

# SPAR AND PROP

APRIL, 2006

NUMBER 174



LOOK  
LISTEN  
EASTER  
LAUNCH



Drawing by  
Marie Middleton



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Sailing Club Executive Board**

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# Calendar

**Easter Parade—Sunday, April 16**—Participate in the largest Easter Parade. See it from the inside. The kids love marching. We always have a great time. Contact Vice-Commodore Marilyn Goodman for details.

**LAUNCH DAY—Saturday, May 6**—Before you know it we'll be rushing to complete our preparations for putting the boat in the water. Plan your list now.

**Measuring Days—Sat. and Sun, May 13-14**—All racers must have their sails measured. This will confirm your handicap so let's get it done. There is no cost to the racers. Even if you're not racing until later in the season, get measured now.

**Warm-up Race—Wednesday, May 17**—Tune your rig, make sure everything is working properly.

**Ice Breaker—Saturday, May 20**—This is our first long-distance race of the season. New Race Captain, new Rear Commodore. Come out and see what kind of course they will give us.

**Race Series I—Race 1—Wednesday, May 24**—This one will count. Prizes every race. See Race Captain John Morris' article on page 5.

**Race Series I—Race 2—Wednesday, May 31**—Remember, there are prizes for every race. Get measured in on May 13-14.

**First Rookie Race Night—Friday, June 2**—First in a series of every other Friday night races for beginners. Lots of help, lots of information on how to race, how to have fun and how racing improves your sailing skills.

**First Club Cruise—Sat. and Sun. June 3 & 4**—Lakeshore YC. Cruisers have a great time. A destination, good company, delightful location. See page 4.

**Race Series I—Race 3—Wednesday, June 7**—Every Wednesday evening for the rest of the summer. Get some use out of your boat mid-week.

**SAIL PAST—Saturday, June 10**—Our biggest event of the year. Get your tickets at Launch Day. Plan for a great day with all your friends. Tickets are only required if you want the delicious dinner.

**Race Series I—Race 4—Wednesday, June 14**—We're here, where are you?

**Rookie Race 2—Friday, June 16**—Increase your skill level, learn from experts.

**Distance Race—Saturday, June 17**—Around the *distant* marks.

**Race Series I—Race 5—Wednesday, June 21**—We're here, where are you?

**Bluffers Park Cruise—Sat. and Sun. June 24 & 25**—To the east, and not too far.

**Race Series II—Race 1—Wednesday, June 28**—A new Series is starting. Get in at the start and get lots of points.

**Rookie Race 3—Friday, June 30**—Increase your skill level, learn from experts.

**Port Credit YC Cruise—Sat. to Mon. July 1 to 3**—Spend the weekend at this fine Club and with all your friends from TH&SC.

**Frenchman's Bay YC—July 15 & 16**—Combined Distance Race and Cruise.

## LAUNCH DAY

and Silent Auction

Saturday, May 6

See the bulletin board for information and your work assignment. Please don't be late so we can start on time.

## Sail Past

Saturday, June 10

*Be sure to get your tickets for dinner early. NOTE: Tickets are only required for dinner, come and enjoy the whole day.*

# COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Lee Rixon

WINTER IS OVER and spring is starting to weave her magic. I've already pulled my tarp off, and it will soon be time to drain the antifreeze, charge the batteries and get the boat ready for this sailing season. I can hardly wait!

If you haven't been into the clubhouse all winter, pop in and take a look at the second floor. Thanks to George, who ripped out all of the old carpet and John and his helpers, we have a new hardwood floor that has given a whole new look to the upstairs area. When this is combined with the balcony, I'm sure that it will totally revitalize the upper floors of our clubhouse and make it a great place to sit out and watch the world go by.

The balcony is one of the large projects for this year and will need all of your help and support to bring to completion. As usual with our club, the construction will all be done by our membership, so when it is completed, we should all be proud of the accomplishment. Jamie Smallwood is actively looking for volunteers to help with this. Right now, Jamie is in the process of finalizing plans and getting permits, and then as soon as the lease is signed it will be all hands on deck—literally!

On news from outside our club, Shelley Gautier, who is the Commodore of the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario made a presentation to the Council of Commodores and asked for help from the yacht club community. The DSAO are looking for both volunteers and donations, and you will find an insert in this edition of Spar and Prop that gives more details about who the DSAO are and what they are looking for. She made a very compelling presentation about the impact that these sailing programs have on the disabled community, and I heartily endorse their efforts.

