roof to survey your domain. One of Princess's most endearing habits is she sleeps under the cov-

ers with her head in my hand each night, getting up periodically to patrol the dock."

*I love to lie on the deck surveying my dominions. A very big blue heron sometimes sits at the end of our dock. I'm curious about him and wander up real close. He doesn't seem to mind. There is a seal that comes to say hello. We haven't quite got nose to nose yet, but pretty close to it.*

*When new people tie up at the marina, I often jump up on their boats even before they tie up. I just want to check out the boat. Then I leave. It's really fun to hide behind a canoe that's on the dock then run out and surprise people. Whenever people are working on the dock, I'm right there checking them out to see if I can help.*

*One night on our walk home from the office, Lynne and I met two raccoons that had crossed Westlake heading for the water. We stared them down and they went on their way.*

*There is always a lot of construction around boats and things often change. One day I fell in the lake between two fenders (getting my sea legs the hard way). I got out by myself; I was so embarrassed, all wet, slumping back to the boat to lick myself dry. I've never fallen in since.*

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PRINCESS

*I wait for Lynne on the boat deck or by the flowerpot on the dock until she gets off; I don't go anywhere until she's off the boat. Then I follow Lynne up the dock and onto the sidewalk. I look out carefully for dogs since the time a big black dog came right into the office and attacked me. Then I walk with Lynne all the way to work. I make a*

## Tips for Having Pets Onboard

- Nail a piece of carpet to the dock near the boat so an onboard cat has something secure to grab.
- Animals onboard should wear a harness rather than a collar so they can be more safely grabbed with a boat hook.
- Child safety netting is a good idea.
- Animals on deck when underway should wear life vests as unexpected crises do happen.
- An idea for retrieving an overboard cat might be to toss out a crab net for them to grab.
- Make sure animals are tagged well, especially cruising or liveaboard pets. Vets and shelters do microchip tagging, ideal for beloved pets that might find themselves lost far away from home.
- Information can further be written directly on a white flea collar or fabric collar. Include the number of someone you call regularly while cruising. Keep some animal photos onboard for posters in case a pet is lost.
- Don't cruise too long between potty breaks. Dr. Don Kent from Eastlake Veterinary Clinic in Seattle advises, "If you are cruising with a dog and start to see them need to frequently urinate, urinate with small volume, or see blood in the urine, it may likely be retention cystitis." If you notice any of these signs, bring your pet to a veterinarian immediately, as the condition must be treated with antibiotics.
- Always check and plan ahead to meet the entry requirements for various countries if you're going to cruise abroad with your pet.
- Some vets suggest a very modified portion of Dramamine. Sometimes tranquilizers are prescribed for pets prone to motion sickness. Before giving your pet any medication, always consult a vet.
- For a nautical-looking cat scratching post, wrap the support post for a salon table in sisal.
- Chicken wire over the soil of potted plants keeps cats out; buy some for your neighbor's pots too.



little arc around a garbage can so that I don't run into Blackie, the dog that lives next to the marina. There are a couple of beagles down the way; when we meet them the people with them know about my doggie-delayed-stress-syndrome so they step off the sidewalk with the dogs to let me pass. Then, when we get to the dive shop near the office, I start to run and see if I can beat Lynne to the office. We race to see who can get there first.

"She sits in the office window. People come by and get off their bikes to come in and pet her. She has many friends," said Lynne. "They come right in to visit. Most of the time I don't know them, but they know Princess. I've met a lot of really nice people who know her. A year ago, a black dog came into the office and grabbed her by the stomach and beat her up. She was on the boat in recovery for about two weeks. During her recovery, people would come to the boat to visit her and they'd come into the office every day to ask about her."

"If she goes out to greet someone and they ignore her," Lynne smiled, "she comes back in as if to say, 'They didn't pet me; what kind of people are they?'" The other day I looked out the window and saw her orange ball rolling by and then I saw it coming back. Some guy had gotten off his

bike and was playing ball with her. She likes to roll out in the sun."

