



Spar & Prop

TORONTO HYDROPLANE & SAILING CLUB

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THE WATER IS VERY "STIFF"



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TH&SC Website—www.thsc.ca

Calendar

Ways and Means Job Fair/Social—Saturday, March 15th—See the poster in Spar & Prop and at TH&SC for details.

Racer's Meeting—Wednesday, April 23rd—If you have any new sails or are a new racer get your sails measured for your PHRF handicap. Meet your fellow racers and discuss any new rules which may be in force.

LAUNCH DAY—Saturday, May 3rd—Buy your Sailpast tickets today! Plan your group ahead of time and let us know when you reserve your tickets! Plan to pay by cash or by cheque by June 7. Sailpast is June 14!

Warm Up Race—Wednesday, May 14th—Come and make sure everything is in working order and all the bits are tight. Shake down your crew, they'll have to be re-trained, you know.

Ice Breaker Race—Saturday, May 17th—The first longer distance race of the season. This year there even may be ice!

Bluffer's Cruise—May 17-18—Look for the poster to sign up for this cruise. A good shake down to make sure you've got everything for the summer.

New Rear Commodore's Meet and Greek Event—Saturday, May 17th—Free beer and wine 4 to 6 p.m.! \$10 for dinner! Kids \$5! Come and race, then party.

Series 1, Race 1—Wednesday, May 21st—First counting race of the season. Get the jump on your opposition by getting a podium early.

SAILPAST—Saturday, June 14—Mark your calendar! Reserve your dinner tickets early at Launch. Plan to pay by cash or by cheque by June 7.

Talk to your friends ahead of time and tell us the names of those with whom you would like to sit for dinner and your indoor/outdoor choice when you reserve your tickets. Each family within your group may pay separately at their convenience, up to June 9.

Hyland Cruise—June 21-22—Look for the poster to sign up for this cruise.

WAYS AND MEANS JOB FAIR/SOCIAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH

7 P.M. AT THE SC CLUBHOUSE

SIGNUP FOR YOUR CHOICE OF JOBS FOR YOUR 2014 WORK HOURS AND ALSO CELEBRATE ST PATRICK'S DAY

RACER'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY,

APRIL 23RD

6:30 P.M. AT TH&SC

CLUBHOUSE

ARRANGE TO HAVE NEW SAILS MEASURED MEET AND GREET

TALK ABOUT THE SEASON

TH&SC—20 Ashbridge's Bay Park Road, Toronto, Ontario M4L 3W6—(416) 694-6918

EDITOR—Richard Taylor, 51 Brigadoon Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario M1T 3C2—(416) 293-4340

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Don Bland

FAIR WINDS and gentle seas to all. This is my first article in Spar and Prop as your Commodore. Thank you for trusting me with the responsibility. Thanks to Randy Boyd, Greg Smith and Dave Johnston for all their service on the last Board. Thanks too to Glen Eddie and Mike Davidson for volunteering their time and effort for the next two years. This is also a good time to thank all of the committee volunteers. I'm afraid of leaving someone out if I try to name individuals but the gardens get cared for, the gates get looked after, the D-dock B.B.Q. area stays organized, the clubhouse and its many, many functions always get well done. The club wouldn't be the amazing place it is without you. You are appreciated! We have a strong board, a good thing as with our long awaited lease negotiations finalized we have started to address some of the needed maintenance of our sea wall and electrical supply.

I'm writing this during another week of arctic vortex and yet another six inches of snow. If I had the political skills I would explain how this is another effect of global warming.

I attended the boat show, saw many TH&SC members there, all pining to get started cleaning, waxing and painting. Strange how in January / February we look forward to all that work.

If you have any ideas that you think would enhance the enjoyment of your club please tell or email a Board member. In the past members have organized golf tournaments, wine tours, wine and cheese as well as pizza nights at the clubhouse. Share your creative juices, lets make this another great year.

I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you! ▲



Chris Hanson with dinner

REAR COMMODORE

Glen Eddie

HELLO EVERYONE. After being Rear Commodore for one month, I can honestly say that this job is easy. I don't know what all the fuss was about. I wish I could do it for another 10 years. Seriously though, has anyone seen Greg? I want to give him the keys back.

All joking aside, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is my hope that the social, cruising, and racing programs at TH&SC continue as they have for the last six years. To this end, I would like to welcome Albert as the new cruising director. I know that the exiting cruise director, James Perrault, has been working with Albert to bring new energy to the cruising program. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months. I am sure that Albert will be looking for people to host cruises, so don't be shy. It's a great way to show off your cooking & culinary skills.