I promised you all an update on the lease situation. We are trying to get in touch with the city lawyer who is responsible for finalizing the leases for all of the yacht clubs and move this along. The wheels of bureaucracy can sometimes grind very slowly. As you know, we have some very expensive projects that we want to move forward on, but it simply isn't prudent to proceed until we have our lease. Keith Willson and Bill King have been

working on this on our behalf. Unfortunately, I don't have anything to report to you at this point. To that end, we are continuing all of our maintenance projects to keep our club facilities working well (dock work, electrical upgrades etc). Major capital projects are going to be put on hold once the planning for them is completed until we have finalized the lease, and then we will get our hammers and saws out.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone about Harbour Licenses. The club falls within the confines of the area that is declared as "Toronto Harbour" and as such every member with a boat that has an engine is required both by law and by our own club bylaws to have a Harbour License. For any member that needs to get one, I understand that ABYC will be putting on the course again this year, and we will be posting a notice of the dates when we have confirmed them. You can also book to take the test at the Outer Harbour Marina.

Hopefully I'll see you all down the club polishing your boats in the very near future, and fingers crossed for a nice, sunny spring. ▲



## OOD Program 2005

Sign-up calendar is now available in  
the clubhouse

### OOD Hours

FRIDAY 16:00 - 20:00

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

11:00 - 15:00

15:00 - 19:00

HOLIDAY MONDAY'S

15:00 - 19:00

For further information contact  
Joan Willson at  
416-759-1846 ▲

# VICE COMMODORE

Marilyn Goodman

WE ARE PLEASED TO welcome one new Sailing Member to our Club. Vince Carlucci will be bringing in his Custom Cutter a few days before launch and it looks like a very interesting boat. Please welcome Vince when you see him wandering around.

Our next Event is the Lions Club's Easter Parade which is the largest annual Easter Parade in North America. Harry Pietersen and his wife Karen have kindly offered the use their CL16 once again and it will be decorated with an assortment of flags, banners and stuffed bunnies.

The Parade will be on Sunday, April 16th. And if you would like to take part please contact me at 416-429-2598 or [shandy@colosseum.com](mailto:shandy@colosseum.com). We are looking for children and walkers to come along to help promote our wonderful Club—and more important—to hand out candy to the crowds that line the Parade route. This year we will also have a pink bunny as part of our group.

Lastly—we are already gearing up for Launch Day on Saturday, May 6th and the Silent Auction to help raise funds for the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario. Please see the advertisement in this Issue and help make this a successful event. ▲



# WAYS AND MEANS

Patrick Lyons

REMINDER—New for 2006—email address for Ways and Means is [waysandmeans@thsc.ca](mailto:waysandmeans@thsc.ca)

Plans to post projects by January 1st fell by the wayside and the yen to travel to warmer climes took over. During March, some project details were finalized and posted in the binder at the Club and on the TH&SC website. Further projects will be identified and posted as they come up.

Be sure and check the Ways and Means section of the bulletin board and/or [www.thsc.ca](http://www.thsc.ca) Ways and Means webpage. Similar to last year, project details will be found in the binder at the Club or by email when accessing the website. ▲



# RACE COMMITTEE NEWS

by Lorne Vineberg

THE RACE COMMITTEE on *Shadow* looks forward to a great racing season. As this is written, I see that *Shadow* has been fitted with two new opening portholes making it easier for the helmsperson to communicate to anyone on the foredeck or to starboard. A non-slip surface has been painted—quite artistically, I might add—on the cabin and cockpit floors to improve safety...and the boat's still in drydock.

Thank you, thank you, for this great beginning! We are hoping for some mechanical work to reduce engine emissions. And we will try to find a solution to control flags and shapes so that they are all there when needed. Our experience is that when the boat is used by other members and other Clubs, it often comes back to us shy of what we last stored. Please—if you use or borrow the flags, it's to everyone's benefit for you to return them where and as found.

This year, we are determined to stick to the official starting time as posted on the black (green) board in the clubhouse. No interference in this matter will be tolerated as in the past, because it just got everyone upset. We will also give up on starting races in winds that are too light or non-existent. Even though some racers enjoy the challenge of light wind racing, the race fleet at large does not enjoy drifting from the start to the first mark, if that far. However, if there is sufficient air albeit light to have a race, we'll go for it. Be assured that the Race Committee will not deliberately get it wrong.

