

Toronto Hydroplane and Sailing Club
20 Ashbridge's Bay Park Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4L 3W6
Phone: 694-6918

Editor: Richard Taylor
51 Brigadoon Cres.
Agincourt, Ontario
M1T 3C2
Phone: 293-4340

SPAR AND PROP

FEBRUARY, 2008

NUMBER 185



Photo by *Paul Savage*



Toronto Hydroplane and Sailing Club Executive Board

COMMODORE
Marguerite Ethier

(416) 865-2979
email: methier@litigate.com

PAST COMMODORE
Lee Rixon

(416) 724-5281
email: lrixon@rogers.com

VICE COMMODORE
Dan Demers

(416) 693-6564
email: dan_demers@sympatico.ca

REAR COMMODORE
Greg Smith

(416) 261-9569
email: gd-smith@sympatico.ca

HARBOUR MASTER
Bob Prosper

(416) 423-9594
email: bprosper@proton.com

PROPERTY MANAGER
Don Bland

(905) 428-7380
email: blandone@hotmail.com

TREASURER
Mike Baker

(416) 481-5461
email: thebakers@sympatico.ca

SECRETARY
Eva Baker

(416) 481-5461
email: thebakers@sympatico.ca

RACING FLEET CAPTAIN
Jamie Smallwood

(416) 694-2905
email: john4sail@hotmail.com

RACE COMMITTEE CHAIR
Tom Monson

(416) 429-2598
email: tm@primus.ca

CRUISING FLEET CAPTAIN
Keith Willson

(416) 759-1846
email: kwillson@sympatico.ca

WAYS AND MEANS
Meredith Thomas

(416) 925-7079
email: meredith.thomas@sympatico.ca

SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON
Melinda Ramsay

(416) 992-0999
email: maxfx@sympatico.ca

RECIPROCALLS OFFICER
Peter Martyn

(416) 822-4345
email: pmartyn@world.oberlin.edu

Calendar

Winter Cruise—Saturday, February 23—Cruise down the to Clubhouse. See Keith's report.

Brunch Seminar—Sunday, February 24—An excellent speaker with information we can use. See below.

Easter Parade—Sunday, March 23—A great day for the kids at the best Easter Parade. March with the Club or watch from the sidelines.

Launch Day—Saturday, May 10—Guaranteed—the snow will be gone by then.

Racer's Meeting and Measuring In—Wednesday, May 14—Come and see what our Race Captain has planned for 2008. New and experienced sailors—come race with us. New sails? New racers? Measure your sails to maximize your handicap.

Ice Breaker Race—Saturday, May 17—The first weekend race.

BPYC Cruise to TH&SC—May 17 & 19—We will welcome our first group of visitors for the season.

Series I—Race I—Wednesday, May 21—Come and start the race Series. Many high scorers were racers who came out to all the races but didn't win a race.

TH&SC Cruise to CBYC—May 24-25—Join us on our cruise to Cathedral Bluffs YC at Bluffer's Park. Our first cruise of the season. Sign up early.

TH&SC WEATHER COURSE AND BRUNCH



*With special
guest speaker...
RON BIANCHI*

Ron Bianchi is the Director of Meteorology - Worldwide Operations with Golder Associates Ltd. He is a sailor, lecturer, and genuine believer in mind-opening encounters with the science of Meteorology and how to use it to your advantage. He has been lecturing about the nature and behavior of the Atmosphere at schools, Colleges and Universities for two decades. To date, he has made well over 2,700 presentations, and has over 20 years experience in applied Meteorology and forecasting.

Environment Canada to Roll-out a New Marine Forecast and Warning Program

The new program is now scheduled to be implemented prior to the 2008 recreational boating season. Some of these changes will include regular issues of a technical marine synopsis, an extended wind forecast covering days 3 to 5, a separately issued wave height forecast, a discretionary marine weather statement, and a localized marine warning bulletin which will be used to immediately alert mariners of hazardous conditions, such as a high water level warning or squall warning.



Don't miss this fascinating presentation!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2008

Seminar includes a delicious brunch,
all for only \$5.00 per person
Brunch served at 11:00
Presentation at 12:00 (approx. 2 hours)

RSVP lauriechan@primus.ca
or sign up on bulletin board



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Marguerite Ethier

I MUST START MY INAUGURAL Spar & Prop column with a thank you to the membership for believing that this relative rookie could be your Commodore. I will do my best to carry out the commodore functions efficiently and equitably. I make my living from conflict, but that doesn't mean I encourage or enjoy it. My goal is to have a smooth-running and respectful club, with fair, consensus based decisions by the Board.