The next social event of the season will be the Ways & Means Social at the club on Saturday, March 15. Come on out and join us for an evening of snacks, music as well as a chance to choose what ways and means task/project you want to do before someone else beats you to it. Just think how sad you would be if the work crew for the annual dock repair in April is full. Check Lynda's page for more information.

On the racing side, I would like to welcome Jamie Carroll as the new racing captain and thank Bruce Bateman for continuing his role as official scorer. Both your efforts are greatly appreciated. Please note that all boats participating in club racing this year will require a current PHRF LO certificate. This means that each boat owner must provide Bruce with the required information for him to file the certificate applications with PHRF LO. We will be sending information about this shortly, but if you have a new sail in your quiver since your last measurement, be ready to get it measured.

Lastly, I would like to talk about two new social events for the 2014 Sailing Season. The first event will be an attempt to organize a monthly kid friendly movie night. The event will happen on a Friday evening each month during the summer. The movies will commence an half hour after

sundown. We encourage all members with kids and grandchildren to come on down, share some popcorn and a G-rated movie. Secondly, we are bringing back the Club sponsored breakfast/brunch during each long weekend during the summer. Our hope is that three families will sign up to host the Canada Day (the Sunday before Canada Day), Simcoe Day, and Labour Day long weekends. Janina and I will host the May 24 weekend breakfast, with Ben & Marlowe doing most of the cooking. Usually this means breakfast is Spaghetti & Maple syrup. You have now been warned! ▲



WAYS AND MEANS

Neal Claassen

WITH SNOW on the ground it is hard to think of sailing, especially if you are a skier like me, but the summer will come fast and furiously as it always does. We have major projects planned that have been discussed in previous issues of the Spar and Prop. All back issues are available online, so I will not reiterate. There are plenty of regular maintenance functions that need to be taken care of as well. As always.

Last year we hosted our first annual Ways and Means Job Fair, which implies that this year we will be hosting our second. This event is not only great fun as a social event, it is important if you want to be sure to get your work hours taken care of. So mark the date in your calendar: **SATURDAY, MARCH 15 at 7 PM !!**

Most of the jobs that are available in 2014 will be posted, and you can sign up for as many as you wish on a first come, first serve basis. If you are new to the club, this event will give you a running start to life at the TH&SC. See you there! ▲

PROPERTY MGR.

Mike Davidson

HELLO ALL. Fed up with winter yet? I know—dumb question. Unless you're a snowman that is or sell salt for a living. I did have two weeks in sunny Florida though and I am hoping to head back down there around the 18th. Well, here I am, my first Spar and Prop report and I find I don't have too much to report, which I guess is to be expected since I am still trying to find my way around.

I have had several people approach me with great ideas to help improve the club. Keith Willson comes to mind with his ideas on how to control the weeds on the property in an environmentally friendly way. James Perrault came to me with a great idea on storing bikes and Larry Adolphe came to me with a proposal to have two or three bikes available for visitors to use while staying at the club.

All of these ideas need further discussion to iron out the details and hopefully they will come to fruition soon.

Randy has kindly offered to cover for me when I am away. Since taking over the position many people have come forward offering me their support and I appreciate that. A recent example of this was the day before the New Year's Levee. The club grounds were completely covered with ice. Randy was out of town so I had to step into my role as Property Manager sooner than I had expected. Dec 31 being the last day of the year and late in the afternoon I was having trouble finding someone to deliver us enough sand to make the ice-covered lot safe for all the people coming to the New Year's Levee. And to find enough people to spread it around.

Robert McComb and Don Bland sent out pleas for help and before you knew it several people showed up to help. The job of spreading the sand went a lot faster than I thought it would with the skilful help of Bruce Bateman. He scooped the sand up with that Bob Cat of ours and was able to spread it around in such a manner that it was fairly easy for the emergency volunteers to spread it with rakes and shovels. It was sometimes necessary to break up large frozen chunks with a sledge hammer. I had no reports of any one slipping and falling, so many thanks

to those who came out that day particularly. Claude Soulodre, Mike Smith, Doug & Holly, Glen Eddie, Bruce Bateman and Allen Jones.

I encourage anyone who has seen something they think needs attention to please let me know. The same goes for ideas—if you have any ideas let's hear them.

Club policy calls for the Property Manager to set up committees to oversee the club house, the gardens and the land. Randy has advised me that there are people who take care of these things informally. You of course know who you are. I would appreciate it if you would continue to do so. And I will be in touch with you regarding your efforts once I get a little more familiar with my duties.

A new table saw has been purchased and is in the garage. I urge all who want to use it to read the instructions hanging on the wall beside the door.