We are going to vary the course occasionally. When I came on board years ago, the message was that racers wanted it to be the same triangle then up-down-upwind, and By Golly, that's what the RC will give them every time. Apparently that isn't what racers want, and the RC is in agreement. We'll get some guidelines to reduce the guesswork, and try something different to suit the conditions. The numbers posted across *Shadow's* stern show you what course to follow. We still have a supply of laminated course layout information, free for the asking.

Finally, we are following some leads to bring on a crew member who

is as good as Bill Middleton was/is in foretelling the weather. We need help in reading the waves, wavelets, squalls, shifts and such.

If you haven't raced in previous seasons, or if you once raced and then gave it up, or if you've always wanted to give it a try, let this summer be a fresh start. ▲

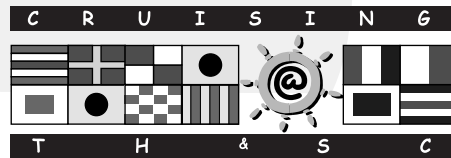


## FLEET CAPTAIN CRUISING

Chris Hanson

EYC will be coming to THSC for Jazz weekend.

We are confirmed for our EYC cruise in Sept.



The schedule is now complete and I am looking forward to another great season of cruising and socializing. The only change to this year's itinerary is the combination of a race/cruise to Frenchman's Bay in July. Hopefully we will have a big turnout with the racers and maybe get a few more converts discovering that they are always welcome to join in on the relaxed side of sailing.

Canada Day festivities will be held at the Port Credit Yacht Club, so make a plan to take in the fun with some sailing, swimming and fireworks. If you can't make it by boat, you are invited to attend any of the cruises by land yacht just make sure you sign up on the cruising signup sheet.

A reminder note: In order to claim an official 2006 TH&SC Club Cruises flag you must have attended 3 of the 6 cruises this season.

### Cruising NEWS

I have been attending the preliminary LOCCA meetings representing TH&SC. LOCCA stands for Lake Ontario Cruising Clubs Association. Its mission is to provide support and interaction between all clubs cruising the waters of Lake Ontario. One of its functions is to facilitate inter-club cruise bookings with a data base on each providing information on slip availability, events in that area (regattas - reunions) etc. This will be quite handy in the future for organizing and booking cruises.

Each club cruising captain will be able to access a proposed venue and see immediately how many slips are available, a link will then forward the request to the club's cruising captain and / or club manager.

This site will also be invaluable to the individual cruiser. Imagine you decide on going somewhere for the weekend but are not sure if there will be space available. By searching the LOCCA website you will be able to see if there are any major activities scheduled at that destination, and while you won't be able to book it online you will have the foresight to know that your odds are good at finding a spot there that evening. A phone call or radio communication will then help reserve your space.

I hope you will join us for a cruise this year.  
Chris and Elizabeth

### 2006 CRUISING SCHEDULE



Lakeshore YC  
— June 3-4



Bluffer's Park YC  
— June 24-25



Port Credit YC  
(Canada Day)  
Sat., July 1st - 3rd



Frenchman's Bay YC  
— July 15-16



Mimico CC  
— Aug. 19-20



Etobicoke YC  
— Sept. 9-10

## REAR COMMODORE

Mona Anderson

ATTENTION RACERS!

### CALENDAR CHANGES

RACERS' MEETING—IS NOT MARCH 12th

The new date is **Wednesday, May 10th.**

This will be the kick-off for the Wednesday Night racing. Warm Up race is the following **Wednesday, May 17th**, and the following Wednesday after that, **May 21st**, will be the start of the real thing...Series I, Race 1.

MEASURING IN DAY—IS NOT MAY 20th

Measuring sails will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, May 13th, and 14th** in preparation for the Warm Up race on May 17th. These measurements will be used to complete your PHRF certificate.

ICE BREAKER—FIRST LONG DISTANCE RACE—**Saturday, MAY 20th**

Stay Tuned for more details.

If you have any questions, please contact Race Fleet Captain—John Morris at [john4sail@hotmail.com](mailto:john4sail@hotmail.com) ▲

## RACING CAPTAIN

John Morris

**R**ACING. Basically a dumb idea!

It's a commentary on our lives. Each crew gets in the boat, works like demons to maximize their performance, strain our brains looking for a strategic and tactical advantage. For as much as two hours, human interaction and boat handling skills are pushed as hard as we are able. And in the end, we wind up right back where we started. Is that productive?

