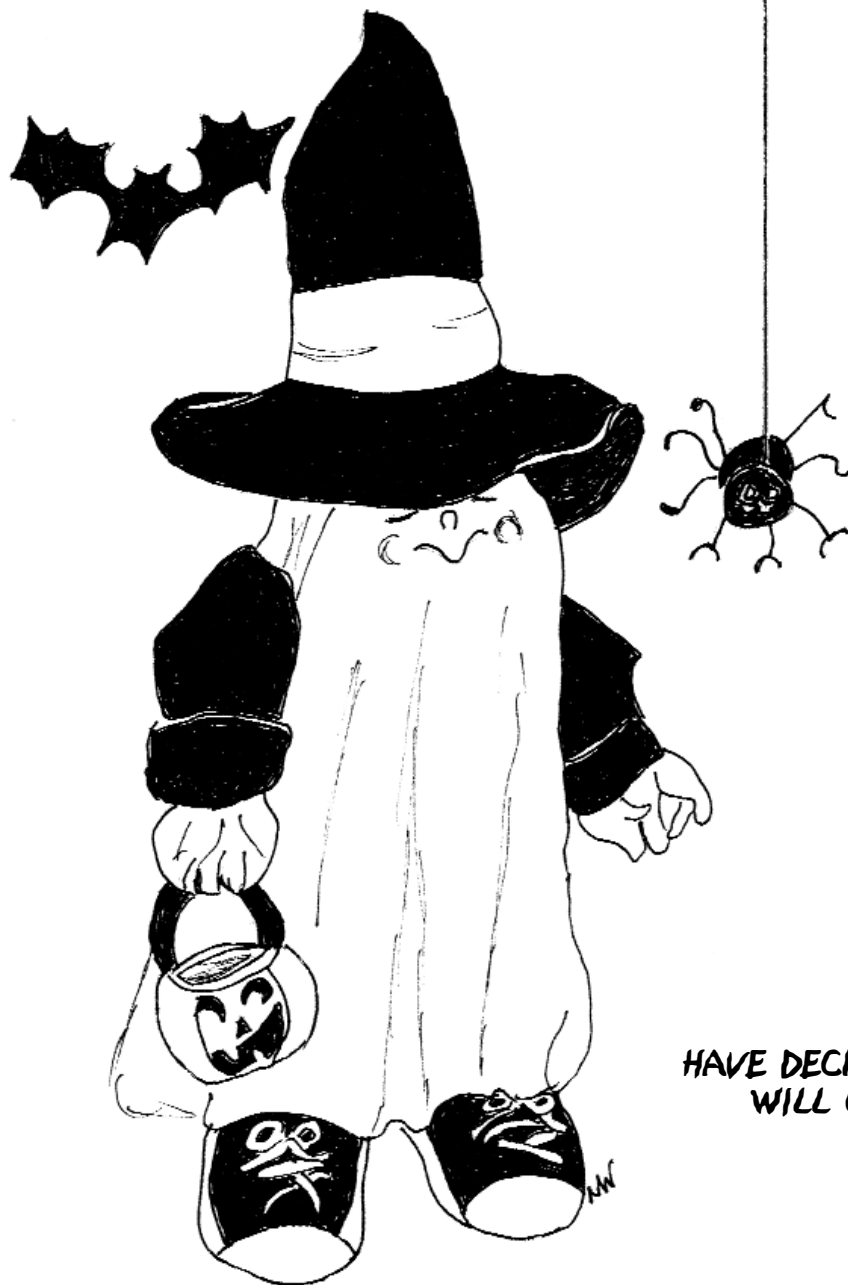


SPAR AND PROP

OCTOBER, 2006

NUMBER 177



**HAVE DECK SHOES...
WILL CREW**

Drawing by
Marie Middleton





Toronto Hydroplane and Sailing Club Executive Board

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TH&SC Website—www.thsc.ca

Calendar

Cradle Placement—October 7 and 8—Be prepared to move your car.

HAULOUT—October 14 and 15—Masts down, cradles prepared. Time to lift our boats and snug them down for the winter. Watch the bulletin board for the day your boat comes out and your task for the day.

Awards Night—November 25—Everyone is welcome for this gala occasion. It's not just the racing fleet—cruising, photography, and many other Club activities are recognized. Come and applaud the winners—you may be one.

Children's Christmas Party—December 9—Children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. All our children have a great time at the Christmas Party.