Gosh I don't know where all the words came from. Hey, remember the days are getting longer. Regards. ▲

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Judy and Aubrey Millard—Veleda
Veleda IV is in a marina on Thetis Island, one of the northern Gulf Islands off Vancouver Island's east coast. We had a small world department experience on our way there last fall in that we met Veleda V! It is a small trawler owned by a local. We have travelled over 10,000 km in our trailer since then from Oregon to Toronto, then down to Florida where we met up with Dennis for a short visit before he launched from Fort Pierce. Over to Texas we spent Christmas on South Padre Island then heading along the southern border of Texas to Big Bend National Park and the Davis mountains before going through New Mexico to Arizona. We are presently going to "dry camp" on free range Bureau of Land Management land

Elizabeth and Chris Hanson—Groovin'
Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014
Treasure Cay, Abaco, Bahamas

We departed Green Turtle Cay the past Monday Feb. 3rd, for Treasure Cay. The Whale as it is known can be a very rough section because of what is described as the rage where currents

and wind collide. It's distance is short about 10 miles till you make the turn to enter the Sea of Abaco which is like a giant bay. From there you have many options of where to go in a 20 mile area. The distances are easy, much like the BVI's. Anyhow, the seas were gentle with about 8 knots of wind on the nose and about 2ft. of swell which flattened out once we rounded the corner to head to Treasure Cay.

We will probably head either to Great Guana or Marsh Harbor tomorrow and see what new places have to offer.

I hear it has been quite the cold and snowy winter at home.

Glad we are here!!!

Chris & Elizabeth

Dennis MacCallum—Chances

To get a full idea of Dennis' adventures see his excellent blog at www.sailblogs.com/member/chances

Today I am anchored immediately off the town dock in beautiful West Palm Beach. Directly across the Intracoastal from Henry Flagler's mansion museum in Palm Beach. This place must contain a major part of the world's wealth !!

I will let you know where I am before February 9th. I am single handing and on my way to Marathon and Key West. Just taking my time. It is 58 F today and expected to go down to 45 F tonight! Way above freezing but still Brrrrrr!

Dennis

Mike Benson—Soulstice II

Mike and Judy were last seen travelling with *Chances* heading south.

Wheatstones—Peregrine

See the story of *Peregrine* on page 9. ▲



Mike and Judy Benson—where it's warm



CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

Lynda de Jonge van der Halen

ABOUT 50 PEOPLE gathered at TH&SC on New Year's Day to raise a glass to welcome 2014 and to share some nibbles and tall tales and dreams of boating in fine weather, whether here at home in a few months or by flying south to meet the sun and the waves earlier in the year.

New executive members, Commodore Don Bland and Rear Commodore Glen Eddie pitched in with the food prep as well as Past Commodore John Edwards. Mike Davidson ensured that we were all able to walk to the clubhouse rather than skate or slide in, with a truckload of sand and a handful of members who braved the ice and weather to spread the sand on the glare ice that covered the parking lot. Welcome aboard!

Peter was back behind the bar, creating two popular punches as well as offering wine and hot tea and coffee. Sol, Annie and Kathie saw that no one went away hungry and took care of the behind the scenes work. Mike Baker also helped others take down and put away the seasonal decorations. Thanks to the unnamed helping hands as well!

A schedule of events is being prepared for 2014, with the return of many favourites. Our new Rear Commodore, Glen Eddie, has some surprises in the works as well.

Please plan to support your club by attending events! The Social Committee is looking for new people to help in the planning and running of a variety of events at TH&SC as well as welcoming the return of people who have contributed in the past to the success of events such as Sailpast and the Corn Roast. A fun way to earn work hours and meet fellow members and visiting boaters! ▲



Elizabeth with Chris' lobster

OFFICER OF THE DAY MANAGER

Patrick Lyons

BASED ON OUR successful program last summer, the OOD sign-up sheet will again be available on Launch Day—Saturday May 3rd.

As it looks now, the duty days will begin on Friday May 16th and end with the last day being Sunday September 28th.

As previously advised we are looking to further streamline the process for next season such as removing some duplication and redundancy in the report forms, refining the reference information

binder and establishing a standard method of reporting your duty observations to the appropriate board member.

More details to follow in the April Spar and Prop.

Not so patiently awaiting the summer sailing season

Patrick Lyons

416-438-1716 ▲



Nauticals

MAUD FONTENOY HAD A DREAM. "I WANT TO ROW ACROSS THE ATLANTIC ALONE." SHE HAD SPENT THE FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS OF HER LIFE ABOARD HER PARENT'S FIFTY-FIVE FOOT SCHOONER SO WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE SEA AND ITS MANY MOODS. AFTER DECLARING HER INTENTION TO ROW THE ATLANTIC, WEST TO EAST, SHE RESEARCHED ROW-BOAT DESIGNS -TO WITHSTAND HEAVY SEAS; NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT; FOOD & DESALINATION SYSTEMS. ~ SHE WANTED TO BE THE FIRST WOMAN TO ROW THE ATLANTIC. ~ HER VOYAGE BEGAN ON JUNE 13, 2003, FROM ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON (OFF NEWFOUNDLAND) HER DESTINATION - QUESSANT ISLAND, FRANCE, AT THE NORTH END OF THE BAY OF BISCAY. HER ROWBOAT, 'PILOT' WAS 24' LONG AND A 5' BEAM.



