



Soundings

Newsletter of the South Port Sailing Club

July 2006

Sail-a-bration . . . Pirates of Pike Creek a success



Derek White would to emphasize the wonderful turnout we had for Sail-a-bration -- round 200 people. Thanks to all who gave me him a hand with this event. These include: Chris Eagen, Stuart Stratton, Rene Brown, Wayne Hind, Ryan Masse, Steve Zsargo, Lynn Baker, Jackie Timothy, Rob Shore, Irene East, Bob Young, Sue O'Brien and Brandon from the race committee.



What a great job by Abars and their staff with the catering! Also, Lou Lou was great entertaining the children. JOB WELL DONE, to everyone who helped with this event! If you would like to see or send pictures to Lou Lou the clown, you can do so at paintingsmiles.com under birthday parties.



Look for more photos starting on page 7. Thanks to photographers Irene East and Jackie Timothy.



Kennon Pye Sails away, 22 June 2006

As a founding member of SPSC, Ken and the club are well entwined. He was vice commodore in 1969, and in charge of the junior sailing program as it entered its fourth season. He became commodore in 1970, and loved sailing Gold Rush, the Pye's C&C 27. We are fortunate to be able to draw on the eulogy given by Ken Pye's daughter, Kathy Gerasimoff, at her father's funeral. Here are her fond memories of one of Ken's greatest passions.

“ . . .And then, of course, there was sailing, Ken's greatest passion. We were ALL there from the get-go. I'll never forget when we ALL went over to the States when he needed to buy ALL of the fittings for the first boat he built, the Crescent! We three kids were in the back seat waiting for hours and hours for him to be done. That boat was the slowest and heaviest of all the boats around, but we'd still faithfully race every Sunday afternoon, vying for last place with Collin Griffiths in his boat with the red sail. When the racing became more serious with the Y Flyer, the Shark, the Viking, and the C & C 27, we still raced as a family. Suzie and Rick were there, too. My dad never did have a topnotch racing crew, but we had those special family times.

“We all remember the overnight cruises to Boblo and to Metropolitan Beach. We'd want to get there, and there'd be no wind, but Ken would very seldom turn on the motor and would say, “Look at the ripples up ahead.” Gosh, he was persistent! And then there was the famous “It's clearing on the horizon!” My mom would go out in the boat with him in all sorts of cruises and races, even when

she was scared of the spinnaker or the bad weather. “My dad even built the little Cadet and a hydroplane for us “kids” to enjoy! We all knew that he shouldn't have been putting in the boat this year, when he had a hard time even walking and getting around, but we wanted him to have just one last summer. We made him promise that he wouldn't go out alone, and that once we got off from school, we'd have lots of time to go out with him.

“I think it would have broken his heart to put the “For Sale” sign on, so he never had to do that. Although he never got out for a last sail, he was out at the boat putting around on the day before he died. He even had some putty in some plastic wrap on the television to go put around one of the windows on Thursday, so he would have been there again. Ken's “sailing family” has always been an important part of his life. He so-much enjoyed the Saturday night cards and the Retirees' lunches.

“We've all always looked up to my dad and admired him: his persistence and hard work (in fact, we often say he burnt himself out when he was young), his quiet, caring ways (he kept a lot inside), his profound sense of what is right and what is wrong, and his love and devotion to family and friends. He was a loving husband, an “I'm always there for you” dad, an involved grandpa, a caring son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, and friend. If he could wake up and say something right now, I'll bet it would be, “Wanna' go for a sail? Look! It's clearing on the horizon.” Let's remember all of the good pictures that make a life. We love you, Dad!”

Cruising Notes, from Margaret Entwistle

What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday evening. June 17th four boats sailed down to the Sandbar Restaurant on Puce River. Lots of wind in the late afternoon so the trip was far too short. Sixteen people ate dinner before heading back to South Port Sailing Club. It was such a perfect evening, we had a social hour ending with a glorious sun set.

We should do this more often. Thank you to all who participated for being such delightful company and making it a memorable event.

C-Course thanks, from C-course chair, Lynn Baker

A big thank you to all the South Port members who helped out with this year's C-Course Regatta. First off, to Al Finch for the use of Eidelon as RC boat and to RC members Lyn Domney, and Mike Baker. Leeward mark boat was skippered by Jim Balfe, with John Shaw and Darcy Fuller as crew. And of course.. our own DRYA Commodore Ian Dawson as Principal Race Officer.

There was a good turnout, a strong breeze and fair skies. Who could ask for more?

BBQs at SPSC

Lets all enjoy our park-like Club this summer.
Come out for a barbeque on alternate Saturdays.
Enjoy all or part of the activities.