I will not be shy about asking for advice and recommendations from the more experienced members of the club, including all of our Past Commodores. Your experiences will be invaluable to me and I thank you in advance for your time.

I would particularly like to thank Lee Rixon, our new Past Commodore, for steering the club through some uncertain times. He has done a stellar job over the last two years—his will be large shoes to fill.

When Lee began as Commodore, in January 2006, the lease negotiations with the city were still ongoing, and he had just attended a "kick-off" meeting to talk about improving water quality in Coatsworth Cut. Yes, that's right, January 2006. Lee's report at the time warned us that it might be "quite some time" before there was any water quality improvement. How right he was. Here we are, two years later, with the water quality worse. And if it were only the quality and not the quantity we worried about! And the lease? No new lease. Lets see again in another two years.

These have been a turbulent two years in terms of long-term planning for the club—the uncertainty is difficult and leads to questioning of projects and expenditures. Notably, though, we continue to attract new members, and our slips are all full. Despite the uncertainty, TH&SC continues to thrive. It may yet be many years before any concrete steps are taken by the city to implement any of their waterfront plans. Or, it might be very soon. Either way, we have a unique culture and tradition at this club—it is worth preserving.

Many thanks to Bob Prosper for agreeing to be Harbour Master for the remainder of 2008. Bob will have help from Ross Campbell, the outgoing HM.

Happy new year, everyone, and I look forward to being your Commodore. ▲

HARBOURMASTER

Bob Prosper

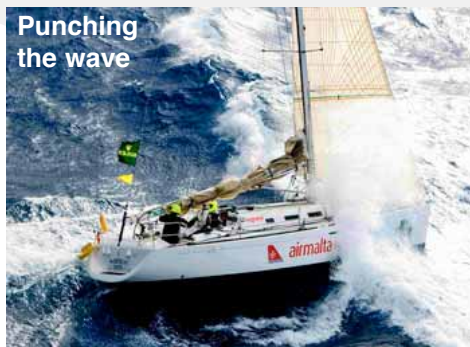
AS YOUR NEW Harbour Master I come both wide eyed and naive. I am grateful for the opportunity and I will do my best to serve the interests of this great club and its members. There will be many challenges ahead but together with your elected Board we can take them head on. I ask for your patience while I learn the ropes and try with envy to measure up to the wonderful dedication and commitment that Ross Campbell has given in the past. As all of you are aware Ross is very familiar with all the tasks at hand and I will be leaning on him constantly for his support and wisdom.

Please take note of your calendar and you will see that launch has been moved from May 3/08 to May 10/08. Many members felt that it was too early in the season to properly prepare their boats. Hopefully the weather Gods will serve us well early May with sunshine and bearable temperatures.

Lets hope also for high water levels. ▲

**Don't Forget
Club fees are
due by the end
of February**

**(Mail directly to address
on your bill, NOT to Club
or Club box)**



OFFICER OF THE DAY MANAGER

Rob Murray

CHOICE SPOTS DIMINISHING!

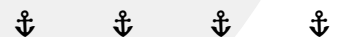
Since the sign-up schedule for the Officer of the Day (OOD) was made available January 1st at the clubhouse, many members have been signing up for their 4-hour "tour of duty". If you want the best possible choice of time slots, sign up now. It's a good excuse to wander down to the club and say hi to your boat!

The sign-up schedule will be available until April 15th. After that the list will be compiled and any members who haven't signed up will be assigned a spot in a random draw held on Launch day (May 3rd).

Note that the OOD requirement is in addition to the 16 work hours you need to put in and coordinated by Ways & Means. This means that no matter how much time you put in helping with the new balcony or being on the Executive Committee, you still need to put in the four hours of OOD duty. And the bad news is if you don't fulfill your OOD commitment, you will be assessed the same amount as missing four work hours. Everyone was really good last year and no one was penalized. Let's keep this up! ▲



Editor's e-mail address is
rwt@total.net



The Deadline for the
APRIL issue of
Spar & Prop is
March 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

PROPERTY MGR.

Don Bland

SPRING AND LAUNCH are rapidly approaching. Lots of opportunity to get your work days in and over with for the year.

We are still having problems with members using the Club's garbage bin for home refuse. If you think about it, the Club pays to haul away your personal junk; or put another way the cost of operating the club goes up and everyone pays for you, same applies to the recycle facilities, we pay to remove the oil and anti-freeze and have to haul away your propane cylinders and batteries.

The Clubhouse is getting a spruce-up. We need volunteers to do some painting. New sound and entertainment facilities for the bar meeting room are well underway.