THE VOYAGE TOOK 117 DAYS OF BRUTAL SEA CONDITIONS, DANGER, FEAR

AND GRINDING LONELINESS

TO REACH LA CORUNA, SPAIN, AT THE SOUTH END OF THE BAY OF BISCAY - ABOUT 600 MILES SOUTH OF HER TARGET. THE SALT WATER DESALINATOR BROKE DOWN 24 HOURS FROM LA CORUNA!!



SOCIAL CHAIR

Lynda de Jonge van der Halen

TH&SC 2014 Social Events

Saturday March 15

Ways and Means Job Fair/Social—7 p.m.
See the poster in Spar and Prop and at TH&SC for details.

Saturday May 3—*Launch Day*

Buy your Sailpast tickets today! Plan your group ahead of time and let us know when you reserve your tickets! Plan to pay by cash or by cheque by June 7. Sailpast is June 14!

Saturday May 17—*New Rear*

Commodore's Meet and Greek Event!
Free beer and wine 4 to 6 p.m.! \$10 for dinner! Kids \$5!

Saturday June 14—SAILPAST Mark your calendar! Reserve your dinner tickets early at Launch. Plan to pay by cash or by cheque by June 7.

Talk to your friends ahead of time and tell us the names of those with whom you would like to sit for dinner and your indoor/outdoor choice when you reserve your tickets. Each family within your group may pay separately at their convenience, up to June 9.

Tuesday July 1—*Canada Day*

Fabulous fireworks in the park and cake and ice cream and sparklers at TH&SC! Make it a family day on the water and at the club and later in the park!

Plans for the popular Summer Blast are under way. See RC Glen's update with the details.

Saturday August 30—*Corn Roast*

Enjoy the afternoon on the water watching the airshow then join us on the patio for drinks, dinner and dancing under the stars on the last long weekend of the summer.

October 18 and 19—*Haul Out*

Buy your tickets for Awards Night.

Saturday November 15—*Awards Night*

Our annual celebration of sailing and cruising and contributions to TH&SC!

Sunday November 23—*Children's*

Christmas Party

A family event with a visit from the man in red!

Thursday January 1, 2015—*New Year's Levee*

Welcome the New Year at our traditional levee!

Stay tuned for additional activities! Come to the Ways and Means Job Fair/Social on Saturday March 15 and sign up early to help at your choice of events. Senior members and family and Crew members are all welcome to help out! ▲

Please join us for a touch of the Irish on Saturday March 15 for the

Ways and Means Social/Job Fair at TH&SC! 7 p.m.

Irish coffee, a shamrock punch, hot and cold drinks, and light refreshments

Please bring along your personal calendar and sign up early for jobs on the docks, on the grounds, in the clubhouse, on the water and/or for social events.

Avoid the last minute search for work hours after Haulout!

There will be time to mingle and relax as well as time for a look at the events and jobs planned for the year.

For example, the Social Committee will have a variety of jobs and events posted. You may sign up for some specific dates/jobs or you may prefer to be involved in the activities of the Social Committee in an overall manner, ready to help out at numerous events by working behind the scenes, decorating, food prep, set up and related tasks.

It is up to you! Meet club members and visiting boaters while fulfilling your Ways and Means hours in ways that meet the needs of the club and suit your interests/talents/skills.

A variety of jobs will be posted. As in any year, urgent jobs and additional calls for maintenance and other work will be posted as needed.

Senior members, family members and Crew members are welcome to sign up for jobs. Earn your hours for Ways and Means or just sign up as a volunteer if you don't need the hours.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

by Paul Evans

So far (Feb 1st) 44 folks have send in their fees for 2014 so there is some money in the bank. Please send in your 2014 fees

sooner rather than later. You can postdate your cheque to Feb 28 and that is fine.

A number of folks have forgotten to include a copy of their boat insurance though, so those people will have to provide that before launch.

For those who forgot, if you want to scan and email insurance forms to me at ibmcepg@ca.ibm.com I can then print and put it with your renewal form.