No, but it is a heck of a lot of fun. Once again, it's Racing Night in Hydroplaneland. A national institution.

This year, while a lot remains the same, some things have changed (particularly my handicap, which is soaring through the roof). There will be an attempt this year to 'crisp things up'. This is in reaction to those blokes who call anything more structured than total mayhem over-regulated. But yes, in an initiative to make things

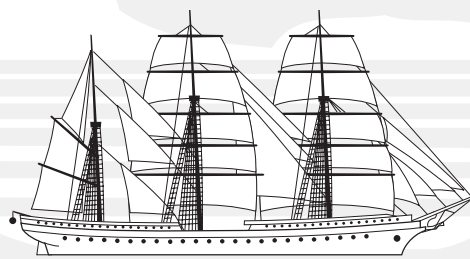
even better, we are going to move toward somewhat more structured racing. We will start with a more uniform approach to handicapping, using PHRF-LO exclusively. No whining for breaks, no slipping the handicapper a Wisers; we will all be measured and rated objectively for better or worse. Did I mention I get hammered under PHRF system?

Just a note about handicaps—they are an unfortunate fact of life when we race different boats. Certainly the world would be a better place if we all sailed T-Birds, but I cannot see that happening anytime soon.

There will be an exciting new prize structure this year. I don't want to spoil the surprise, but there will be awards after EVERY race, on Wednesdays and on weekends. The honour will come with a wonderful gift, so if for some peculiar reason you haven't registered, I advise you to do so immediately. First, second and third place boats PLUS a wild card boat will be recognized in each division at every event. Awards will take place approximately 30–45 minutes after the committee hits the dock (oops, ties up) after each event. Be there!

This may be a good time to note that my own handicap will likely prevent me from taking any prizes and I am not happy about it. Lou and I can be friends nonetheless (perhaps).

Other improvements include a commitment of clarity in the instructions and on-time starting as much as possible, thanks to our keener-than-ever RC crew. The summary: better racing, great prizes, more fun. See you Wednesdays! ▲



## TREASURER

Mike Baker

**A**T THE TIME OF WRITING this report approximately 97% of our 2006 membership fees are in. There is always a small minority of late payers, who, either due to travels, forgetfulness or who simply did not

read the material sent out alerting them of the scheduled due date of Feb. 28th.

In future, please do not leave your membership fee in cash in the mailbox. We cannot be held responsible for missing cash and therefore will only accept cheques, money orders or bank drafts.

Also please print the member's name on your cheque when the cheque is issued by either a company, in form of a bank draft, or by a person who holds a different name than the member. It would save a lot of guess work especially when the signed waiver is not included!

Our Financial Statements for the year ending December 2005 are finalized. Anyone wishing to inspect them, please call me or my wife Eva and we will make arrangements for you to do so.

Nobody needs to be reminded of the following, however I will put it in writing anyway, just to be certain everybody is aware. Again, to all those who have not yet paid their 2006 membership dues, note that up to March 31st the new balance included the 10% late penalty fee of the total amount. After March 31st and up to April 30th. there will a further 10% penalty compounded. Any debts not settled by launch day—May 6th—means these members' boats will not be launched. I am sure nobody would want to experience that scenario! Anyway, this is enough preaching for one day.

Our Ways and Means Chair, Patrick Lyons, is presently on holiday, but I know how hard and diligently he worked prior to his departure to arrange members' work duties for the necessary pre-launch yard and dock work.

Again this year, I am appealing to our members to put in your two workdays (or even a little more if you are so inclined—this is always welcome!) because our Vice Commodore is not too thrilled having to bill for missed or neglected work days at the end of the year.

With spring now officially presiding, at least according to the calendar, we hope soon to also feel the warmer spring temperatures and the initiative to work on our boats.

We hope to meet everyone out there as we all primp, polish and shine our boats in anticipation of another great sailing season. ▲



## AROUND THE CANS

by Mona Anderson

**T**HE BREEZE IS FEELING warmer. The days are growing longer. The tarps are coming off. Maybe you've been thinking about bottom paint. Make it VC17 this year and get out on the race course. Here's a list of other things you can do to help you get in shape.