I was reminded, while parked in front of the Clubhouse door the other day that the pathway from the gate to the Clubhouse is actually a fire route and I shouldn't park there. Please, when you have made your deliveries to the Clubhouse, don't leave your car in the fire route. I was even shown the fire route sign on the power outlet box right in front of the main door.

All you wanna-be decorators out there, the washrooms and front entrance hall need your skills. ▲

WAYS AND MEANS

Meredith Thomas

ALREADY THOSE New Year resolutions are becoming as faded in the memory as the turkey and mince pies. But....there is a new sailing season coming soon and who wants to waste those precious few days weeding or painting or fixing broken toilets when you could be out on the water?

Getting started now means completing your hours of "servitude" while the weather is lousy and the boat is not calling you to polish, varnish, scrape and while VC17 remains a distant problem. Too soon these tasks will take priority, but right now you could be making our Club even more of a jewel than it already is. Of course, it's not perfect, but that's why it is so comfortable. Yet looking around the club, you must have seen something that you would like to fix or improve. If so, please drop me a line.

Otherwise keep an eye open for work days and remember to sign up. Just think how satisfying actually completing a New Year's Resolution will be!
Meredith Thomas
Ways & Means Convener & Keeper of Consciences. ▲

VICE COMMODORE

Dan Demers

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, the membership approved the 2008 budget at the January 13th AGM which included an 8% increase on most fees. The billing was promptly mailed out following the AGM. A TH&SC Privacy Policy was also included with your billing. Please read this document, sign it and return it with your payment. By signing this document you will allow the club to include your information in a membership list which will be distributed to each member. This will be useful for other members to contact you, for example; in case of an emergency concerning your personal property at the club. If we do not receive a signed Privacy Policy from you, your name will not be published on the membership list.

Please remember to carefully check your personal information on your invoice, make any corrections for our database, sign one copy and mail it with your payment to the receiving officer no later than February 28th. Do not place your payment in the Clubhouse entrance mailbox as the receiving officer will not be retrieving mail from this area.

The current membership status is at 202 members, made up of 19 Life, 118 Sailing, 59 Crew and 6 Junior members.

And finally an error was found in the 2008 club membership billing. Thank you for those members who stepped up and made me aware of the error.

The 2nd tier of the wet mooring fee, based on the club's formula, should have been billed at 1.08 / sq. ft, instead, the fee was unchanged from last year and the wet mooring fee was billed at 1.00 / sq. ft. Also the trailer storage was billed at \$73.49 instead of \$80.00. This error represents a shortfall of approximately \$767.95. The E.B. has determined that, given this error, we should still be able stay within budget in 2008. My apologies to all. ▲



Winter at TH&SC

NAUTICAL QUOTES

"The perfection of a yacht's beauty is that nothing should be there for only beauty's sake."—John



"There are only two colors to paint a boat, black or white, and only a fool would paint a boat black."—Nathanael G. Herreshoff



"If you can not arrive in daylight, then stand off well clear, and wait until dawn. After all, that's one of the things God made boats for...to wait in."—Tristan Jones



"There is but a plank between a sailor and eternity."—Thomas Gibbons



FLEET CAPTAIN CRUISING

Keith Willson

Cruising Corner

The Club cruising plans for the 2008 season are well underway. We are planning seven cruises this year starting with a repeat of last year's well-attended February Hug Your Boat cruise.

The schedule is listed below. Note that we trying to add a new destination this year and some of the others have new dates. This was done to accommodate both our Club's events and to fit in with schedules for our intended destination Clubs. If you look closely you will only see six cruises scheduled. We are trying to find a weekend to Cruise to CBYC.

TH & SC CRUISES – 2008

February 23—TH&SC Winter Cruise to Club—*Confirmed*

May 17-19—BPLYC Cruise in to TH&SC—*Confirmed*

June 14-15—TH&SC Cruise out to BPLYC—*Waiting Confirmation*

June 28-29—TH&SC Cruise out to PCYC—*Confirmed*

July 5-6—TH&SC Cruise out to LSYC—*Confirmed*
LSYC Cruise in to TH&SC—*Confirmed*

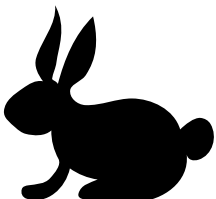
July 26-27—EYC Cruise in to TH&SC—*Confirmed*