Many Thanks ▲

VICE COMMODORE

Robert McComb

THE CHANCE to bump and grind with your fellow boaters at the boat show has come and gone and I'm sure many of you now have shiny new toys and must have gadgets for the coming spring and summer. Plus depleted bank accounts and bloated credit cards—but that's what sailing is all about. Why waste your money on frivolous things like food and shelter when you can use it on your darling sailboat.

Boy, what a brutal winter we're having. It's one of the worst I can remember and I'm a really old person. I've kept the faith, exponentially enlarging my carbon footprint every year so I've done my part for this global warming thing but alas to no avail. The weather is just horrible out there. I will be heading to Florida shortly but I promise to carry on the good fight from there. If you wish to correspond with me during that time please send me an email at rem32145@gmail.com and I will answer any queries.

Some of you have not sent your proof of insurance with your signed invoices. Well shame on you. You will not be launched until some member of the board sees it. You can scan it then save it as a PDF file and send it to me at rem32145@gmail.com and I will acknowledge it's arrival. Or mail a copy to Paul Evans, the returning officer, on the address shown on your invoice. Or mail it to me personally: Robert McComb – 32 Paula Blvd – Toronto, On M8W 4B6. Make sure your name is on it somewhere.

I would like to thank members who have already paid their membership dues and remind everyone else that payment must be received by Feb. 28, 2014. On March 1st you must pay a 10% fine on the total before HST and on April 1st another 10% fine. You will not be launched until you are fully paid and can have your membership terminated. If you have a legitimate reason why you can't pay please contact me or any other member of the board and explain your circumstance and we will always try to see what we can do. If for some reason you have not received your invoice please contact me by email at rem32145@gmail.com and I will send you one.

The Beaches Easter Parade is coming up. Would anyone out there be interested in hauling our club boat in

the Easter Parade? You will be given a work day for it and it might even be fun for you and your family. Please let me know quick so I can register it and make arrangements.

Look, I know it's hard to believe right now but someday warm weather will return to our lovely yacht club and we will be out there going like stink on the race course, beating all our sorry competition or maybe cruising off to exotic places like Bluffers Park and The Hole. So chin up, smile and keep the faith. It won't be long before you are sitting on the back of your boat sipping on a tall drink with an umbrella and screaming obscenities at the paddlers who get too close. Just hang in there. ▲

FLEET CAPTAIN CRUISING

Albert Kerek

HELLO EVERYBODY, I'm your new incoming cruise director. As I sit here writing this piece, my mind is out there on this great lake of ours, galloping along at six or seven knots. James Perrault, our outgoing (in many ways) cruise director has been a great help to me and will continue to support us in this coming season.

James and I attended The Lake Ontario Cruising Club Association (LOCCA) meeting in January and came away with many reciprocal cruises booked and also some excellent ideas to enhance cruising at this great club of ours.

In May and June we sail the traditional cruises to Bluffer's Park Yacht Club (BPLYC) and Highland's Yacht Club (HYC) respectively and for those of us interested in a longer and more challenging passage, we will be hosted at the Macassa Bay Yacht Club's (MBCYC) annual Rib Fest, July 18-20, in beautiful Hamilton Harbour. Our cruising committee will pick up the tab for all members attending this event.

For me, the most exciting cruise of the season will surely be the 'Commodore's Cruise' to Frenchman's Bay Yacht Club (FBYC), July 26-27, hosted by our very own Commodore, the venerable 'Don Bland'. Members who sailed to FBYC last season will remember a great time at one of the most accommodating clubs on our lake.

This year, the cruising committee will be looking for members to follow the example of our own Commodore

and step up to volunteer as a 'Cruising Captain' to host one of our cruises. The host will be responsible for the meal's entrée which will be covered by the club and otherwise organize his/her fellow cruisers.

We will offer each cruising captain a jacket with the TH&SC emblem embroidered on the chest with the name of their boat. The sleeve will have the year that they were a captain with a chevron. In subsequent years, the chevron and date will be added—not a new jacket each time. The cruise captain will also fly the LOCCA burgee.

To facilitate all of the above, James Perrault has arranged with our web master, Mike Montgomery, for cruisers to sign up at our thsc.ca site, also, applications for cruising captains to host a cruise will be accepted immediately.

In closing, I'm looking forward to meeting with all of you and to sailing this lake together in 2014. ▲

Kite boarding and sail boarding on frozen outer harbour



But, Hey!!!!...

Continued from page 8

I guess the only other thing I've "left undone" is to thank you.

It's been fun writing this over the years, and I hope it's been fun for you reading it. (If anybody did.)

Thank you all for your patience (especially you Richard) and your tolerance. If, at any time, any of my insensitive barbs offended anyone, for any reason, I do apologize.

It was all written and intended in the spirit of fun (and amusement).

Luv ya!

