



TORONTO HYDROPLANE & SAILING CLUB

# Spar & Prop

FEBRUARY 2015

NUMBER 227



*Gusty Blue Sky*  
By Anibal Pinguelo



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# Calendar

**Darts**—Most Fridays about 7 until Launch. See calendars on page 10 for details.  
**Annual Job Fair**—**Saturday, March 7th**—Sign up for your work obligation early and see what's right for you.

**Soupapoluza and Movie Night**—**Saturday, March 21st**—See Rear Commodore's Report on Page 3.

**Racer's Meeting**—**Wednesday, April 22nd**—New to racing? Come and see what it's all about. Regular racers, come and see what's up for 2015.

**LAUNCH DAY**—**Saturday, May 2nd**—The day we wait for all winter.

**Warmup Race**—**Wednesday, May 13**

## Saturday March 7

### 7 p.m.

**Please join us for our annual job fair!**

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

**Avoid hunting for work hours in November!**

**This year we will be looking for more "volunteers" to help out Social, leaving the "heavy lifting" work hours for the seawall project and key property jobs.**

**"Crew" members and family members, your volunteer help on the seawall or with social events would be greatly appreciated, for the benefit of the club.**

*If you are out of town and unable to attend, contact Dave Johnston or Tom Monson or Mike Davidson or Lynda de Jonge van der Halen and offer your services.*

**Once you have signed up and made a commitment to the sea wall project or other jobs, relax and enjoy an Irish coffee and light refreshments. Bring your guitar, fiddle, spoons or bodhran and help get toes tapping for a THSC kitchen party!**

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

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# COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Don Bland

I AM RAPIDLY becoming a fan of global warming. Hope it gets here soon. February at a snow covered sailing club. What can one say?



Your executive and the various committees are working on many Spring events. This year looks like it is going to be a year where many of us are going to be asked to put in more than the bare minimum number of work hours. I know there is a core of members who put in extra every year. We need that core to be bigger this year. Please offer your time and expertise, it will be appreciated.

One thing is problematical! Our annual hydro bill has risen drastically. We are attempting to figure out what has caused this. You need to make sure your boat is unplugged when you are not at the club.

Saturday May 4th. is launch day, much as winter feels long, Spring preparation time will be short so make your plans now.

We are in need of a volunteer to manage the Officer of the Day program, If interested please contact your Harbourmaster. ▲

# REAR COMMODORE

Glen Eddie

ISN'T THE WEATHER refreshing? I can't think of anything better than January/February in Toronto. If the Facebook pictures are any indication we should all be thinking of our poor Past Commodore, John Edwards, who is dealing with Caribbean weather-related ailments such as vitamin D overload and warmth. Let's not get started on having to wear shorts and shoes without wool socks. Who would want that life! Same goes for the Wheatstones and the Antes. We are all thinking of you in your time of need.



Now on to important club business. You will be happy to note that the Social committee is again headed by the wonderful Lynda (no last name required). We had our first meeting in January and our first event will be the Ways and Means Social on Saturday, March 7th. There will be music and food and a chance to sign up for your work hours for the year. Check elsewhere in this Spar and Prop for more particulars. We will also follow up with an email to everyone shortly.

On March 21st we will be having the first *Souppoluzza and Movie Night*. This will be a kid friendly Pot

Luck event and everyone is welcome. After we warm up with some soup, etc. we will be showing a movie. Best soup will get a prize and bragging rights for the year. The rules committee is still ruling on whether Chili can be a candidate for the contest. The idea is to start at around 4:00 pm and get out by 8:30 pm. Bring down the kids and grandkids. If you have a suggestion for a movie please feel free to send me an email at [geddie@torkinmanes.com](mailto:geddie@torkinmanes.com). Remember this is a kid friendly event when making your movie suggestions! We will be following up with an email reminder with further details, but make sure you put the date in your calendar now.

Now to racing news. As discussed in my last report we have struck up a Summer Blast Committee. The committee is made up of our beloved race captain Jamie Carroll, Alan Jones, Greg Smith and myself. If you want to join the committee we would be happy to have more volunteers. Just send me an email and I will add you to the list of super cool committee members. This goes for all social, cruising, and racing events. Come volunteer to be with the cool kids.