Annual General Meeting—Date to be announced—Here you will find out how your Executive Board spent their year—working hard. Notification will be by mail. Please be sure to come or at least send in your proxy.

New Year's Levee—January 1, 2007—Join us at the Clubhouse for light refreshments and good socializing. A good place to pick up the kids from their grandparents after your night on the town.

AWARDS NIGHT

Saturday, November 25

Contact an Executive Member for dinner tickets.

An evening of awards and prizes.

If you can't join us for dinner,
come for the prize presentations. There are many more
awards than cruising and racing.



Children's Christmas Party Saturday, December 9th

There will be a sign-up sheet
posted with all the details

New Year's Levee

Monday, January 1st
from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Come and join us at the
clubhouse for refreshments
and good company

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Lee Rixon

WE HAVE NOW reached the end of summer, and by the time you read this, the boats will be sitting out on land looking all sorrowful and completely out of their element. It has been a great year, despite the occasional amusing interlude thrown at us by the weather gods, such as 30 knot winds at Sailpast. Now it is time to reflect on the things that went well, lessons learned and start the preparations for next season.

I want to welcome our new Executive Board members, Dan Demers and Don Bland and also say thank you to Mike and Ross for agreeing to stay on. I also want to say a huge and well deserved thank you to Dennis and Marilyn as they step down. Let me tell you that serving with Dennis and Marilyn is a total pleasure and that they have taken on their roles and performed them wonderfully with respect and humour.

For those of you that attended the Open House about the Coatsworth Cut Sewershed Study, thank you—we had a good turnout, and I for one found it very informative. For those of you that couldn't make it—here is a link to the City of Toronto web page that contains the materials:

http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/coatsworth_cut_sewershed/

There is a link to a consultation workbook that can be printed off at the end of the web page, and I strongly urge all members to participate in this public consultation. If we want our needs to be met, then we need to take the time and effort to give the city our feedback. We need to make our voices heard as this will be a factor in the ongoing lease negotiations.

That's all I have for now, so see you around the club. ▲



REAR COMMODORE

Mona Anderson

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006
We just finished the last race of the year today and I'm as happy as a clam – (well except for the fact that sailing season is almost over – oh boo). But in fact, this year's racing season was the best this sailor can remember at TH&SC in recent history. And from the comments we've been getting, and the dozens of happy faces around the patio on any given race day, I think we can proclaim this race season a huge success.

We have to thank a lot of people for all the effort put into this year's program. First and foremost I want to thank John Morris, Race Fleet Captain, for his splendid ideas and leadership. Of course you can't run a race without a Race Committee and our crew this year was top notch. Tom Monson took the lead as Race Committee Captain, joined by Alan Banks, Richard Coutts, and Sandy McGill. Wednesdays, Rookie Fridays, weekend races, all summer long, Tom and his crew were on station. Rick Lalonde did the scoring and as soon as *Shadow* was back in her slip, and the results handed in, Rick punched them into the computer. This in itself had a huge impact on the interest in racing. By publishing the results immediately after every race it gave the sailors a chance to see how well they did while the race was still fresh in their minds. They were able to analyze their performance; share stories on the race conditions, and how they won or lost.

It's hard to say when we actually had the best time, out on the racecourse, or back on the patio, claiming bragging rights around the burger pit, the camaraderie as much an attraction as the yummy burgers with curried onions. This year we set up our beautiful new awards podium (built by Jim Neundorf – thank you Jim!). When the results were tallied, the crowd would gather round and the top three placers in each division got to stand on the podium steps, receive their prizes of handsome steins (gold – 1st, red – 2nd, blue – 3rd) and be cheered by their fellow racers. Who can forget Ian Whan's impersonation of Michael Schumacher on the top step of the podium on that windy, windy Wednesday when we all thought the wind was going to die, but it kept building instead, then *Crackerjack* blew

out her jib, but undaunted hoisted a fresh one and charged home in first place.

Melinda Ramsay and the ESC (stands for Excellent Social Committee) added fun and food to every race. First, we lined up the weekend series with the major social events of the year. Then Mel added some pizza/sausage-on-a-bun parties so there was always something going on when the racers came back. A special thank you to Paddi O'Neil for all your cheery smiles. Second, to keep up with tradition, Mel found a couple of nice folks who were willing to be the new Burger Chefs on Wednesday nights. Jan and Bill fired up the BBQs every week well into September - when we were practically racing in the dark as we had so many races to make up to fill in the holes from the bad weather in May and June. With the money we raised on Wednesday nights, we put on an end of season party in September on a fine sunny Sunday afternoon open to all members. We held a mini-regatta called (what else) "Makeup Races" with a gift bag of body beautiful products donated by James Brown as a special draw prize. The Race Committee boat was renamed "*Eye Shadow*" for the day. Ah Maybelline, why can't you be true.