P.S.: I opened this with a quote from my dear friend Shakespeare. Seems apropos to close with one.

"Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player, that stuts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifyng nothing.

Macbeth: Scene 5, Act five

But, Hey!!!!...That's The Adventure.
B.C.S.I.S.

Editor's note: All of Eric's adventures are available in back issues of Spar and Prop. They are in PDF format on a DVD data disk. Contact Rich Taylor at rwt@total.net ▲

But, Hey!!! That's (Been) The Adventure

by Eric Muff

Editor here: *On the 1st of November 2013 I got a letter in the mail addressed in a familiar hand that I've seen for many years. It was from Eric Muff.*

Since June 1990 Eric sent me a handwritten story that we've entitled "But, Hey!!! That's the Adventure". Eric travelled all over the world by ship. First during the Second World War in Corvettes and Destroyers. Then on freighters as one of the few passengers they sometimes carry. Later, when health concerns scuppered the freighters he went on some cruise ships. And finally on coach trips. His reports were in his inimitable style, observing his fellow passengers and the world at large with humour and honesty.

I wrote to the person who sent me the letter and here is what she said:

Dec 8, 2013

Thank you for your letter. I am Eric's daughter, the oldest and only girl of three children. Dad asked me to send the letter after he passed, which was on September 29, 2013. He had a stroke, he was in his 91st year. I had no idea what the letter contained. I look forward to seeing the letter in your February issue. I had it in my possession for a few years; he told me to send it two months after the fact. Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Jo Anne

But, Hey!!!...That's The Adventure.

"The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones; so let it be with ~~Caesar~~



Muffer." *Julius Caesar: Scene two, Act 3*

As we used to say in the "Church of England" (now politically incorrect, you can't use the word England any more, it may offend the peoples we befriended) I think I'm supposed to say the "Anglican Church of Canada". Anywho...

As we used to say in the Church of England: "We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things we ought not to have done and there is no health in us."

I'm here today (much to your

surprise) to do a couple of the things I ought to have done!

For a hundred years Garry Thomson tried (fair or foul) to get me to give him the words to my father's poem—"The Oatmeal Clan" and another poem I learned, as a child, from an old Nova Scotian fisherman.

You've probably, at one time or another, heard me recite them around the club.

So, Garry (and other haggis bashers) (politically correct to the bleedin' end), here they are.

THE OATMEAL CLAN

by Arthur Leonard Muff

*You may rave about your bronchos,
Your wops, your slavs, your tykes,
Your jolly little Dutchmen
Who hail from Holland dykes.
Also about the ghastly hun,
Whose history is one blotch.
But heaven above defend me
From the God-damned Scotch.*

*Their heads are thick as antique oak,
Scarce any light glints through.
And if you tell your choicest joke,
They'll blandly stare at you.
Their capacity for humour
Doesn't reach to the first notch,
Those muckle-headed bunch of clams,
The God-damned Scotch.*

*I've sailed from 'Frisco to the horn,
From Spain to Timbuktu.
I've stood in old Judea's plain,
Beside the whiskered Jew.
In every climate, land and zone,
From north star to van hotch.
And I'd rather have three bronchos
than one God-damned Scotch.*

*Author's note: Broncho—stubborn, bull-headed, limey bastard. Tyke—same as broncho, only from Yorkshire.

Ya see Garry, that didn't hurt, did it? But, hey!!!...remember poetic licence. The other poem doesn't have a title that I'm aware of, it was told to me by an old fisherman from Grand Manan.

Author unknown

*I stood, one day by a breezy bay
And I watched an old ship sail by.
And an old tar said
With a shake of his head
I wish I was one to lie.
I've seen some sights
That would jigger your lights,
And they jiggered my own, forsooth.
But I ain't worth a darn
At spinnin' a yarn*

That wanders away from the truth.

*Well, I shipped in a barque, old Nancy Stark
When, several leagues to sea,
Captain Snook, with a troubled look,
Comes up and he says to me,
"Bos'n Smith, make haste forthwith,
And hemstitch the spanker sail,
Accordian-pleat the for'ad sheet,
For she's gonna blow a gale".*

*Well, I straightway did what the old man bid,
And no sooner my job was through.
The north-wind crack set us all aback,
and Jesus, how she blew.
She blew the tars right off the spars,
The spars right off the mast.
Anchors and sail, and kegs of nails
Went by in the winds of the blast.*

*Our galley shook, as it blew the cook
Up under the starboard glim.
And all the kettles, and pots and pans
Went clattering after him.
It blew the fire right out of the stove,
The coal right out of the bin.
It whistled a pace 'round the old man's face
And blew all the hair off his chin.*