Well that is all I have for now. We will have the full event calendar available for the April Spar and Prop (we are just confirming some cruising dates). ▲

# VICE COMMODORE

Claude Soulodre

AS THIS IS MY FIRST column as your newbie Vice



Commodore, it is fitting that I begin with a round of appreciation. Firstly, thank you to the membership for entrusting me with this responsibility for the next two years. Secondly, to Robert McComb, our out-going Vice Commodore, for his ongoing support and mentorship as I learn the ropes and thirdly, to everyone else (JoAnne Adolphe, Paul Evans and many past and present board members), who have been there to support and advise me during the transition.

As Don mentioned in his December column, the proposed changes to the TH&SC Constitution were approved at the December 7th AGM. With the assistance of Mike Montgomery, the updated Constitution has been added to the Club website as a downloadable PDF. It is available as a new menu item under "Membership".

As an aside, I recently received a call from a board member at another local sailing club where they were in the process of updating their own club rules. The gentleman I spoke to was interested in our experiences in that area and had some high praise for our Constitution, rules and by-laws, something we should all be proud of.

I'd like to remind everyone that the 2015 invoices have been sent out and payment is due on or before February 28th to avoid any late fees.

One of my first actions as Vice Commodore was to set up an Internet committee to review the Club's current records management and business processes. The role of the committee is to make recommendations on how these processes might be centralized into an online Club Management system. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Greg Smith, Mike Montgomery and Terry Pasioka for volunteering their time, considerable knowledge and expertise to support

this initiative. I'm confident the committee will come back with some valuable and practical recommendations that will make members' information more accessible to them and simplify some of the Club's business processes. I look forward to reporting the committee's progress to you in the coming months.

I'll close by wishing you all a safe 2015 and I look forward to seeing you all at launch. ▲





## SOCIAL CHAIR

Lynda de Jonge van der Halen

Happy New Year!

**T**HE ANNUAL New Year's Day Levee at TH&SC was attended by approximately 63 people who enjoyed the bare roads, in contrast to last year's icy conditions. The winds were still bitter cold for those outside hooking up the battery chargers on their boats. Members gathered to chat about the weather and personal plans for boating and travel, as well as to discuss club events and plans for the seawall and other projects at the club.

Tom Monson in his family tartan was certainly the best dressed! A tasty and abundant spread of hot and cold appetizers, tea sandwiches and sweets was offered, with a choice of three punches, wine, pop, tea and coffee.

Many thanks to the crew in the kitchen (Sol, Lisa, Krysa and Reza) who prepared the food and kept the tables filled then stayed and did the clean up and took down the decorations, with the help of Bill and Lori. Thanks too to Jacquie and Lena who helped get things ready for the first guests. The elegant silver and white decorations were a bonus, left in place courtesy of Bill and Lori Commerford who celebrated their daughter Kailie's wedding reception at TH&SC on December 27. Our best wishes to the bride and groom!

### ***Do you have any suggestions or requests for Social activities in 2015?***

Your input is welcome. Please email Lynda or Glen with your ideas. If you want to be included in the planning stages, early in the year, please let us know. We also always welcome help with the set up, serving and clean up required at each event.

Plans are in the works for the Ways and Means Social on March 7th. Mark that date on your calendar and come out to sign up for your choice of jobs to earn hours for Ways and Means but please don't limit yourself to just 16 hours! We need the additional volunteer contributions of helping hands in order to make our events successful and to maintain the docks, yard and clubhouse. Plan now. Don't be looking for work hours in November and December to meet your obligatory 16 hours for Ways and Means. ▲



## WAYS AND MEANS

Dave Johnston (Two Bits)

**I** WANT TO START by saying a big thank you to Neal Claassen who took on the Ways & Means role for past few years. I was supposed to be his side-kick but some things came up in my life that prevented that. Neal has set the bar so high it is easy to walk under it. Thanks Neal – trust you are enjoying Collingwood and that the skiing is awesome.

I also want to thank all of those members who take the initiative every year and step up to do work without even being asked. A lot of things get done as if by magic because of these members. It is very much appreciated.

Recently I found out why Peggy Wheatstone kept asking me over and over again if I might consider taking on this role. And why the job had no competition. The club has put off doing a lot of significant work due to the uncertainty of the lease but now that the lease is good for a few decades or so we have a LOT of work to do. I mean a LOT!

Like the city of Toronto, much of the club infrastructure that was built fifty or so years ago is now past its useful life and in need of replacement. Specifically the sea wall and electrical distribution system both urgently need to be re-built. These are both huge jobs requiring hundreds of hours of work from the members. This is on top of all the other routine jobs we have just to keep the club going. No idea at this time how this will be achieved. (Maybe I'll move to Collingwood too.)