*I love greeting everyone and hearing how their day or walk is going. There are so many really nice dogs and cats around here—their owners are the best! They take them for walks and really take good care of them. At least that is what the dogs that go by here tell me. Last winter it was fun to see all the paw prints in the snow.*

*Gene Mitchell who works for Commercial Marine is Lynne's office mate. He is my best friend; he plays with me, tossing balls and letting me sit on his desk when Lynne is out surveying boats, which is a lot! I miss her and wait for her by the window until I see her car coming.*

**Princess is the kind of cat who would love being a 'spokescat' for animals onboard.**

*When it's time to go home, Lynne tells me and I go wait for her by the door. Every night I get to ride on Lynne's shoulder all the way home under the beak of her hat or, in bad weather, under her sweater. She places me on the boat and then she jumps on.*


**CAT ADVENTURES**

Princess loves to ride in the car and goes with Lynne about 50 percent of the time. She waits for Lynne while sitting on the back of the driver's seat enjoying the people who come by and talk to her. She sleeps on Lynne's lap as she drives.

Princess loves to stick her head out the window when Lynne pays the ferry toll. One time, by accident, Lynne almost caught her in the window as it was rolling up. Princess let out a yowl and grabbed for Lynne, scratching her jaw. The ferry toll taker looked on incredulous at the yowling cat and blood dripping from Lynne's face unable to say anything but, "Your cat just scratched you." Lynne healed and Princess didn't hold the mistake against her. It was just another adventure for the pair.

"We go over to Port Townsend and spend time at a friend's home on the vessel *Lotus*," said Lynne. "Princess has a little stateroom all her own with some finches. She sits on top of their cage and waits for the cover to come off so she can watch them. She wanders their bilge and inspects it with me. I've never worried about her getting into some spot on a boat and getting stuck. I believe if she can get in somewhere, she can get out."

If you are wondering how your animal may adapt to adventures onboard, you won't have to look far to see many animals who love all the interesting challenges that come with being around boats and marinas. As their boat is under reconstruction, Lynne and Princess haven't taken it away from the dock together, but Princess doesn't mind the engine running and will undoubtedly have interesting stories to tell about adventures away from the dock. ■

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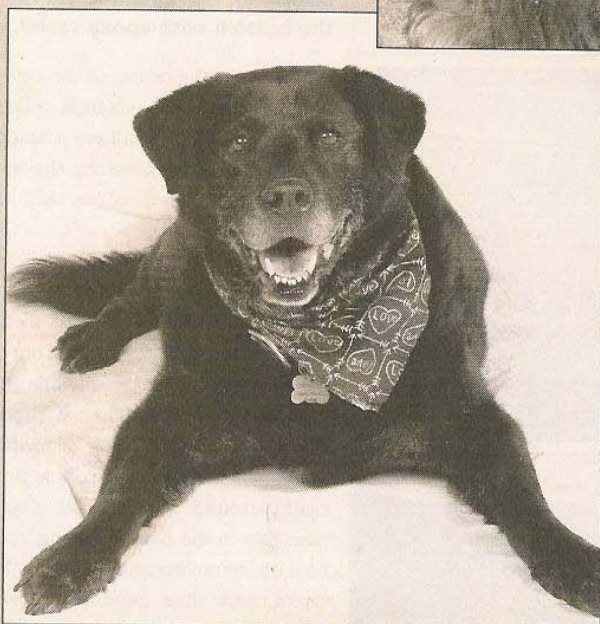




## MALCOLM

Meet Malcolm. Malcolm (pictured at right) is the official greeter at Fisheries Supply in Seattle. Malcolm has tales to tell from life onboard a Heritage 46 center cockpit sailboat he shares with Barry and Marian Maynard.

"Malcolm wears rubber boots on deck to give him traction," shared Barry. "One day, he was sitting aft and we heeled about 30 degrees. His back hips are bad and he didn't have his boots on. I looked back to see him belly to the deck, all four legs spread-eagled with his front paws braced against the wood trim around the boat edge holding on for dear life."



## BREWSTER

Meet Brewster. Brewster is the official greeter at Boat Electric, a few doors down from where Princess "works." Brewster loves his job and loves the water. He loves to visit the family cabin where he can step off the dock and the water is only a few inches deep. When he first started hanging out with owner Lori Hogan at Boat Electric, they took a walk down to the Lake Union docks and Brewster trotted off the dock as usual, only to instantly disappear!

"He came up with some green stuff on his head and looking bewildered," smiled Lori. "It didn't bother him much, though, and he loves his walks around Westlake." ■