



# Soundings

Newsletter of the *South Port Sailing Club*

Feb. 2008

## DOCKAGE AND RELEASE FORMS

2008

Included in this month's **Soundings** are the **Summer Dockage and Release Forms**. Take note of the following changes:

- 1) the launch date
- 2) the more comprehensive dinghy storage section to help the harbour and property committees keep track of dry sailed boats, and
- 3) the slight increase in lift fees (which now corresponds to the actual crane costs).

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it (along with a cheque which will be cashed following launch ) to **South Port Sailing Club, attention Harbour Master**. In order to facilitate dockage assignments, these forms must be received by **March 29, 2008**.

## From the Harbour Master, Wesley Arthur

Let me begin my report by thanking Jamie Halpin for all the work he has done over the past three years as Harbour Master. During this time Jamie spent tireless (and often thankless) hours working to maintain and improve the harbour and grounds at South Port. Certainly he should be recognized for his dedicated and selfless devotion to our club; as such, if you see him around the club before his trip this summer, please take a moment to personally thank him.

The two primary areas the Harbour Committee will be addressing this Spring are the refurbishment of docks and, of course, dredging. We are currently in the process of replacing the boards and stringers on C/D Dock with the same custom milled ash that was used for A/B Dock last year. A portion of this work took place during a work party on January 26<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to join the next one February 16<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. With respect to dredging, we have already begun discussions with various companies regarding the maintenance of both the harbour and entrance channel, as necessary. Although this work will be arranged in advance, as usual its exact timing will be highly dependent on both ice and ERCA. This being said, we will try our best to move things forward as quickly as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the nominating committee for having put me forward as a candidate for Harbour Master. Although I certainly have big shoes to fill, I truly look forward to serving South Port in this capacity over the next year.

## From the Commodore, Lynn Baker

Don't know about all of you....but I'm in a countdown to spring. And I'm praying mightily for heavy snows up north and a generous spring run-off.

Your Harbour Master, Wes Arthur and crew are getting a head start on the season by taking advantage of the ice to redo the wood on the docks.

Property Chair Peter Soles has an impressive list of projects which will improve the general appearance of the Club and Property. Be sure to contact him for work hour projects.

Don't forget to join the Monday virtual Race Nights. Contact Chris Eagen for information.

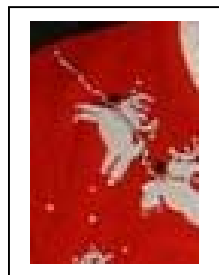
The Sailing School is looking forward to some exciting changes with the addition of a Shark to its keelboat fleet, four new 420's and the prospect of a new Sailing School Clubhouse.

Be sure to come to the **Annual Membership Meeting on March 3 at 7:00 p.m.** You'll hear more about plans for the upcoming season, and have an opportunity to let your Executive know what you think. And there's a bonus.... Social Chair Derek White will be providing post meeting snacks. Hope to see you there.

# Mainstays Christmas show & dinner

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 24 ladies met at Mackenzie Hall for their Dinner theatre evening. Thank you to Stella Oldridge for once again organizing this event.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 10th 7:30 pm**. Come and enjoy an evening of friendship.



## Meet our 2008 executive



Commodore, Lynn Baker



Vice Commodore, Rene Brown



Rear Commodore, Bill Frank



Treasurer, Jan Graybiel



Social Chair, Derek White



Sailing School, Bob Fuller



Racing Chair- Chris Eagen



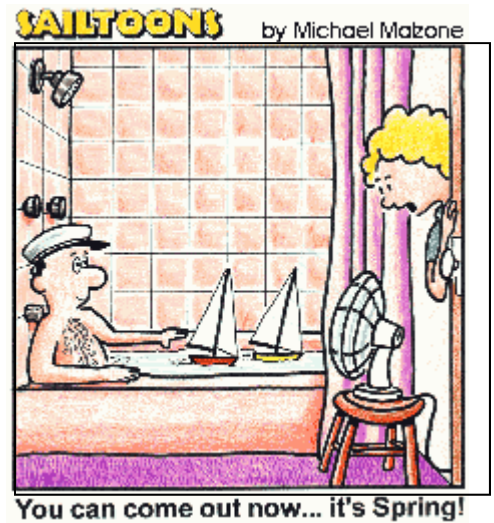
Harbour Master, Wesley Ar-



Cruising Chair -  
Jack Entwistle



Past Commodore, Lyn Domney



# A Roaring 20s Final Furl at the Windsor Yacht Club



THE WINNERS 2007



Jacques E Merian Award presented to Member Paul Bowsher

## *Windsong to the Sea - Part 2 - Lake Erie, Jamie Halpin*

Finally, the boat was ready. I loaded my new cat, Spot, on board and spent a surprisingly cool and relaxing night at the dock at South Port. Little did Spot know that she was about to become a sea cat.