I have a theory that many members would contribute work hours if given the opportunity. That theory was recently tested when members were asked to help move a cooler donated to our club. Not including the executive, only two members responded to the email blasts. Bummer! The theory will be tested again with various communications and I am counting on members to prove the theory is correct. Otherwise it is back to press gangs and other similar methods and techniques.

On March 7 there will be a Ways and Means Social at the club to make it easy for you to sign up for work in 2015. Looks like an Irish theme will



prevail at the event so it's a great opportunity to get a head start on Saint Patrick's Day at the same time. There will be Irish coffee, shamrock punch and other goodies. Hopefully we will also get the luck of the Irish this year because we are going to need it. I look forward to seeing you March 7 at the Club.

### **SAFETY MESSAGE**

I want to take this opportunity to remind boat owners to not leave their boats plugged in to charge the batteries unattended for more than two hours, as per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The likelihood of a fire is low but the consequences of a fire, if one were to occur, are enormous. The risk of leaving batteries charging while on the boat and unattended is huge. ▲

## *New Year's Levee*



Tom Monson

# RACING RESULTS 2014

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACE RESULTS

Plc	Name	Dv Pts	SERIES 1				SERIES 2					SERIES 3				
			1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>DIVISION 1</b>																
1	Fauvette	22.00	1	(6q)	1	3	1	1	3	2	(5)	1	(7c)	(7c)	5	3
2	Windchaser	24.00	(3)	(6q)	(3)	2	3	1	3	(4)	3	3	2	3	2	2
3	Dark 'n Stormy	26.00	(7c)	6q	4	1	(7c)	5	1	3	1	(7c)	1	(7c)	3	1
4	Iggy	31.00	(4)	(6q)	(5)	4	4	2	4	2	1	2	4f	1	4	(5f)
5	Freya IV	32.00	2	(7c)	2	(7c)	2	4	(7c)	1	(7c)	4	7c	2	1	7c
6	Islay	63.00	(7c)	1	6	(7c)	(7c)	(7c)	7c	7c	7c	7c	7c	7c	7c	7c
<b>DIVISION 2</b>																
1	Tsunami	12.00	1	1	1	(2)	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	2	(5)	2	(3)
2	Legacy	23.00	(9c)	(9c)	2	1	(9c)	2	2	(5)	3	2	1	3	3	4
3	Emrys	29.00	4	(9c)	4	3	(5)	4	3	2	2	(9c)	4	2	1	(5)
4	Dragonfyre	38.00	2	(9c)	3	(9c)	1	3	5	3	4	(9c)	(9c)	4	4	9c
5	Missee Lee	42.00	(9c)	2	(9c)	5	3	6	4	6	5	3	(9c)	(9c)	6f	2
6	Crackerjack	51.00	3	(9c)	(9c)	4	4	5	6	4	6	(9c)	(9c)	1	9c	9c
7	Windhoek II	76.00	(9c)	(9c)	(9c)	(9c)	9c	9c	9c	9c	9c	9c	3	9c	9c	1
<b>DIVISION 3</b>																
1	Let It Be	10.00	(1)	1	1	1	(2)	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	(2)
2	Skookumchuk	21.00	2	2	2	(3)	1	(4)	2	2	3	3	(4)	3	(4)	1
3	Blue Sky	27.50	(5)	3.5	(5)	4	(12c)	1	3	3	2	2	2	5	2	(12c)
4	Connemara	43.00	3	5	3	5	3	(12c)	4	(12c)	(6)	(6)	3	6	6	5
5	Trevor Kane	55.50	6	3.5	6	7	(12c)	5	(12c)	5	4	4	(12c)	(12c)	3	12c
6	Gemini	60.00	4	(12c)	4	2	(12c)	2	(12c)	(12c)	12c	7	12c	2	12c	3
7	El Sueno	80.00	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	6	6f	(12c)	5	12c	5	5	12c	12c	5	12c
8	el sueno	93.00	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	12c	7	12c	4	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	4	12c	6
9	Craiglaighie	97.00	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	12c	6	12c	12c	12c	12c	12c	12c	12c	4
10	Little Feat	106.00	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	(12c)	4	8	12c	12c	12c	12c	5	8q	12c	12c