4:00 pm: Happy Hour

6:00 pm: BBQ

7:30 pm: cards

July 15, 29 & August 5, 19

Contact: Lorne & Rita Mann

Sunday Casual Racing

Sunday casual racing will begin July 2nd and continue for five weeks to the 30th. Open starting gate between 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm.

Inquiries:

Chris Eagen, Race Chair -
ckeagen@tanzer75.net

Cruising Dates

SPSC is cruising to La Salle Mariners Club on July 14th, followed by the LSMC Pelee Island Regatta & Cruise on July 15th 2006 and space is filling up quickly this year. LSMC have reserved the entire harbour for dockage at Scudder, but it's filling up fast. If you plan on attending, get your entry in early as possible!

Entry forms for the race attached, but please also contact SPSC Cruise Chair John Bufton at 979-1718 as well so that we can plan a group BBQ at LSMC for the evening of July 14th, and arrange overnight dockage for SPSC visitors.

Other events:

July 16	Duncan/Sharon Hind's BBQ/ social on Pelee Island
July 22	Belle River Marina (evening or overnight)
July 29	Lilly Kazilly Restaurant (evening)
Aug 9	Metro Beach (midweek)
Aug 19	Great Lakes Yacht Club (weekend)
Sept 1	Thames River YC (weekend)

SPSC/Soundings Survey

Please note that due to requests in the Soundings & SPSC survey, the monthly SPSC calendar now starts with Sunday, rather than on a Monday (which we tried to have the weekend days grouped together).

Other comments that have been incorporated include introducing new (and old) members; and more photos.

Comments not incorporated include sending only an electronic copy of Soundings (there were not enough requests for this to warrant the necessary changes to the mailing labels).

Other suggestions being considered include:

- email notification of Soundings posted on the Web site; update Web site (will happen as soon as we have a new Web master)
- events happening with other clubs

Let us know if you have any other ideas!

Soundings

is the newsletter of the
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Please get your contributions by the
20th of each month to Renka
(254.5015; renka@cogeco.ca)

Next Soundings . . .

will cover two months. Please get all August and September information to Renka or Jackie by:

1 August

Why my boat is best, or The Travels of Skylark

by Jim Halpin

Skylark, a Mirage 35, came to SPSC in 1985, when Commodore Dick and Admiral Buddy Walker purchased her from Duncan Hind at the Ship's Wheel.

When the Walkers moved to Toronto in 1987, Skylark took in her dock lines and left South Port. In the company of Windsong she cruised through the North Channel and down Georgian Bay to her new home in Midland. There, she spent four summers cruising the Bay's 30,000 Islands and joining Ruffian, Firewater, and Windsong in favourite anchorages in the North Channel.



In 1992, Skylark was trucked to the St. Lawrence River, where she found a custom-made dock in front of Walkers' new home on Hill Island. She was sold in 1995, and her new owner kept her in Gananoque. Skylark spent the next four years cruising the Thousand Islands and Lake Ontario.

In 1999, we purchased her, and brought her back to South Port through the Trent-Severn waterway, Georgian Bay, and Lake Huron.

Skylark was equipped for long distance cruising in 2001. She headed down lake Erie to Buffalo, where she entered the Erie barge canal which took her to the Hudson River and on into the Atlantic. From there she took us down the intracoastal waterway to



Another departure: Lee Ann & Jim Halpin

Miami. In December, she crossed the Gulf stream and entered the turquoise waters of the Bahamas for a three-month stay. Retracing her course, she arrived back at SPSC to end her 9 ½ month journey in June of 2002.

Since then, she has been to the North Channel, and followed Windsong into the frigid waters of Lake Superior. Recently, she's been trading tacks with the JOG fleet on the Wednesday-night race course.

We find her to be a comfortable, easy to sail, and forgiving second home. We revel in the luxury of her hot and cold running water, shower, and deep sinks. Cooking is a breeze on her propane stove and oven, her bright spacious interior is excellent for entertaining, and her three-cylinder diesel engine sips fuel while providing plenty of power to get us out of any difficult situations.

We look forward to many more adventures aboard Skylark both in the North Channel and between the buoys on the Wednesday night race course.

Introducing current members, by Jackie Timothy

Derek White, Social Chair



has been a member at South Port since 1998. He is the owner of an Erikson 27, SCHWANKY and participates in the Wednesday night Keelboat Races as well. Congratulations, Derek, on the success of this year's wonderful Sail-a-bration.

Bob Young, has been a member at South Port since 1989. He is the owner of a Stone Horse, GALATEA.



Bob was Commodore in 1995 and is very active at the Club. He is "our own" Pike Creek Pirate.