### GETTING READY FOR RACE SEASON

Buy a case of beer, sit with it in a very warm place for 3 hours then drink it.

Apply sunscreen to your face in streaks and sit in front of a sun lamp for two hours

Sit on a bench with sharp metal edges digging into the backs of your knees for two hours and stare up into the sun. For a more robust workout, invite four friends to come over and shout at you at five-minute intervals.

Go out and get very drunk, sleep for two hours then stand on a rocking chair for four hours.

Go to the bank, withdraw \$1,000 then light it on fire.

Sit in front of a large commercial fan and have someone throw large buckets of water at you.

Repeat number six in jeans and sweatshirt. Keep head turned sideways to ensure water lodges fully into eardrum.

Cut limb off nearby tree and tie several ropes to it. Stand on rocking chair holding tree limb and ropes above your head for three hours. Drop the limb on your head from time to time. For a more robust workout, have four friends shout at you at five-minute intervals.

Set your wristwatch alarm to five-minute repeating counts ... let it go off all day long.

Pour cold water in your lap, give yourself a wedgie then alternate between sitting and running around bent over.

Tie ropes between two trees and push your body against them as hard as you can for four hours. Don't stop for pain or bruising.

Glue sandpaper on your stairs; crawl up and down on your knees for several hours.

Make 12 sandwiches on white bread with bad meat and cram them into a bread bag—eat one a day for 12 consecutive days. Make the last one peanut butter and jelly if preparing for Race Week.

Tie ropes to the rear bumper of a friend's car. Holding the ropes firmly, allow them to slide through your hands as car drives away. Best results achieved with nylon fibre rope lengths in excess of 50 feet.

Upon completion of previous drills, sit down and drink 14 Mt. Gay rum drinks, any flavour.

*"The chance of mistakes is about equal to the number of crew squared"*

—Ted Turner ▲



NZ America's Cup boat—Auckland

### TORONTO HYDROPLANE & SAILING CLUB

## Silent Auction

Launch Day  
Saturday May 6, 2006

Please donate your gently used or new items for a great Cause.

All proceeds will be donated to the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario. Check out their website at [www.disabledsailing.on.ca](http://www.disabledsailing.on.ca)

Please bring your items to the Club Friday May 5th – after 4:00 pm or early Saturday morning.

This event was truly disappointing last year when we raised just \$105. In the past we have done much better and raised over \$900. Let's try and beat even that amount this year.

## PROPERTY MGR.

Dennis MacCallum

### ISN'T IT GREAT?

Spring just around the corner and the excitement is starting to build. Sailors are a fortunate lot in that we have this to look forward to every year.

Even my friends who aren't sailors, always about this time of year greet me with "you must be getting excited". Sometimes, for some extra fun of my own, I ask them what they mean, and they always answer "You know... getting the boat in the water".

It has been fun around the club as well. Through the winter we have planned spring and summer projects and made a list of jobs that will improve the look of the club and keep up with our maintenance. Honestly, the property is in good shape with only minor things to be done to keep it looking fine.

We started off the year by replacing windows that have needed replacing for a long time. If you haven't sat in the west portion of the first floor lately, you are in for a surprise. You can now see right through the glass, all the way to the docks! There is a small job left to finishing the trim and that is one of the jobs on the list.

You will notice that only some windows on the second floor have been changed. We are waiting for the new deck / balcony to be finished before deciding exactly what is going there. I won't go into the details as I'm sure you know that the construction of the deck is dependent on the signing of the lease.

John Soltys completely finished the hardwood on the second floor after George pulled up the old carpet. For all you people keeping track, these two were fast off the mark; George lifting the carpet single-handed and John laying the complete floor. They did enough man-hours on this project alone to cover their work hours for two and a half years.

We are planning to construct a new glass cabinet to house club trophies. It will be installed on the second floor, in place of the railing, overlooking the first floor. That way it can be seen from two perspectives.

Other jobs will be replacing tile and sinks in the south washrooms, doing some proper air venting in the north washrooms and painting and

## Property Mgr...

Continued from page 6

cleaning where necessary.

The gravel in the parking lot, after the proper drainage was installed, appears to have solved the water problem we suffered through for so many years. I'm hoping you find getting to your boat easier and without the mud your ladder will be cleaner! It will require some grading once the boats are in the water to clear out some humps. We will complete the job by bringing in extra loads of stone for the north laneway down along the "workshop".