( )=Throwout      c=Did Not Compete      q=Disqualified      f=Did Not Finish

# CAUTION COLD WATER



## HYPOTHERMIA KILLS.

## *New Year's Levee*



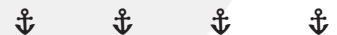
### WEEKEND RACE RESULTS

Plc	Name	Dv Pts	Ice Breaker	Dufferin Bell	Race de Voygr	Bluffers	Frostbite	Circle of Life	Wednesday	TOTAL	Standing
			1	2	3	4	5	6			
<b>DIVISION 1</b>											
1	Dark 'n Stormy	6.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	26	32	1
2	Freya IV	21.00	2	2	7c	5	2	3	32	53	3
3	Iggy	27.00	3	4	7c	2	4	7c	31	58	4
4	Fauvette	28.00	2	7c	7c	7c	3	2	22	50	2
5	Windchaser	34.00	7c	7c	3	7c	3	7c	24	58	4
6	Isla	38.00	4	7c	7c	6	7c	7c	63	101	5
<b>DIVISION 2</b>											
1	Skookumchuk	29.00	1	3	15c	4	3	3	21	50	1
2	Connemara	30.00	3	7	2	7	5	6	43	73	5
3	Legacy	36.00	15c	2	15c	2	1	1	23	59	3
4	Emrys	37.00	4	5	1	6	6	15c	29	66	4
5	Tsunami	40.00	15c	1	15c	1	4	4	12	52	2
6	ElSueno	43.00	15c	6f	2	4	7	9f	80	123	8
7	Trevor Kane	53.00	15c	4	15c	15c	2	2	55.5	108.5	7
8	Let It Be	70.00	5	15c	15c	15c	15c	5	10	80	6
9	Eau Naturelie	71.00	15c	15c	3	8	15c	15c	/	/	

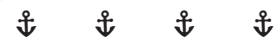
## *New Year's Levee*



Editor's e-mail address is  
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The Deadline for the  
APRIL issue of  
Spar & Prop is  
**March 31**



Spar and Prop is available in  
PDF format emailed in lieu of the  
paper edition and also  
available from our website.

Website address is  
**www.thsc.ca**



# TREASURER

Bill Comerford

TO BEGIN my first article, I'd like to thank Peggy Wheatstone for her contributions as treasurer over the past two years. She has left the position on solid financial ground.



I'd also like to thank the membership for placing their trust in me as the club's treasurer. I look forward to the challenges the position will bring over the next two years. I will endeavour to ensure we remain fiscally responsible in the face of our upcoming infrastructure costs. My job will be made easier with the assistance of David Johnston, Ways and Means; Joan Willson, Secretary; and Paul Evans, Receiving Officer. Thank you for assisting with these very important jobs.

Thanks also to Larry Adolphe, Phil Delahaye and Sylvie Lavoie for their efforts auditing the 2014 Financial Statements. This was completed in January and I'm pleased to inform you that our club is in good shape. A major area of expense that will need everyone's attention is our energy usage. It is up significantly since 2012. You may be shocked to know that we spend about \$300 per sailing member in heat and electricity. That is not an insignificant number considering that the club is only busy six months of the year. We will be conducting an energy audit with the purpose of determining what we can do to cut down on these expenses. If you see an area of obvious waste, please inform the executive. Perhaps some timers and LEDs are in our future.

As the club moves forward with major infrastructure projects, there will be some significant financial challenges. In addition to the dues increase for 2015, we will be asking you to generously donate your time in order to help offset some of these expenses. David Johnston will have the difficult task of finding volunteers for the increased labour demand. Please heed his calls.

Happy New Year to all. 🚩



## Nauticals

ON APRIL 24, 1895, JOSHUA SLOCUM SET OUT ON HIS SOLO VOYAGE AROUND THE GLOBE. AFTER A ROUGH PASSAGE NAVIGATING THE DANGERS OF CAPE HORN HE ENTERED THE PACIFIC OCEAN. IT WAS HIS PLAN TO VISIT THE ISLAND OF JUAN FERNANDEZ, LATITUDE 34 S. 400 MILES WEST OF CHILE. THIS IS THE ISLAND WHERE ROBINSON CRUSOE HAD BEEN MAROONED. DANIEL DE FOE HAD REWRITTEN THE STORY OF ALEXANDER SELKIRK WHO HAD BEEN MAROONED. ~ CAPT. SLOCUM REACHED THE ISLAND ON APRIL 26, 1896. HE VISITED CRUSOE'S LOOK-OUT AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN. THERE HE FOUND A TABLET FIXED ONTO THE FACE OF A ROCK HE COPIED THE WORDS ON THE TABLET:  
"IN MEMORY OF ALEXANDER SELKIRK, MARINER, A NATIVE OF LARGO, IN THE COUNTY OF FIFE, SCOTLAND, WHO LIVED ON THIS ISLAND IN COMPLETE SOLITUDE FOR FOUR YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS. HE WAS LANDED FROM THE 'CINQUE PORTS' GALLEY, 96 TONS, 18 GUNS, AD 1704. AND WAS TAKEN OFF IN THE DUKE'S PRIVATEER, FEB. 12, 1709. HE DIED LIEUTENANT OF H.M.S. WEYMOUTH, AD. 1723, AGED 42. THIS TABLET IS ERECTED NEAR SELKIRK'S LOOK-OUT, BY COMMODORE POWELL AND THE OFFICERS OF H.M.S. TOPAZ AD. 1868."