I wanted to leave bright and early but there was one last task. My tanks were at the dive shop to be inspected and he was closed yesterday. I was waiting at the door when he opened so I was able to finally untie the dock lines at 10:30 am. After leaving the channel, I had to motor around in circles for a while to swing the compass for my autopilot. (It was necessary to move it during my refit to get it farther away from my alternator and SSB.) The Junior Sailors must have thought I had lost my steering! As soon as the autopilot gave me the OK, I set a course for the Detroit River and engaged the autopilot. It worked. Then I decided to test my new connection from my autopilot to my laptop. That worked too. This was getting weird!

My sail to Pelee Island was pretty uneventful. As usual, the wind was too light and too much on the nose to sail. I put up the main, motor sailed, and watched the sights as we pattered down the river: the old Pelee Passage Light at the City Marina, the Livingston Memorial Light on Belle Isle, and the Peace Fountain. I took a few pictures going under the bridge. I saw the Boblo Light and the Detroit River Light. (I still can't believe that a freighter crashed into it!) The traffic was light and the seas I had to pound into once I reached Lake Erie were fairly moderate. Spot spent the day in her cat carrier getting her sea legs. She drooled a bit which was a good sign. My old cat ralphed her guts out for the first two or three days of any trip. A little drool was a big improvement.

I left Scudder the next morning at 08:00 on a close reach for Erieau. A more patient man would have sailed but the fact that I had to meet my crew at the Welland Canal in three days was weighing heavily on my mind. I motor sailed again to maintain 6 knots and kept a lookout for lighthouses, starting with the Pelee Island Light and then the Pelee Passage Light. As I passed the Colchester Reef Light I made a toast to Captain Forrest. He lost his life there as the Captain of the ill fated Colchester Reef Lightship.

Upon entering Rondeau Bay I was greeted by an old student of mine who was radio tracking Long Nosed Gar. Suffice it to say, he wasn't one of my favourite

students. It was absolutely shocking to see him working at a summer job that was very similar to one I had during my University days. I guess I do have an influence after all!

I dropped the hook for the first time for this trip then took the dinghy ashore to check out the town of Erieau. I tied my dinghy up next to huge yacht from the Cayman Islands. The contrast in boats in the harbour was amusing. Across the dock from the yacht was a houseboat that looked like someone took a trailer home and bolted it onto pontoons. Funny thing was that the people in the \$3000 houseboat appeared to be having a lot more fun than the people in the \$3 million yacht!

From there I wandered off to find the Erieau Yacht Club where I took my Level 1 CYA Sailing Instructor Course almost 20 years ago. What a blast from the past! It is a tiny little dinghy sailing club that fronts onto Rondeau Bay. It was even tinier than I remembered it.

The next morning Murphy's Law was in full force. I awoke to find two problems about my beautiful calm peaceful night at anchor. One was that the boat was completely coated in squishy little bugs. The other was that the anchor line was hopelessly wrapped around the keel. I tried motoring every which way in a futile attempt to free it. Finally, I ran the anchor line back to my main halyard winch and cranked. With a little crunching and groaning, and a few scrapes on the keel, it came free. I set a close reach course for Port Stanley hoisted the sails, cut the engine and set to work scrubbing and hosing away little bugs.



After a night at the Port Stanley Sailing Squadron, I caught the 07:00 bridge and set off on my longest leg for lake Erie: the rounding of Long Point. They don't call it long for no reason! It is a 72nm run from Port Stanley around the point to Port Dover. The only shelter in between is to anchor around the inside of the point about 60nm from Port Stanley. Fortunately, the weather held. I had another perfect close reach all the way to the tip of the point where the wind died and shifted onto the nose. As I passed the Long Point Lighthouse, the most isolated Light on Lake Erie, I was far from alone. Two freighters passed me on their way upbound from the Welland Canal.

I spent the night at the Port Dover Marina then motored in a dead calm to Port Colborne. It was a short run and it was so calm that I decided it was the perfect opportunity to give the bottom a scrub. I cut the engine and let the boat drift to a stop while I suited up in my dive gear. Over the side I went, and scrubbed off three months of Pike Creek goo. Afterwards, I was able to motor 0.2 knots faster at the same RPMs!

I arrived early in Port Colborne and spent the afternoon talking to the locals at the Morlan Marina. I was told to be at the Welland Canal early because the transit can take anywhere from 8 to 12 hours. Another local told me that I had quite a trip in store when I get down to the St. Lawrence Seaway. He used work on the lake boats and loved sitting on the deck watching the scenery in the Seaway. It was comparable to the Rocky Mountains.