The absence of garbage bins along the dock last year worked well, so we will continue with the same program this year. Please remember to put cardboard and bottles in the recycling bins, as we pay for the dumpster, but the city takes the recycling for free. We found last year there was good use made of the recycling as every two weeks every bin we have was full by pick up day. Thanks.

Do not put plastic tarps or shrink-wrap in the dumpster as it only takes a few and the dumpster is full. Another reason is they tend to fall out when the bin is lifted overhead onto the truck. Please roll up your tarp if you plan to dispose of it. You have two choices.

You can take it home or put it by the north fence where the old deck boards are. We have a large open dumpster coming in again before launch for cleanup and anything you have on or near your boat you want to get rid of, this will be the time.

Take a look at the job list from time to time. You may be surprised to find a small job you can do.

Here's to a good sailing season! ▲



## HERBS

Donated by the Willsons

This year we will be planting Tyme, Parsley, Rosemary, Basil, Sage and will transplant Chives from the garden at home.

As you know many herbs are perennials, will come up year after year. This year we will be starting the garden from the ground up with markers to tell you the names of the plants.

Please give them a little time to establish, then feel free to pinch off a few leaves while you are cooking on the patio.

Herbs are great in salads, cooked with vegetables and used in marinades. ▲

## HYDROPLANE WANTED

by Marilyn Goodman

**Hydroplane - Hot Ticket, a conventional Lauterbach built in the early '70s. Class 225, Boat# N-99**

I have received an enquiry from Tim O'Connor who is searching for an older hydroplane detailed above that was owned by his Father. It was supposedly turned into a two-seater.

Tim would like to locate, purchase and hopefully restore this boat, and I am hoping one of our members can help Tim find the hydroplane.

If you have any information, please contact Tim at [edenfd1@adelphia.net](mailto:edenfd1@adelphia.net) ▲



## WEATHER RESOURCES

by Ron Bianchi

**Highly Recommended Resources**  
Books

Most of the books below can be bought at <http://www.nauticalmind.com/> or you could go to the Amazon or Chapters online to order them.

**Meteorology Today 7th Ed., C.D**  
Ahrens, Thomson Brooks/Cole Publishing, ISBN 0-534-39771-9 Wind, Weather & Waves Environment Canada, OSA

**The Weather Handbook**, by Alan Watts, ISBN 0-924486-76-7 Sheridan House Publishing

**Weather at Sea**, by David Houghton/Fred Sanders, International Marine Publishing

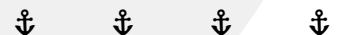
**Heavy Weather Guide 2nd ed.,** by Kotsch/Henderson, Naval Institute Press. ISBN 0-87021-263-X

**Weather Maps (2nd ed.): How to Read and Interpret Wx Charts**, by P.Chaston, (816) 628 4770

**Practical Weather Forecasting** by Frank Mitchell, Christie Barron's Publishing

Continued on page 9

Editor's e-mail address is  
**[rwt@total.net](mailto:rwt@total.net)**



The Deadline for the  
JUNE issue of  
Spar & Prop is  
**May 31**



Spar and Prop is available in  
PDF format, readable on a  
computer in colour with  
Adobe Acrobat Reader.  
Available from our website.

Website address is  
**[www.thsc.ca](http://www.thsc.ca)**



## BUT, HEY!!! ...THAT'S THE ADVENTURE

by Eric Muff

THE LAST TIME WE CHATTED we were about to sail from beautiful downtown Antigua to beautiful downtown Barbados. And by God, we did.



Of the six ports-of-call we visited on this itinerary, four of them I visited before. The two new ones are the last two: Roseau, in Dominica and Roadtown, in Tortola.

Tortola has always conjured up romantic images in my boyish mind. I visualize pirates, buried treasure, privateers and all that other neat shit that Robert Louis Stevenson and Daniel Defoe and others used to paint so vividly for us male youngsters.

And here's a little gem that *all* females on this planet know... "the male members of the tribe *never* grow up."

I thank God for the little romance left in this world, we have lost so much. What is left for the poor children of today and tomorrow?

The first change I noticed in the Islands was the abundance of motor cars. Thousands of motor cars cumbering the streets. Shit! You could spit from one end to the other of most Islands, why would you need a car?