Join us at darts on Friday evenings about 7

(See calendar)

Darts are available.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Jeff Ante** is soaking up the warmth on his boat in the Caribbean.

**Dennis MacCallum—Chances**

The plan is to head south again after Christmas into the Keys and cross the Florida Straits to Havana and Veradero, Cuba. What I will do..., is sail under one bridge at a time. As I come to it!

Sail plan is to single hand back down the Florida Keys to Cuba and / or back to the Bahamas. Hoping to return to Canada in 2015; either TH&SC or the Maritimes.

**Elizabeth and Chris Hanson—Groovin'**

Just a quick note that we intend on making our crossing from Lake Worth (West Palm Beach) to the Abacos early tomorrow morning (Wednesday).

We left Indiantown on the 5th and spent the next week at Peck Lake near Stuart, then moved down to Lake Worth yesterday, setting up for our crossing.

All is well on *Groovin'*

After three long days we arrived in Green Turtle Cay.

Crossing the gulf was a long day with winds shifting from our favour to in our face.

We left West Palm at 6:15 am, got to the Bahama banks (Memory Rock) at 4:30 pm, but had another 25 miles to go after that to Mangrove Cay where we anchored about two miles short of it at 11:00 pm. Whew a very long day indeed, about 15 hrs. total.

Second day we made a short one, we started about 10 am since we were still wiped after our crossing. It was a beautiful flat calm day with little to no wind to help us.

We anchored off Yankee Cay about 10 miles east of Great Sale at 4 pm.

Thursday Jan 22, we motor/sailed with the jib all the way to Green Turtle Cay where we slowly and carefully made our way through the channel at low tide. The depths ranged between 4.75 ft to 6, once in we anchored in 10 ft.

We just got back from clearing Bahamian customs. Now we have to wait out another front due overnight and expecting to last the next 5 days. Sunday, the weather was much quieter

and gave us the opportunity to get around the "whale" rather than being stuck in Green Turtle for another week (another cold front was coming). We motor-sailed on the jib through the Whale Cay passage which is only about 3-4 miles and made our way down the eastern side of the Sea of Abaco passing Great Guana enroute to Marsh Harbour where we planned riding out the next bit of weather. It was so nice and calm that we even got a snorkel in at Mermaid reef, just on the outside around the corner from the anchorage. We knew the holding was really good at Marsh; we had a storm blow thru last year with winds up to 45 knots. This gave us a chance to get off the boat, do some food shopping and meet some new and previous friends.

This gets you all caught up on what we have been up to the past month since our crossing and the quick note from Green Turtle.

I have a feeling that there won't be as many log reports as last season until we go somewhere new. We have pretty well documented the Sea of Abaco area in our posts last year, and I don't want to get too repetitive. We hope to meet up with more cruising friends from last

year in Hopetown in the near future. Our intentions are to go south to Eleuthera later in March and possibly revisit the parks near Warderick Wells before beginning our journey NW towards Florida and laying up another summer at Indiantown. This of course is always subject to change as our intentions to see Eleuthera last year were put off. We had such a nice winter meeting new and previous friends in the Abacos, that we got too comfortable to venture further south.

This is *Groovin'* signing off.