August 16-17—TH&SC Cruise out to MCC—*Confirmed*

Sept 6-7—TH&SC Cruise out to EYC—*Confirmed*
MCC Cruise in to TH&SC—*Confirmed*

TH&SC Cruise out to CBYC—*To Be Determined*

If you are planning to attend the Feb 23 cruise please contact Keith or Joan at (416) 759-1846 or at Kwillson@sympatico.ca and indicate whether you will be bringing an appetizer or dessert. 🐰



Name	Cruises 2007	250 + miles	500 + Miles	Bay Of Quinte	1000 Islands	First Across	Last Across
Dennis & MacCallum	3		Y	Y	Y		
Michael Smith	3						
Paul & Marie Evans	6	Y					
Mike & Peggy Wheatstone	6		Y	Y	Y		
Lee Rixon	6						
Keith & Joan Willson	7	Y					
Richard Coutts	3						
Randy Boyd	4						
Chris & Liz Hanson		Y				Y	
John Phillips			Y	Y			
Mike Benson			Y	Y	Y		
Richard Pierce			Y	Y	Y		
George Black		Y		Y	Y		
Mike Ante			Y	Y	Y		Y
Jeff Ante			Y	Y	Y		
John Bennett		Y		Y	Y		

This chart of cruising stats was accidentally left off the December Spar and Prop.

TH & SC HUG YOUR BOAT CRUISE
FEBRUARY 23, 2008



LOCATION: CLUBHOUSE 6 PM

PLEASE CONTACT KEITH OR JOAN (416) 759-1846
OR AT Kwillson@Sympatico.ca

Indicate number attending and appetizer or dessert

REAR COMMODORE

Greg Smith

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, the Change of Watch will have occurred. I'd like to thank the membership for your confidence in electing me as your Rear Commodore. When I retired from eight years of coaching competitive hockey, I had expected my winter months to provide me more time to relax, read sailing publications, and work on little nautical projects. However, when presented with the opportunity to give back to TH&SC in such a meaningful way, I couldn't turn my back and I enthusiastically look forward to contributing whatever talents I have to the challenges facing the club. Challenges also present us with opportunities and I trust the membership will constructively work with me in fulfilling my duties.

Speaking of my duties, the Rear Commodore is responsible for all activities related to racing, cruising, and all social activities. Additionally, the Rear Commodore is responsible for the dry sail fleet, inventory of Club regalia, and our Club boats, *Shadow* and *Mac 1*. Mona's assurance that the majority of committee members would be returning for another term was key in my decision to stand. I'm fortunate to have a group of very capable individuals who bring a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm assisting me.

Over the past two years we have witnessed a renewed interest in our racing, cruising, and social events. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mona and her team for a job well done. My goal is to build on the successes of the past two years'. I invite anyone who has an interest in joining the Rear Commodore's committees to contact me. I believe new members bring us new enthusiasm, ideas and personalities that keep our club vibrant. If you have an area of expertise or just want to help out, let me know how you'd like to participate.

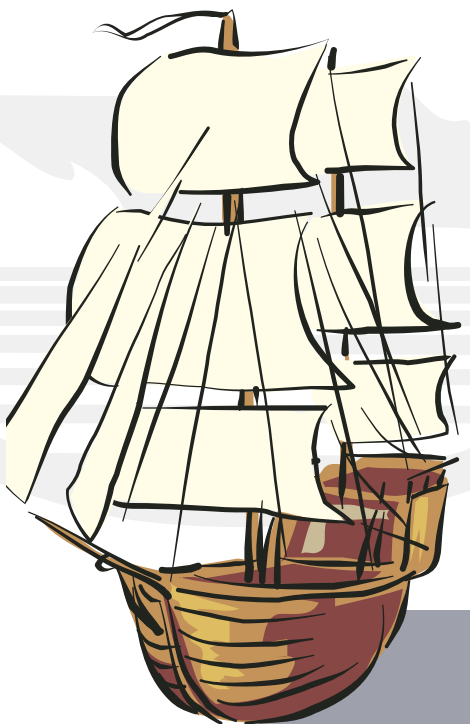
Calendars seem to be the tool of the trade in January and February. Committee meetings are actively in progress and Club event dates will be announced shortly. We have the traditional events in the schedule along with a few new events that we hope will be of interest. "Brunch Seminars & Presentations" are planned over the remaining winter months. We hope

they prove to be informative, entertaining, satisfying and nutritious.

This year, our Sailpast will be held on June 7th, a few days earlier than last year's event. The social committee has assured me that the forecast calls for sunny skies, warm breezes and flat seas. Our "Race de Voyageurs" race/cruise event will take a different course this year, heading off to Mimico Cruising Club. What could be better than a day of sailing, racing, and fabulous food and drinks at the end of your voyage?