We have given up the lovely aroma of hibiscus for the deadly aroma of carbon monoxide. A pox on you Mr. Ford, and all your ilk. And to compound the matter, they drive on the wrong side.

It's Friday the 23rd of December when we arrive in Bridgetown (and, by the way, the bridge is being rebuilt down at the carenage under the watchful eye (no pun intended) of Horatio Nelson.).

I took my "unromantic" grandson across the makeshift bridge to a dockside pub I was familiar with for a feed of flying fish. He was not impressed. Shit! He probably doesn't even know where Mandalay is, let alone the Road. He probably thinks it's a casino in Vegas.

But, hey!!!...that's the adventure.

Barbados is just 21 miles long and 14 miles across at it's widest point.

There were Amerindians on Barbados for upward of a thousand years. The first Europeans to find the Island were Portuguese, who named it "Os Barbados" after the bearded fig trees that grew on the beaches. Barba, as you know, means beard. Barbados translates to the "Bearded Ones". When they left, they left behind some wild pigs which bred successfully and provided meat for the first English settlers who arrived in 1627.

When and why the Amerindians left is not recorded.

Very pretty Island, very British, terrific snorkeling and magnificent beaches.



I always grin when I spend Christmas in the tropics and I hear "White Christmas" being played on steel drums. Bah! Humbug!

From Barbados we scoot southward and westward to the beautiful Island of Grenada. This is another wee island I have been caught mispronouncing. Having a decided musical bent, I was in the habit of calling it Gren-ah-dah, after the beautiful song about Gren-ah-dah in Espanole. The locals, on hearing this, would slap my wrist and say "it is Gren-eh-dah", thank you very kindly. Just another of my many faux-passes.

But, hey!!!...that's the adventure.

Grenada was discovered by our busy, old friend Chris in 1498. But because of the hostility of the Carib Indians it remained uncolonized until 1650 when the French founded St. George's. Personally I find this difficult to digest. I can't see the frogs, oops!, French naming anything after the Patron Saint of England, we must have changed it from something else after we kicked the s, oops!, defeated them again.

But I digress.

The British captured the Island in 1762 and it was recaptured by the French in 1779 and ceded to Britain in 1783.

Grenada is the southernmost of the Windward Islands. The Capital, largest town and principal port is St. George's, on the southwestern coast.

Grenada has been dubbed "The Isle of Spice" and is responsible for one-third of the world's nutmeg production. If the wind is right you can actually sniff the spices in the air.

It is Saturday, December 24th and the locals are making a final pitch to the gullible tourists. Tomorrow, Sunday, is Christmas Day, and we will arrive in beautiful, downtown Dominica.

We have been warned that seeing as how it's Sunday *and* Christmas, nothing would be open (but the places of worship) and they were right, tighter than the proverbial. A handful of die-hard street vendors were on the docks.

So we ~~whin~~ whined and dined on board.

Christmas was celebrated alongside in Roseau, Dominica. Another Island sighted and named by Chris in November 1493. The natives here also resisted colonization and a foothold was not gained 'till 1632 by the French. They retained parts of the Island until 1763 when it was assigned to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris.

Dominica became fully independent in November 1978 and joined the Commonwealth of Nations. Some 3,000 descendants of the Carib Indians still inhabit the Island.

Monday 26 December finds us in beautiful, downtown Roadtown on the lovely Island of Tortola.

Tortola, the "Dove of Peace", also



discovered by Chris in 1493. The English were the first to settle here by 1680, successfully farming sugar cane and planting cotton.

Tortola is the largest of more than fifty islands comprising the British

*Continued on page 9*



## But, Hey!!!...

Continued from page 8

Virgin Islands. Roadtown, on the south coast, is the busy capital of the British Virgins, as well as the central administrative and business centre of the territory.

Once a hang-out of the nefarious Sir Francis Drake and his rowdies, it finally gave over to the sugar business by the end of the 17th century. It now relies on tourism for its economy.



As well as Francis Drake, Sam Bellamy, Blackbeard, Bluebeard and Van Dyke used to make Tortola their stompin' ground. Today, most of Tortola's 16,000 inhabitants live in Roadtown.

Roadtown was one of my favourite stops. The roads and sidewalks were in better condition, fewer hills and fewer cars, but lots of rum. The "Pusser's Rum" company has their head office here with a terrific restaurant/store (even free samples). They cater mostly to the sailing crowd. Another thing that turned me on, chickens abound in the downtown area.