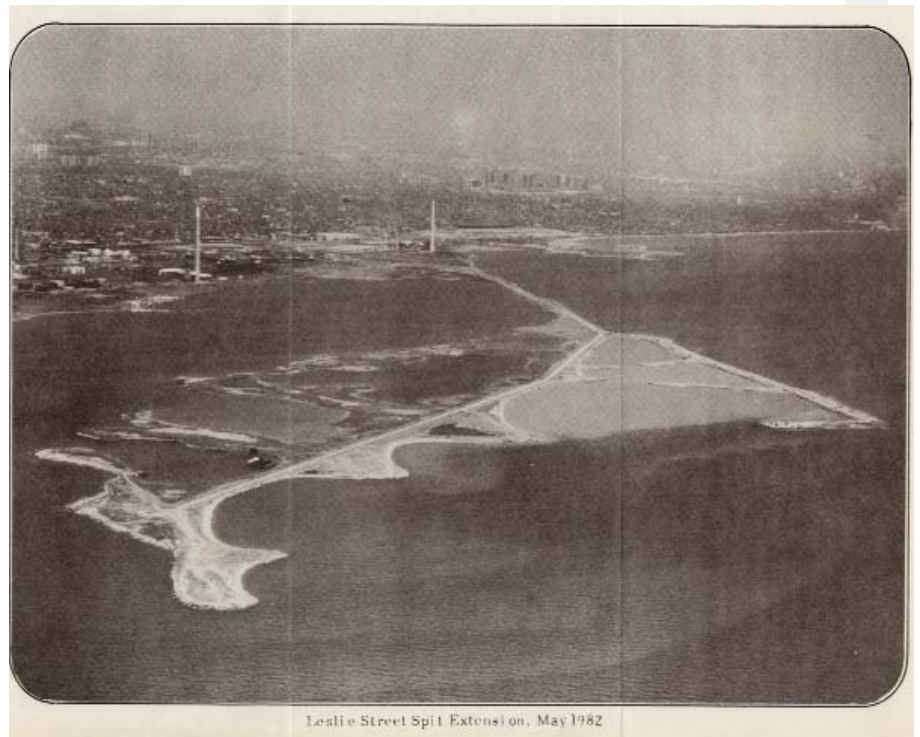
Chris & Elizabeth

**Judy and Aubrey Millard—Veleda**

We have a lovely house sitting assignment from Nov. to April in a beautiful lakeside home in Okanagan falls, just south of Penticton. It will be interesting to see how we adjust to staying in one place for several months. The weather out here has been good, but not for sailing. We have sailed less than ten hours since last May. The winds shift around each island and of course is always in the wrong direction.

**Wheatstones—Peregrine**

See Wheatstone report on Page 9. ▲



Leslie Street Spit Extension, May 1982

**Leslie Street Spit—1982**

From a pile of sand, greenery is already growing



# HARBOURMASTER

Tom Monson

AS I WRITE THIS, there are 12 more weeks until launch. While 12 weeks seems like a long way away, considering all the work that has to be done before launch it's not. This year, apart from connecting the ramps to the docks and adjusting the chains, we have to install new junction boxes and cable trays to carry the electrical cables to the junction boxes on A, B and C docks.



Also, we have discovered that the boardwalk by "A" dock is in such bad shape as to be unsafe to walk on.

If you have been at the club recently you would have noticed that we have removed the planks to give us a closer look at just how bad the problem is. As we can't start on the rebuild of the seawall until the engineer inspects the current seawall, we have decided to do a temporary repair of the "A" dock boardwalk by adding support jacks to reinforce the boardwalk then replace the planks. Bob Prosper and I believe this repair will make that portion of the boardwalk safe until we do the complete rebuild.

As with the work above, this repair has to be completed by launch. This weekend, (Feb 7 & 8) Bob Prosper, Jamie Smallwood and I plan to meet to prepare a plan of how we will proceed with the work.

I believe we finally have a handle on the costing of rebuilding the existing seawall. That amount comes to \$875.00 per meter or \$26,670 per 100 feet.

Other work that has to be done before launch is the electrical upgrade that was postponed last year. The Electrical Committee, comprised of Terry Lowe, Mike Wheatstone, Ed Bogdanowicz, Peter de Jonge van der Halen and myself as chair, met in early January and went over the reasons the project didn't proceed last year. As well, we discussed how we are going to proceed this year. As with last year, our greatest concern is whether or not our electrical room is up to code. To that end I am talking with an electrical engineer who we will hire to inspect the room and report on code issues. We need and plan to have this contract finished prior to launch.

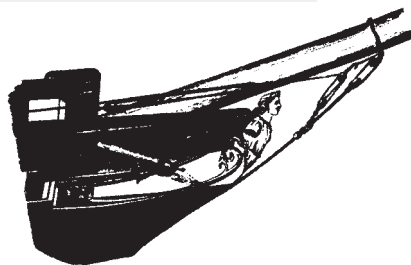
As you can see we have a great deal of work to do before launch. Members will have to step up to the plate and put in extra time or the work won't get done in time. It's our club

and it's collectively all of our responsibility to help rebuild and repair the work outlined above. It's one of those, "pay me now or pay me later". If not enough members show up to help we will have to hire outside labour which would greatly increase the cost. If the cost goes up too much we will have to consider assessing each member a portion of the increased cost. Working together we can get the job done. ▲