Jamie Halpin, our current



Harbourmaster, has been a member at South Port since 1999, but has been around the club for years, as his parents have been members since

1972. He owns a C&C 30, Wind Song. He will keep us all "moving" in and out of the channel this season.

Alan and Lorette Henderson

have been members since 1979. Lorette served as club treasurer for several years. Alan was involved in the Shark fleet, and held the executive position of secretary as well as editor of Soundings. Although they retired from sailing, they continue to participate as members and attend club events. Since their retirement, Alan cycles and kayaks and they enjoy travelling in their Aliner trailer.



Nick and Vera Sitar

were one of the early members at South Port in 1970. They were Shark sailors for many years along with their two sons. Past Commodore Sitar was involved in the construction of the new clubhouse, over 25 years ago. This photo of the happy couple was taken at Sail-a-bration 2006.



Dave Robichaud and Jackie Timothy

have been members since 2000. Jackie is the co editor of Soundings. They are the owners of an HR 25, NO RESISTANCE. The first 2 yrs. at the club Dave crewed for Ray East on his HR Horsefeathers, and since then has been a weekly participant in the Wednesday night Keelboat races.



from the Harbourmaster, Jamie Halpin

It looks like we are off to a good season. Water levels are high for now, but we are expecting them to drop again at the end of the season. To avoid having to cut the season short, we will be dredging of the harbour starting on June 30.

Plans are to dredge A dock, the outer sections of B, C, D, and E docks, and to remove the ridge behind F-dock. If your well is to be dredged, you will be contacted by the harbourmaster regarding moving your boat. Boats will have to be relocated one section at a time due to the large number of wells to be dredged.

Thanks to Wayne Hind for fixing the red entrance light. It wasn't coming on due to a blown photocell. Thanks to Dave Robichaud for replacing the photocell on the range light. It was refusing to turn off during the day. Seems that this was a bad year for photocells!

We need volunteers for dock repairs in the dingy area and on A-dock. Please contact the harbourmaster if you are interested.

Women's challenge, held 25 June



from the Property Chair, Rene Brown

If you have been to the club lately, I hope you have noticed the effort that members have made on improvements to our club. Dead trees, big and small, were removed and new ones planted early on this year. The spring work party really tidied up the general grounds and years of debris was removed. The new sidewalk provides a clean border between the parking lot and basin while providing easy access, free of trip hazards, to A-E docks. The Mainstays' annual maintenance and planting of the flower gardens go a long way to beautify the grounds. The picnic tables and deck around the porch have been pressure washed, repaired, sanded and stained to provide a clean place to have a lunch or dinner cooked on the rebuilt BBQs. Some picnic table staining is still on the To-Do list (Any volunteers?).

We are not stopping there either. The front door leaky window replacements are on order and should be here in the next two weeks. Controlling the gobi mat weeds, limiting goose access to the grass and repainting the front door are on the To-Do list as well.

Some of the larger projects being considered for next year include repairs to the gobi mats, sidewalk phase II 'E-Dock' and reorganization of the dinghy area.

The main goal of all this work is to provide the existing membership with high value services and attract new members to the club. We need your ideas, comments and smart remarks to help prioritize the To-Do list and add new ideas. Get involved. Volunteer or share your ideas. The club is what we make of it.

Thank you to all those members who have already helped out this year. I think the club is looking great.

Mainstays fun

The Mainstays Annual Wine & Cheese Cruise took place on Thursday, June 1st. Twelve ladies participated and had a great evening, the weather was perfect. Very many thanks to Al Finch and Lyn Domney for being our skippers for the evening and for the use of their boats.

Sail-a-bration 2006





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July 2006 SPSC Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Sunday Casual Racing begins (July 2-8) Finch, A&J Domney, P			5 Wed. night keelboat racing	6	7	8 Shark Canadians
9 Shark Canadians (July 9-15) Frank, B&L Draisey, M	10 7:15 pm Executive Meeting	11 Men's Lunch	12	13	14 Cruising: LaSalle Mariners (overnight)	15 LSMC Pelee Island Regatta & Cruise (weekend) BBQ & Games at the club starting at 4:00
16 Duncan/Sharon Hind's BBQ/ social on Pelee Island (July 16-22) Ginham, J&M Dugas, M	17	SPSC Regalia Sweatshirts \$35.00 Windshirts \$45.00 Golf Shirts \$25.00 Baseball Caps \$10.00 Visors \$7.00 Insulated Mugs \$5.00 Burgees \$25.00 Crests \$5.00 Specific sizes/colours by special order only For further information or to order contact Lyn or Scott Turner at (519) 254-9510			21	22 Cruising: Belle River Marina (evening or overnight)
23 (July 23-29) Grayson, B&M Gallie, K	24 Friends of Pike Creek				28	29 BBQ & Games at the club starting at 4:00 Cruising: Lilly Kazilly's (evening)
30 (July 30-Aug 5) Grosshans, P&D Helm, J	31					