Most cities have pigeons, Tortola has chickens. I like it.

Two more glorious days at sea and we're back in the Big Apple (and the cold weather).

I spend another day and night in N.Y. and my grandson flies home.

And a goodly time was had by all.

Before I "gang awah", let me leave you with another entry for your book of useless information.

*Statue of Liberty Stats.*

The lady in the harbour is 101 feet tall, from the base to torch, 305 feet tall from pedestal foundation to torch. She has a 35-foot waist and an eight-foot index finger and she weighs 450,000 pounds. Didn't I tell you that obesity was going to destroy this planet?

But, hey!!!...that's the adventure.

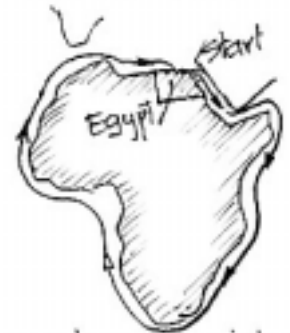
And remember, my children, there are only three kinds of people on this planet. Those who can do math, and those who can't. ▲



## Nauticals

**Early navigators:** according to the Greek historian, Herodotus, Egypt's Pharaoh, Necho II, sent an expedition to sea about 600BC to sail south from the Red Sea as far south as possible, while remaining within sight of land. Three years later the expedition sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar, into the Mediterranean Sea, and then home to Egypt. In effect they had circumnavigated the Continent of Africa and by even the roughest measurement sailed some 15,000 miles.

Necho II was also the first person to consider building a canal across the Isthmus of Suez to connect the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. His attempt to build the canal was unsuccessful (dated 610 BC) and it is said that at least 12,000 slaves perished during the digging operations.



## Weather Resources...

Continued from page 6

**Mariner's Weather Handbook**, Steve & Linda Dashew, Beowulf Inc., ISBN 09658028-2-5 (Great Offshore Weather book)

**Weather For the Mariner** by Kotsch, Naval Institute Press, ISBN 0-87021-756-9

**Understanding Weather Fax**, by Mike Harris

Magazines about the weather

**Weatherwise** ~ \$45 /year [www.weatherwise.org](http://www.weatherwise.org)

**Mariners Weather Log** - US Government

<http://vos.noaa.gov/mwl.shtml>

Learning Weather CD ROMS

**WW2010** - University of Illinois - Great Met course - Cheap!


[http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/home.xml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/home.xml)

**Coastal Weather for BC Mariners** - Environment Canada


**Images of Meteorology** - [www.met.ed.ac.uk/calmet/](http://www.met.ed.ac.uk/calmet/)

**Starpeth Weather Trainer** - go to


<http://www.nauticalmind.com/>




## April 2006




Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>SPIT, POLISH, PAINT AND WASH TIME</b>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter Parade 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<b>ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO FINISH THE JOBS</b>					




## May 2006




Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6 LAUNCH DAY
7	8	9	Race Meeting 10	11	12	13 Measuring Day for Racing Sails
14	15	16	Warm-up Race 17	18	19	20 Ice Breaker Distance Race
21	22	23	Series I Race 1 24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Series I Race 2 31			
<b>LAUNCH, RIG, SHAKEDOWN AND START THE SEASON</b>						




## June 2006



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>JOIN THE ACTIVITIES</b>						
LYC Cruise 4	5	6	Series I Race 3 7	8	9	10 SAIL PAST
11	12	13	Series I Race 4 14	15	16	17 Distance Race
18	19	20	Series I Race 5 21	22	23	24 BPYC Cruise
BPYC Cruise 25	26	27	Series II Race 1 28	29	30	
<b>USE YOUR BOAT MIDWEEK—RACE ON WEDNESDAYS</b>						



## July 2006



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>TIME TO GET SOME MILES UNDER YOUR KEEL</b>						
PCYC Cruise 2	3	4	Series II Race 2 5	6	7	8
9	10	11	Series II Race 3 12	13	14	15 FBYC Cruise & Distance Race
FBYC Cruise & Distance Race 16	17	18	Series II Race 4 19	20	21	22 Jazz Festival
23	24	25	Series II Race 5 26	27	28	
Jazz Festival 30	31	<b>JOIN THE "ROOKIE RACERS"</b>				