# PROPERTY MGR.

Mike Davidson

I AM WORKING on some job descriptions for the March Jobs Fair. Heading down to the Virgin Islands for a week and then to Florida and then back on the 23 of Feb. ▲



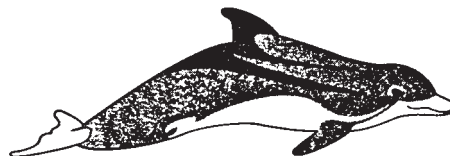
# RACING CAPTAIN

Jamie Carroll

AS I SIT TO WRITE THIS I realize we should all be somewhere south as February is giving us a true taste of winter! I have been shovelling snow for the last two days! It is somehow hard to imagine that we will be launching once again in about 11 weeks!



The event calendar has been updated so be sure and check the upcoming dates for the racing season. If you are able to donate any time to assist in the racing program or if you have any ideas on racing that you think would benefit the club, please feel free to contact Glen Eddie or myself. Cheers! ▲



# FLEET CAPTAIN CRUISING

Albert Kerek

"JUST A FEW MONTHS away now," is what I keep telling myself. After a long winter the boat will feel, at least temporarily, like a new acquaintance rather than my old summer friend.



The sense of longing many of us may experience has been put to paper in a four-line poem shared with me last summer:

*The heart can think of no devotion  
Greater than being shore to the ocean –  
Holding the curve of one position,  
Counting on endless repletion*

– Robert Frost

Someone thought I could use a little culturing.

We have something great to look forward to. Cruises are being booked. Bluffers Park Yacht Club and Hyland Yacht Club guaranteed their cruise to TH&SC by booking early. Dalhousie Yacht Club and Bronte Yacht Club and Macassa Bay Yacht Club have also confirmed their visits.

Most of these cruises will be reciprocal, which means THS&C will be visiting the incoming club on the same date. I invite members, new and old(er) to join us on these organized cruises of shared experience, friendship and adventure.

Each of these cruises will be hosted by a volunteer Cruising Captain whose effort will be rewarded with a THS&C cruise captain jacket embroidered with their boat name, the year and cruise destination. Any member who wishes to host one of our cruises should contact me ASAP.

Serving you as a Cruise Director has been a rewarding experience. Once again, thank you all for the opportunity. ▲





## THE TRIAL OF PERIGRINE

by Peggy Wheatstone

*Peggy and Mike Wheatstone traveled to St Maarten in early January to see how their cruising catamaran Perigrine's repairs are doing. Perigrine was damaged by a loose boat during last Fall's hurricane.*

**F**INALLY WE ARRIVED! Met by our nice taxi driver we are whisked off to our little studio apartment.

Nothing grand, but serviceable. A functional kitchen but we confess *Dragonfyre II* has it beat since DF II has a kitchen sink. The only sink in the studio was the bathroom sink. That said it had a comfortable bed, WIFI, basic cable, A/C and a pool. Heaven.

Wednesday morning we were picked up and taken to our poor boat. We reviewed the repairs under way, made some requests for some extra attention to items missed and the gel coat colour match. We didn't mind the mis-match so much as the stark line between the two. Perhaps feather it in a bit?

Thursday we took an unexpected day off as we went with our shoreside neighbours (at least when *Peregrine* is on her ball) to a delightful luncheon at Lotterie Farms on the french side.

Friday Mike helped those same neighbours with their dinghy and dock, also damaged in the hurricane Gonzalo.

The next few days were spent off and on between *Peregrine* and our little apartment working on the dinghy "chaps" we started last winter. Final fittings were much easier on land. Sewing was easier on a table in the air conditioning. Also the ladies room at the yard is locked and there is no access to a key on weekends. Well that was an easy decision!

Monday was an errand day as we finally got ourselves a SIM card for our borrowed phone. Nice to be in touch with the world. We also picked up the jerry rigged transverse beam for fitting between the bows so we could launch.

Wednesday Mike finally had a conversation with our *Peregrine's* "caregiver" Mike D. The repairs in the pans he had asked for were not yet done so let the grinding begin. Now

let's get some perspective. We have been here a week, we have thankfully had a two-night extension on our apartment, *Peregrine* is still on the hard and they are about to grind fibreglass inside my boat. Mike D is "discussing" with the yard when they will launch us. We have finally got the colour right on the hulls but they need polishing. Thursday morning, the emails to Mike D say a Feb 2 launch! The hulls are being polished the boat is full of fibreglass dust, we have no bed for the night and I am having a melt down.