*"Well, wiggle-me-dead", the old man said,
These words were blown out of his mouth.
"We are lost, I fear, if the wind don't veer
And blow in from the south."*

*"Well wiggle-me-dead", the words he
had said,
The words that were blown from his mouth.
With a hurricane sound the wind
changed round,
And blew in from the south.*

*We opened our eyes, in wild surprise,
But nary a word did we say,
For, on changin' tack the wind blew back,
The things its had blown away.*

*It blew the tars back on the spars,
The spars back on the mast.
Anchors and sails and kegs of nails,
Back to the ship stuck fast.
We all did look as it blew the cook
Back onto the galley poop.
And came the kettles and pots and pans,
Without spillin' a drop of the soup.*

*It blew the fire back into the stove,
Where it burned in its regular place.
And we all of us cheered
As it blew the beard
Back on the old man's face.*

*Well, there's more to my tale,
Said the sailor hale.
That would jigger your lights, forsooth,
But, I ain't worth a darn
At spinnin' a yarn
That wanders away from the truth.*

*Author's note: Glim—break of the fo'c'sle.

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THE ADVENTURES OF PEREGRINE

by Peggy Wheatstone

WE ARRIVED AT THE BOAT Tuesday the 14th of January at 5 pm with our five suitcases! Got to love West Jet, the extra three bags cost us a whopping \$90. :) That was the good part.

The boat had been fumigated Monday! Let the fun begin.

My sister Sue and her son Rob arrived just before noon the next day...they got to help clean. Every surface, every cupboard, every item...you get the picture.

We did escape for one beach trip Thursday afternoon, an around the island tour Saturday and a wonderful bus ride to and afternoon beach trip Sunday.

Our pallet of "stuff" finally arrived on Friday so now Mike is in full panic mode to get everything accomplished.

Rob and I have done a few errand runs and Rob did another with Mike Friday to suss out the phone and internet. There is nothing like being connected when you know you are away for a while.

The jib is on and the main going on. It's beginning to look like a sailboat. We plan to head off to Grand Case.

OK scratch that. The French bridge is broken, and has been for five days. No word on repair time. Apparently they could open it once a day at 5:30 when the electrician required to bypass the part they needed was available. C'est la vie. Out the Dutch bridge.

Every Tuesday night at Grande Case they close the main street (there are only two) to vehicular traffic. Vendors selling clothes jewellery, artwork, alcohol and food set up stalls/tables. There is a parade resplendent with costumed ladies, Mardi Gras style, and a marching band. We decided to forego the stand up and starve fare and took advantage of one of Grande Case's amazing French restaurants for wonderful dinner. La Tu Provencal did not disappoint.

We had some excitement the next day on the return trip to our mooring ball, as I looked into the dinghy to see gas pouring in from a break on the gas line. Once we were back on our ball in Simpson Bay (early) Rob got to row the dinghy to Budget marine so he and Mike could get new parts.

Thursday was a lazy day and our Friday trip to Marigot was cancelled due to the rain storm from hell. But I didn't have to shovel it so it was just hunker down and wait it out time. Saturday Sue and Rob headed off home via Jamaica.

Saturday was also the day our friend and also boat broker Che put Mike up the mast four times. When the fish line chafed through the last time it was game over and rethink time. Che

allowed as how he had been bemoaning missing his work out at the gym that morning but he had put a few nice burns on his upper arms now so he thought he had made up for it. I can't imagine how Mike and I would have fared without him. We thought we were treating him to a nice dinner but the delicious Lebanese meal was a treat for all. I can't remember when my taste buds had such a concentration and variety of pleasant assaults. St Maarten is much like Toronto but in miniature. I have seen an amazing variety of culinary choices in one strip of shops.

Sunday went much better, once up and the new line was run. Monday it was off to FKG to get a mounting plate fabricated. Mike does love the proximity of everything from our own ball in the bay. About the distance between *Dragonfyre II* and ABYC's gas dock there are two marine stores, two sail makers, a rigging/custom metalworker business and an electrical supply. Not to mention the three Chinese grocers, laundry and propane fillup. A trip for errands is across the bay by dinghy and can take all morning. I think we did actually visit every service supplier on the north shore that morning. We were gone for three hours. Things were moving very slowly on my forward rain guards and the rear sunshades so it was another check in there. That afternoon our on shore neighbours, Mike and Diana, took me with them to the Cost U Less in Phillipsburg for a provisioning run.

Somewhere in here we had a surprise stop by from a fellow boater, Glen from *Rocketeer*. He had been introduced to Mike by shore neighbour Mike and was asking for some help. He had ordered something from North Sails and forgotten to pick it up before they closed. He was leaving at 5 am for the USVI so he could pick up his wife at 10 pm. Since we were coming to the BVI here is \$100, would you please get it and bring it along. I must say we boaters are an odd and trusting lot. It is also wonderful how everyone bands together and helps each other out.