On a personal note, I am looking forward to meeting and socializing with as many members as possible. While I can't lay claim to knowing everyone at the club, I want to do my best to correct that situation. I'm looking forward to a productive year as Rear Commodore and I invite you to join me in doing our collective best to support our board members, committee chairs, racing, cruising and social events. I'm looking forward to working with each of you as we start the new sailing season.

Fair winds,
Rear Commodore
Greg Smith
N43 39.610 W79 18.812 ▲



SOCIAL CHAIR

Melinda Ramsay

ANOTHER SEASON has ended, I think...or maybe started? The social committee never really knows if the Kids Xmas party is the end or the beginning of the social calendar! (and by the way, if you've never been to the Xmas party, you should try to attend next year—it's one of our most enjoyable parties!)

It was a fun year for us as a committee, and it never ceases to amaze us that we actually do have a lot of fun putting these events on, despite the huge amount of work.

We also have a lot of support, and without a few devoted souls, the rest of you wouldn't have nearly the fun that you have (or at least the opportunity to have fun!).

So, a big thank you goes out to Bob Prosper, "BBQ Billy" (winner of our 1st annual "more than just dishes" award), Peter de Jong van de Halen, Joanne Adolphe, Wendy Jones, Sandy McGill, Wendy Stratton, Doug & Linda Wright, Robert McComb, Paavo Lindstrom, Mikey Adams, Richard Coutts, and Bruce Bateman (sorry about the grass at Sailpast!)

There are always those generous people who stick around after events to help clean up, and a big THANK YOU to you all—we appreciate it so much. And thanks, also, to all of you who offer up ideas for events, track down the names of bands or suggest musicians / jugglers / minstrels and magic acts—it's terrific to have the fresh ideas.

I'm exceptionally lucky to have Laurie Chan-Prosper, Linda de Jong van de Halen, and Cat Ward with me on the committee—they really are the backbone of the social scene at the club. And next year promises to be another very fun year from a social perspective—although you all need to be the judge.

Watch for the calendar for our lineup, and open the emails you get from the club. The last event—New Years Levee, was a very nice way to recover from the night before, and a symbolic step into the new season!

Finally, a big thank you to our outgoing Rear Commodore, Mona Anderson. Mona thoroughly supported us to no end, had endless enthusiasm and always had a smile for everyone. It was so great being 'your crew'.

Here's hoping to see you at the social events of 2008. All the best for the New Year. ▲

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

by Eric Muff

AS I HAVE BEMOANED on other occasions, "the trips are becoming more frequent than the publications and things are piling up".

So...while it is still relatively fresh in my mind I will make up some hogwash about Christmas Past. But before I sip into my Dickensian mode, let me relate a couple happy moments.

I told you earlier on that I had heard from Elfi and ~~Rudy~~ Rudy and that they had sent me two delightful Monte Cristo cigars (which I enjoyed immensely—bugger cancer!) from their trip to Cuba. This was a refreshing breeze from home.

When lo and behold who should show up on my doorstep but the Martins, Dawn and Ted. They were in town competing in some sculling event hosted by Trent University. I'm sure their appearance on the Trent Waterway must have given Ned Hanlan and Lou Scholes a turn.

We spent a memorable evening at Hot Belly Momma's eating blackened catfish, sippin' Guinness and tellin' lies.

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

Then a short time after that two more Cuban show up on my doorstep (cigars, that is!). Elfi and Rudy had been back telling Fidel how to run his beautiful island.

So you see, Veronica, there *really* is a Santa Claus! So nice to be remembered. Thank you.

But getting back to the task at hand.

I'm sure you recognize by now that I am president and CEO of the all but extinct "Bah! Humbugger's Society!" and that I do my damndest to absent myself from your hypocritical money-grab, thinly disguised as a Christian celebration (Boxing Month, indeed)...but musn't get rabid. 'Tis the season to be jolly (if you're Master bloody Card).

The passage of the years is seriously crimping my mobility and places to escape to at Christmas time are few and far between *pour moi*.

I did, however, find a spot that would have me absent from the family festive board, though to this day I don't know where it is. I have yet to find it in any of my *atlae* (that's the plural of atlases).

Even the advertisement does not specifically tell you where it is. It reads:

"Christmas at Peddler's Village
4 days December 23-26, '07"



Peddler's Village is a charming 18th century-style village set on 42 acres of landscaped gardens, brick walkways, 75 specialty shops and the luxurious Golden Plough Inn".