By 1:30 our water tanks are full, the crane is lifting us, I have at least cleaned our cabin, we have arranged for help with the cleaning and I can see light through the fibreglass dust at the end of the tunnel. By 1:45 we are floating free and no unwanted water is entering the boat. The good news is that with no mast (did I mention it is still in France) we fit under the causeway and don't have to wait for the bridge. Blessedly Johnny came with us and help tie us to our ball. Were those lines scuzzy! I confess to running immediately to a sink to wash off the creepy crawlies I picked up.

More cleaning ensued while Mike ran Johnny home in the dinghy then a rush to clean up and meet the Evans' for dinner. We went to the Palms which we were told served the best burgers in town. Unfortunately not that night so we had the Drunken Ribs instead. He soaks them for three days in whiskey. Luckily we had booked Evans' a room weeks ago for the first two nights. I say luckily because while their cabin is now clean their head/bathroom is not, nor are their cupboards and their mattress needs vacuuming. Did I mention this was one of the cabins the grinding was happening in?

Friday was a flurry of activity. Fay arrived to help clean as did Paul when Mike ran me to shore for a provisioning run (with transport in our shore neighbours car). By 3pm we called it a day and *Peregrine* was as clean as it would get right now. Off to the beach we went for my first swim in the sea! After all we have only been here ten days!

Saturday saw the Evans' and us getting a plane to Saba (Say-ba) for a pre-Gonzalo planned trip.

A volcanic island 25 miles off St Maarten, it is a 12 minute flight in a small plane. WinAir is the only airline

allowed to land and the pilots must have special certification. The shortest commercial landing strip in the world has cliffs to the sea at both ends.

We were there for a wonderful four days and three nights. Saba is an ecological paradise having been run as a nature reserve both on land and in sea for over 20 years. People go there to dive or hike. We do neither and had a great time doing it. We had reserved a car rental that was promptly cancelled after experiencing the drive from the airport to Windwardside on the road that "couldn't be built". Not an uncommon occurrence apparently. Then there was the 67 steps to the "hotel" office. Then the 35 to our cottages. Unfortunately the proprietor had a slight "oops" and messed up our reservation. We were to have kitchenettes but alas 'twas not meant to be. I am not so sorry that happened though, those cottages were another 30 stairs above us...for those counting we are already 112 from the street.



Over the next few days we walked up hills, climbed stairs, took an island tour in a taxi, climbed hills, climbed stairs, visited the artisan centre in the Bottom, climbed hills, climbed stairs, partook of some culinary fare, walked a five-minute hiking path in the "woods", climbed hills, climbed stairs, visited the local museum, took in a slideshow before dinner, climbed...We also swam in the little pool every day and met more delightful people than one could count. Too soon it was time to leave. Back to St Maarten, *Peregrine* and reality.



So far we have visited Phillipsburg, the Marigot market and taken our "power cat" for a spin to Grand Case for the Tuesday night street festival. Back on our ball in the Lagoon we are settling in for a farewell dinner with the Evans' as they head back to the balmy north tomorrow.



Mike & Peggy, *Peregrine*



PERIGRINE

 <b>February 2015</b> 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	DARTS 6	7
8	9	10	11	12	DARTS 13	Valentine's Day 14
15	Family Day 16	17	18	19	DARTS 20	21
22	23	24	25	26	DARTS 27	28
<b>IT'S THE HEART OF WINTER—TIME TO PLAY DARTS</b>						
<b>HAVE YOU HUGGED YOUR BOAT THIS MONTH?</b>						

 <b>March 2015</b> 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	DARTS 6	Job Fair and Music 7
Daylight Saving Starts 8	9	10	11	12	DARTS 13	14
15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	DARTS 20	Soupa-poluza + Movie 21
22	23	24	25	26	DARTS 27	28
Palm Sunday 29	30	31				
<b>TIME TO START MAKING YOUR "TO-DO" LIST</b>						

 <b>April 2015</b> 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	Good Friday 3	4
Easter Sunday 5	6	7	8	9	DARTS 10	11
12	13	14	15	16	DARTS 17	18
19	20	21	Earth Day / Race Meeting 22	23	DARTS 24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
<b>HOPE FOR WARM WEATHER—IT'S PREP TIME</b>						

 <b>May 2015</b> 						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	LAUNCH DAY 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day 10	11	12	Warmup Race 13	14	15	16
17	Victoria Day 18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<b>LAUNCH DAY ON THE 2nd—ARE YOU READY?</b>					