Blue Peter was hoisted in anticipation of my crew's arrival in the morning. A nice breeze was flowing through my new portholes and all of my new equipment was working like a charm. Spot was adjusting quickly to the live aboard life. She slept in her carrier when I was underway and cuddled with me all night. Tomorrow, *Windsong* will transit the Welland Canal and find herself floating in Lake Ontario, her fifth and final Great Lake! More to come in a future edition of Soundings !!

**Preliminary 2008 I-LYA Race Schedule  
will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the  
Clubhouse**

**For changes or additions contact  
LEGENDSAIL@AOL.COM**

## **Cruise Potluck Meeting**

**Jack Entwistle, Cruising Chair**

**February 9, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** you are invited to a potluck dinner at the club. This is a kick off to the 2008 Cruising Season, with an informal discussion to follow dinner on the type and timing of events for the upcoming year.

Last year was quite successful, so we will probably use that as a guideline. However let's get together an open the floor to new ideas.

One suggestion that has been put forward is for a social evening for

Cruisers who are interested in going to the North Channel, to meet with experienced cruisers to get help and advice. Watch the website calendar and Soundings for such an evening some time in March.



January 19, 2008 at SPSC Games Night - we were also celebrating Jan Pye's 80th birthday early (actually January 23) with a wonderful cake Loretta Buckner made. Great fun was had by all present. Come out some Saturday night when we have 'Games Night' - who knows, you might win some money at 'Pay Me'.

**Card & Games Night 7:30 p.m.  
February 2nd and 16th**

## Racing Chair, Chris Eagen

There is a very good chance we will be moving the SPSC Invitational from the current weekend, to the long weekend in August. The move will give us the opportunity to put on a party Sunday evening, allowing for camping and providing simple things like a Sunday and Monday morning breakfast. It will also allow clubs like LaSalle Mariners more time for travelling. I will approach the City Marina to see if there is any possibility Regatta participants could be afforded dockage at a reduced rate. Nothing is confirmed at this date, but more details will follow with the planning of the Regatta. Please post any comments under Racing section of the Forum on our website at [www.southportsailingclub.com](http://www.southportsailingclub.com) or contact me directly at 519-251-8067

Our Club has always offered top notch racing. My brother Fred, has agreed to act as Race Committee again this year, for all our Wednesday night races. There are still events that I need club members to act as Race Committee. You can get in your work hours while enjoying the comfort of our new 27' committee cruiser. If you do not know how to do Race Committee, come out on a Wednesday night and learn what it's all about. I am also looking for volunteers willing to take on and oversee other jobs relating to racing at the club.



- 505 Regatta, May 24-25: 5 members for RC duties
- Shark Provincials, July 5-6: 6 members for RC duties
- SPSC Invitational, August:
  - 4 members for RC duties
  - 1 member to oversee Sunday dinner
  - 1 member to organize breakfasts
- Harvest Moon, Sept 20: 4 members for RC duties.

If you can assist with any of the above, please contact Chris.

## VHF (Maritime) Radio Certificate With DSC Endorsement

### The Windsor Power and Sail Squadron

Will be offering two VHF courses prior to the start of the boating season

One will be held at Southport Sailing Club

On March 11, 13 and the exam on March 18, 2008

At 7:00 pm

Another will be held at the Essex Centre

On March 25, 27 with exam on April 1, 2008

The cost of the course is \$60.00

If you are interested in getting this certificate (Required to operate your radio legally)

Please contact Ken Blyth or Jeanne Marchand: 519 727 6317

This may be the last chance to get this certificate this season

Call early. Enough students will be required to form a class at SPSC



# Property Chair, Peter Soles

## Major Projects 2008

Concrete sidewalk along E dock	5,000.00
Construction of moveable bar for club functions	2,000.00
Replace carpet in lounge/portion flooring	2,200.00
<b>TOTAL MAJOR PROJECTS BUDGET</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>

## Minor Projects 2008

Waste removal, clubhouse supplies etc..	6,000.00
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Painting areas to be identified-repair balance of sprinkler system-change spotlight bulbs to low wattage fluorescent-bike rack-dig and brick fire pit-repairs to dock light-replace outside electrical ensure box-replace one or more toilets-repair hole in eaves/downspout at entrance door-improve recycle bins-service BBQ's and repair as required-obtain quotes on dumpster to verify competitiveness