Now, I, for one, do *not* subscribe to this real estate myth—"Location, location, location". Who gives a shit where it is? The magic words are "December 23-26 '07".

And so, with my bah!, humbug! t-shirt and my Santa Claus toque in hand I strike out to the unknown.

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

I did have a clue that it was in beautiful downtown Pennsylvania, but where?

I had heard the words Lahaska and Buck's County bandied about, but wot the hell does that mean?



Anywho, I'm picked up by the tour company in beautiful downtown Peterborough and whisked off to beautiful downtown Hamilton where we all meet the bus.

Author's Note—By the way, Bill Middleton, it was pissin' down rain, and did so until we reached our destination 15 hours later. I thought it was bloody haulout.

One good thing about the rain, it washed away a ton of snow.

The border crossing was a little slow. It's bad enough the "excited states" with their security panic, now we've got half a dozen bus loads of mindless red-necks, all slathered up looking for more booze at the duty-free to see them through the "Bill's" game in Buffalo.

Remember that old chestnut—what's the definition of a three-time

loser? A pregnant prostitute, driving her Edsel to an Argo game.

Stop this levity!

We did arrive around eight in the evening and the rain was beginning to let up. The first thing that caught the eye was the fact that there was not a snowflake in sight, and this, according to the natives was not uncommon in this part of the country (wherever we were).

The second thing was the incredible Christmas lights. Now don't get the idea that because i don't subscribe to the money-grubbing concept of this alleged Christian celebration that I don't have an eye for beauty. The lights were awesome; every tree, bush, lamp post, shop, houses, you name it. The whole village was awash in splendiferous beauty.



The Golden Plough Inn's main building adjacent to The Spotted Hog restaurant.

The Golden Plough Inn was another 18th century, rustic beauty. It boasts that no two rooms are the same, and they invite you to leave your door open for a while so your neighbours can come in and envy.



The bar/restaurant in the Inn was called the Spotted Hog. No relation, I'm sure, to the Spotted Dick in beautiful, downtown T.O., though they both have Guinness on tap.

The first thing that caught my eye when I entered my suite was the presence of an ashtray and a book of matches. *Imagine the shock*—coming from tight-arsed Toronto where even

Continued on page 8

But, Hey!!!...

Continued from page 7

war heroes are not allowed to enjoy a smoke in their own private clubs.

I was so taken aback that I went down to the front desk and muttered "there's an ashtray in my room". I'm sure I must have been trembling. She politely answered, "So?"

"Does that mean I can smoke in my room?"

"If there's an ashtray there you are welcome to use it."

Shaking violently, I went outside and lit up a cigar.

The irony of this little ~~anecdote~~ anecdote is that the stinking government, in time of need, *taught* us and *encouraged* us to smoke; they even sold them to us *duty free*. Now they no longer need us it's screw you, Jack! Oh! Canada!

We learned *in a hurry* the meaning of D.V.A. Don't Volunteer Again!

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

We awoke the next morning thinking we'd died and gone to heaven—bright blue sky, not a cloud to be seen, beautiful sun and warm enough for a Spring jacket.

After a lovely breakfast in the Spotted Hog we were driven to a spot called Byers' Choice Carollers Museum and Shop.



This was a family-owned and operated shop who specialized in making figurines in the guise of people (of all walks) carolling. The actual work operation was closed for the holidays but we saw an enlightening film on how they were made, step by step. Interesting.

The afternoon was free to wander the Village and shop for next year's goodies, on sale.

Christmas dinner was served this evening in the Spotted Hog and good it was. A beautiful full moon this evening.

Next morning was better than the

one before—unbelievable! Not only was the weather superlative, but Santa Claus had left a present outside our doors. A magic crystal ball that, when shaken, snowed on the wee village of Peddler's.

The guilt-ridden were invited to attend a church service at Our Lady of Czestochowa. This did little for me; I couldn't dig it when it was in latin, now it's in Czech?



But, hey!!!...it's Christmas.

Rounding out Christmas Day we were driven, after lunch, to a lovely area called Longwood Gardens for yet another Christmas Bun Grab (that's *bun*, Garry!)

Seeing as how Longwood Gardens is like Lahaska (I have no idea where they are) I will quote from the brochure.

"Longwood Gardens celebrates the season with a night-blooming garden of 420,000 lights—including daffodils, crocuses, lilacs, and wisteria, all fashioned from lights. Luminescent blue lights outline the five-acre main fountain garden, a towering blue spruce tree is aglow with frosty ornament, and huge starry snow flakes sparkle in distant trees. Christmas performances will warm your heart with organ singalongs, strolling singers, cultural programs, choir and hand bell concerts."