Wednesday I did my first foray to check out, pay lagoon fees and bridge lifts. It was an interesting exercise in bureaucracy partly impeded by our own ignorance and absence of essential paperwork. Luckily the missing papers weren't critical just annoying to the ladies. Done, I was all set to pay when the power went down. I would have to come back they told me! Ouch!

Evans and Willsons arrived about 9:40 pm and we soon got them settled. All I can say about the flurry of activity that happened over the next two days is WOW! With the requested parts arriving in suitcases projects old and new came to fruition. On the Saturday Che took the dinghy out (while we ladies went to the Cost U Less by bus) and threw Mike up the mast one last time. Apparently he left him up there

returning to shore just ahead of the rain storm. So there was Mike getting pelted hanging on to the top of the mast 60 feet up. Paul and Keith offering encouragement from the deck.

Saturday had Marie and me back to customs to finish Wednesday's chore. Luckily we had a nice lady with a brain and we are now set up and on track.

Sunday morning it was off for a lovely cooked breakfast at Zee Best and final arrangements to cast off.

We left the ball on schedule and expertly exited the 4 o'clock bridge. We anchored out but the swells and bouncing left everyone underslept. The plan was to get up at 5:30 and head off about 6. The unexpected rainstorm delayed our departure until about 6:50. We did finally arrive at 5:50, with one engine (water in the fuel water separator and grunge in one of the filters encouraged the starboard engine to decide to take a holiday). Our ball pick up at Leverick Bay was a thing of beauty. The ride had been quite bouncy and the sails well reefed. We were all glad to get here and put up our quarantine flag.

First thing Tuesday we went in to Gun Creek to experience the Laurel and Hardy customs and immigration team. US customs take note. You CAN operate with professionalism and humour!



Now all checked in we are good until March 4. Last night was another exquisite meal at the Leverick Bay restaurant, an early birthday dinner for me. Yum.



Now the sailing and snorkelling begin. A sail to Long Bay for lunch and a swim was followed by a sail to Marina Cay for overnight. Long Bay offered a variety of fish, turtles, a ray and a barracuda. Most of the anchorages here have so many balls there is little room left to anchor so often the choice is to take the ball. A mixed blessing as the residents of *Peregrine* always sleep better on a ball, but they are \$30 a night.



The next day was off to Cane Garden Bay with the now obligatory lunch/snorkel stop. Today was Monkey Point where I finally got to see ad watch and octopus in its own environment. The fascinating creature did not disappoint.



Next stop Soper's Hole for reprovisioning with the lunch stop in Smuggler's Cove. I am sure you have heard us all rave about the world's best pizza at the Jolly Roger unless you have been exceedingly lucky and escaped before we began. Well, I am sorry to say the Jolly Roger is no more. In its place however is a wonderful new restaurant called the Fish 'n Lime, well worth the visit.

Time to send this to Rich and start our next strenuous day in paradise. Peggy & Mike,
Peregrine 🏴‍☠️

 February 2014 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
IT'S THE HEART OF WINTER—TIME TO PLAY DARTS						1
2	3	4	5	6	DARTS 7	8
9	10	11	12	13	DARTS 14 Valentine's	15
16	17	18	19	20	DARTS 21	22
23	24	25	26	27	DARTS 28	
HAVE YOU HUGGED YOUR BOAT YET?						

 March 2014 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
CHECK YOUR BOAT—CHARGE BATTERY						1
2	3	4	5	6	DARTS 7	8
Daylight Saving Starts 9	10	11	12	13	DARTS 14	Ways & Means Social/Job Fair 15
16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	Spring begins 20	DARTS 21	22
23	24	25	26	27	DARTS 28	29
30	31	MAKE YOUR LIST OF THINGS TO DO				

 April 2014 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	DARTS 4	5
6	7	8	9	10	DARTS 11	12
13	14	15	16	17	Good Friday 18	19
Easter Sunday 20	21	Earth Day 22	Race Meeting-6:30 23	24	DARTS 25	26
27	28	29	30			
PAINT, SCRAPE, POLISH AND CLEAN—GET READY						

 May 2014 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
LAUNCH DAY—HOORAY!				1	2	LAUNCH DAY 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mother's Day 11	12	13	Warmup Race 14	15	16	Bluffer's Cruise/ Ice Breaker R 17
18	Victoria Day 19	20	Series 1 RACE 1 21	22	23	24
25	Memorial Day-USA 26	27	Series 1 RACE 2 28	29	30	31
CRUISE AND RACE—TRY BOTH THIS MONTH						