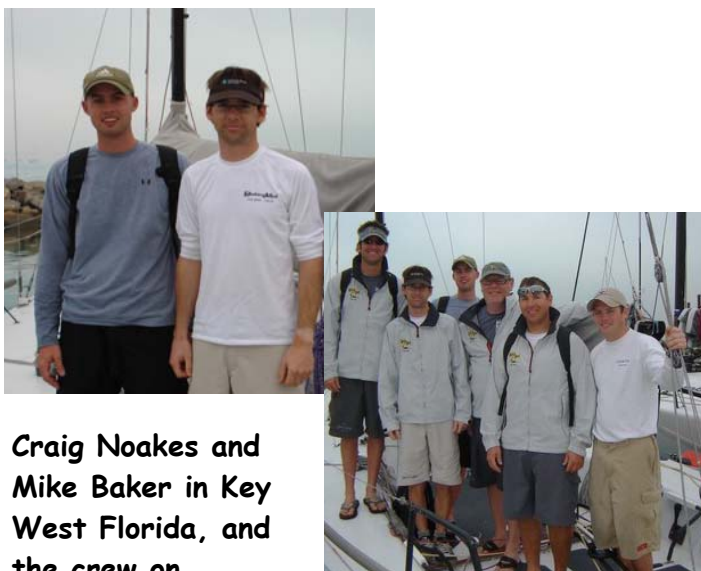
## TOTAL PROPERTY BUDGET

FOR 2008: \$ 15,200.00

**Future Years Projects** include installing a storm drain and catch basin in driveway and a concrete sidewalk for F dock.



# Acura Key West Regatta



**Craig Noakes and Mike Baker in Key West Florida, and the crew on Black Seal.**

Two South Port Sailors carried the Club Flag to the Acura Key West Regatta Week in late January. Craig Noakes (now living in Halifax) was crewing on Black Seal out of Cleveland Ohio and Mike Baler ran foredeck on Mulligan out of Annapolis MD. Boat boats are Mumm 30's. One day of racing was cancelled because of high winds and seas, and another because of no wind at all. Black Seal placed 8th and Mulligan 14th. A good time was had by all!

*Photos and article by Lynn Baker*

# America's Cup Match Race,

by Jackie Timothy



**Top photo: Our competition;**

**Lower: A great way to spend an afternoon**

January 17, 2008 on a sunny day in Puerto Vallarta we were aboard the 78-foot Australia 2000 with a captain, 5 of the AUS 31 crew and 12 guests. Two boats were on the water that day, and we completed one race. Dave did some grinding and I called the 6 minute countdown to the starts. During the second race, the mast track pulled away and the race was cancelled. Following a temporary repair, we continued on to enjoy a 2-hour cruise of Banderas Bay. These are the original boats, now equipped with motors to allow exit and re-entry into the Vallarta Marina. The only extra equipment were the coolers to hold the drinks!

# February 2008 Calendar

This is the calendar displayed on the Web site. For details on each entry, please click on *calendar* from <http://www.southportsailingclub.com> (the links are NOT active in *Soundings* but details will be included in the newsletter).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
					<a href="#">Dragon Boat Team Meeting 9:00 a.m.-Cards 7:30 p.m.</a>	<a href="#">Clubhouse -Zsarqo S &amp; K</a>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<a href="#">Virtual Racing</a>					<a href="#">CRUISING POT LUCK 6:00 p.m.</a>	<a href="#">Clubhouse-Allum P</a>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<a href="#">Executive Meeting 7:15 p.m.</a>					<a href="#">DOCK WORK PARTY - Card nite 7:30 p.m.</a>	<a href="#">Clubhouse -Andrews G &amp; P</a>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<a href="#">Virtual Racing</a>						<a href="#">Clubhouse -Arthur W</a>
25	26	27	28	29		
<a href="#">Virtual Racing</a>						

## Soundings

is the newsletter of the South Port Sailing Club

210 Brighton Rd.

Tecumseh, ON N8N 2L3

519.979.7772

[www.southportsailingclub.com](http://www.southportsailingclub.com)

Editor: Jackie Timothy

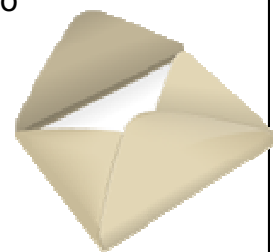
Please send your contributions for the March issue by

February 23rd to Jackie:

519.971.9699

[robtim@cogeco.ca](mailto:robtim@cogeco.ca)

Thanks to David and Nora Walton who will be taking over the monthly mailing of Soundings. They joined South Port in 2007, and stepped up to the plate within days of our request in Soundings!



## Clubhouse duties for week of:

**March 2** T & D Asseltine    **March 16** K & J Blythe  
**March 9** L & D Beaucage    **March 23** G & V Boivin

Sea & Ski  
 Wednesday night Seminars  
 Windsor Yacht Club  
 Jan 30 thru March 5  
 Details on SPSP Web site



**Annual  
 Membership  
 Meeting  
 March 3**

**7:00 p.m.  
 at SPSC**