On our way to Longwood we passed the house lived in by Pearl S. Buck who most of you will not remember, her and her beautiful writing.

That's three outta three. Mebee you guys can Google the whole yarn. It *may* then make sense. I doubt it.

Christmas dinner at Longwood Gardens was a monumental buffet and the tour company presented us each with a figurine from Byer's Choice.

"...and I heard him explain as he drove out of sight..."

And always remember, my children..."it is far, far better to die of thirst, than to drink from the cup of mediocrity.

Think launch!

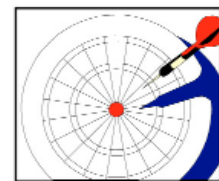
Luv yas! 🚤

ERIC MUFF, ESQ



For those who have read Eric's adventures but never met him, this picture will have to do.

But now, if you are in Peterborough and meet him on the street, you will be able to say hello for all of us.



DARTS

Friday evenings

THE DARTS are finding the target on Friday evenings at the Clubhouse. Come on down around 7 p.m. and see what's happening.

Not interested in darts? Don't forget there's a billiard table and shuffleboard table on the second floor.

End your winter's week with some socializing and fun at your Club. 🏠



TRAVEL IN THE SOUTH

by Mark Catania

Club member Mark Catania is south of here. This is an email sent in January—Ed.

A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR to all. I never made it to Cabo—too busy a place—stayed here in Todos Santos. Camped underneath the stars and on a beach (free) New Year's Eve. A small beach bar had a good reggae band playing on the beach not more than 40 yards from the ocean. Did my ritual (when in a suitable location) of stripping down and swimming buck naked shortly into the new year. Somewhat of a baptismal thing I guess.

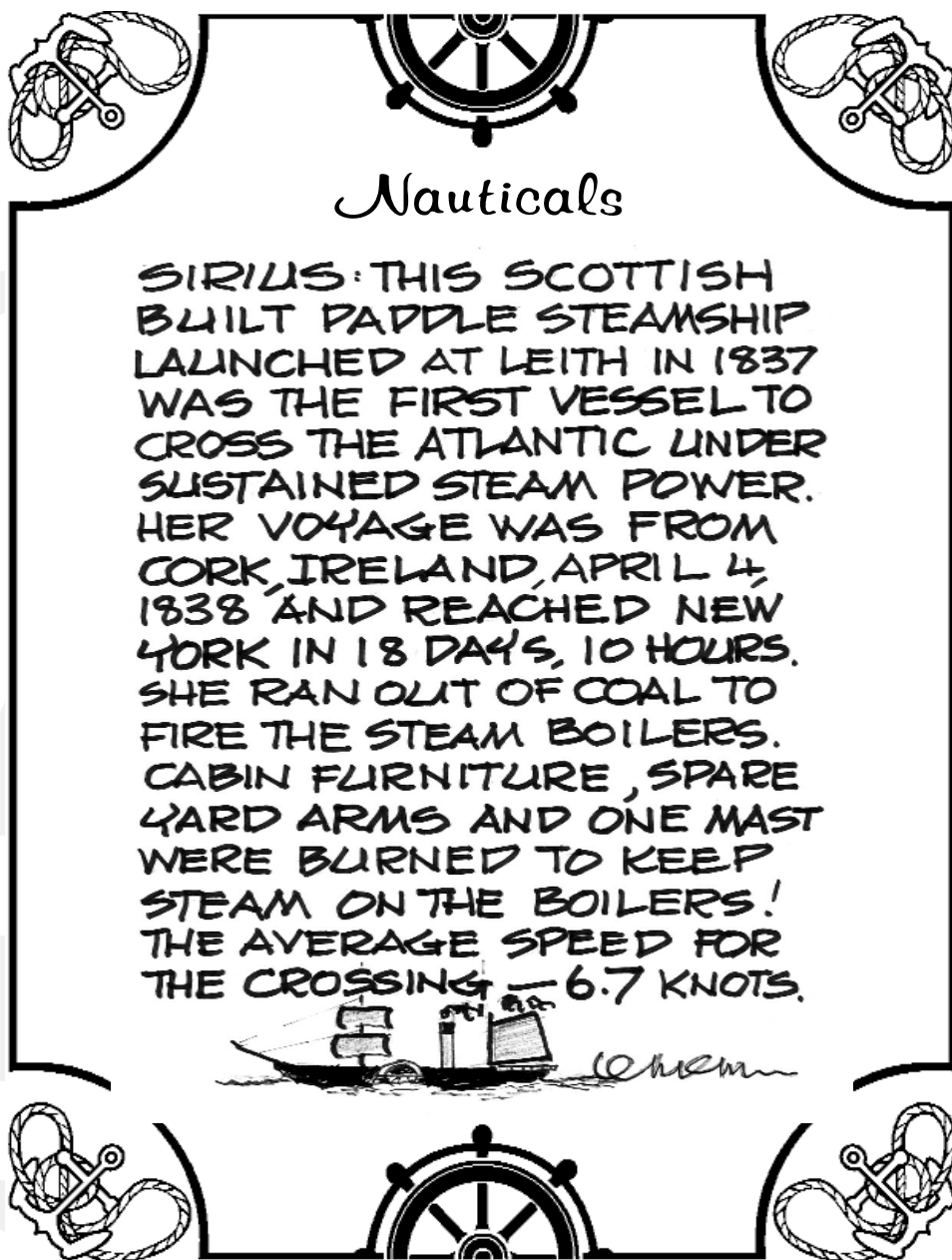
Woke up New Year's day to see a couple of grey whales swimming south. They are a little late this year due to colder weather. I think I'll just keep following the whales south for the next couple of months.

Have not had a chance to posting anything to the web sit as I have been driving the bus—11,000 kilometers and still going. If I'm not driving, sleeping or in the ocean I have been meeting people. And it has come in waves, from being offered a job in the software industry by a Memphis-based entrepreneur sitting around the campfire at the 'Shack Up Inn' in Clarksdale, Miss., to driving around LA, gallery hopping with my new friend Kay (LA based artist) in her Porche 944 convertible.

Pinch me or is this just a dream. I do love the city. I could go on but why bother, it's almost too much (just kidding).

Couple of different projects with development potential (going to need a job a some point). There is a whole VW Bus culture out on the road. So many different 'Magic Buses' out here with the characters to boot. Have been amassing a personal collection of photos of some of the more memorable ones that I see.

The other phenomenon that I have noticed is that anyone and everyone that I end up meeting or speaking with is so very supportive in what I am doing. It seems to have 'touched a nerve' in the general conciseness within the boomer generation. I think



Nauticals

SIRIUS: THIS SCOTTISH BUILT PADDLE STEAMSHIP LAUNCHED AT LEITH IN 1837 WAS THE FIRST VESSEL TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC UNDER SUSTAINED STEAM POWER. HER VOYAGE WAS FROM CORK, IRELAND, APRIL 4, 1838 AND REACHED NEW YORK IN 18 DAYS, 10 HOURS. SHE RAN OUT OF COAL TO FIRE THE STEAM BOILERS. CABIN FURNITURE, SPARE YARD ARMS AND ONE MAST WERE BURNED TO KEEP STEAM ON THE BOILERS! THE AVERAGE SPEED FOR THE CROSSING — 6.7 KNOTS.



there is a book, movie, sitcom, unreality show, or just my own personal observations to be written. It will be interesting to see what will come of all this.

From here (Todo Santos) it will be short 50 minute drive down to Cabo to check it out and then back up the other side of the tip of the Baja to LaPaz. The car/bus ferry is back in LaPaz a couple of hours and will put the 'Land Shark' on the boat over to the mainland.

From there is just head south down the south Pacific coast. Look forward to seeing you all again (will fly home during the summer at the very least). Lot's of love, miss you all.


Salute—mc 



Photo by
David
Burns

PUERTO ESCONDIDO DORADO— Mark Catania of Toronto with a nice dorado caught with Capt. Omar out of Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico. Catania fished during a trip with David Burns of the Restaurant El Manglar in Tecolutla, Veracruz, Mexico.



February 2008



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
BRRRR!—THINK SUMMER						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	TH&SC Winter Cruise 23
Brunch Seminar 11 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29	
GO TO THE CLUB AND HUG YOUR BOAT						



March 2008



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
1						
TIME TO MAKE LISTS OF BOAT CHORES						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Saving starts	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	St. Patrick's Day				Good Friday	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Easter Parade						
29	30	31	ONLY ONE MONTH TO LAUNCH DAY			



April 2008



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
TIME TO GET YOUR BOAT PREPARED FOR LAUNCH						



May 2008



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
LAUNCH DAY ON THE 10th				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 LAUNCH DAY
11	12	13	14 Racer's Meeting	15	16	17 Ice Breaker race
18	19	20	21 Series I Race I	22	23	24 Cruise to CBYC
25	26	27	28 Series I Race II	29	30	31
THIS START OF OUR SUMMER BEGINS NOW						