We created two new weekend events this year, Le Race des Voyageurs, which was a combination race/cruise to Frenchman's Bay – very popular - and the Circle of Life, an interesting, and challenging race around the perimeter of the fixed mark course – one of Jamie Smallwood's ingenious designs. New trophies will be awarded for these two new events this year. We hope they have a good long run.

We had a record turn out of boats - 27 in all – most of them showing up for both the Wednesday Night AND the Weekend Series. Lee and John calculated that, counting the crew, most being club members off other boats, we had nearly 50% of the membership participating in the race program this year. That's awesome!

So mark your calendars for Saturday, November 25, AWARDS NIGHT. Come out for dinner and a great show. Applaud yourselves, your fellow racers, your fellow cruisers, and your fellow members for a wonderful year at Toronto Hydroplane and Sailing Club. Donald MacDonald would be proud. ▲

FLEET CAPTAIN CRUISING

Chris Hanson

WITH OUR BOATS now laid up for their winter's sleep and the club cruises long past, it's time to reflect on the 2006 season.

There were six club cruises, some fared better attendance than others due to adverse weather; but there was still a steady following totaling 68 boats and 18 land cruisers. By the way our numbers surpassed last year's attendance, (57 boats and 6 land cruisers). We also had a few new faces experiencing their first club cruise, *Battle Axe*, *Cheetah*, *Legacy*, *Obsession*, *Sirana II* and *Wildrose*. Even *Mac 1* made an appearance during our first ever Cruise/Race to Frenchman's Bay YC.

We had 9 boats for the first cruise to Highland, 4 that opted to drive due to the rainy weather. 14 at Bluffer's, 11 at Port Credit, 18 for Frenchman's, 11 at Mimico, five by car and 9 for Etobicoke with 6 land cruisers as well.

As I had mentioned earlier this year, Elizabeth and I are stepping down as your Cruising Fleet Captains. We decided this season to have different people host one cruise each. This worked out very well enabling us to spread the workload and establish the new norm for the future.

People have asked me, what are our aspirations for the cruising program? I would have to say, "continued growth and variety of locales but most importantly, participation." While I know everyone pitches in during these events, we would wish to see people who have attended numerous past cruises and not hosted, take on hosting a date in the future. It is not that intimidating, and there would be plenty of help and advice should you ask. It is only fair to those who have committed their time before.

We would like to once again acknowledge and extend a BIG THANK YOU to those who volunteered to host this season.

Kudos to this year's hosts:

Cruise #1—Highland YC

Dorothy and Keith (*Au Naturel*)

Cruise #3—Port Credit YC

Jacquie & Randy (*Tribe*)

Cruise #4—Frenchman's Bay YC

Lee and Debbie (*L'Autre Femme*)

Cruise #5—Mimico CC

Keith and Joan (*Puff*)

As I had mentioned at the

beginning of the season, all those who sailed their boat to three of the six cruises qualified for the "Official TH&SC 2006 Cruising flag".

<i>Puff</i>	6
<i>Figment</i> ²	5
<i>Au Naturel</i>	4
<i>Hoots</i>	4
<i>L'Autre Femme</i>	4
<i>Mariah</i>	4
<i>Battle Axe</i>	3
<i>Lothlorien</i>	3
<i>The Phantom</i>	3

One last duty I have this year comes at the Awards night where we acknowledge boaters who have traveled farther than your typical weekend cruise. These are called the "Destination and Distance flags". To qualify for one of these, a TH&SC member's yacht must be sailed at least one way to or from the destination (not transported).

I have posted a sign-up sheet at the cruising bulletin board for those wishing to qualify for these flags. Please make sure you enter your log of destinations and distance by haulout.

Destinations

Bay of Quinte	1000 Islands
Rideau Canal	Welland Canal
Lake Erie	Lake Huron
Salt Water	

***Distance Flags**

250+ 500+ 1000+

*Distance applies to any cruising miles except daysailing.

First Across the Lake

Last Across the Lake

The Distant Waters trophy recognizes the vessel that sailed the furthest away from TH&SC and returned during that same season.

These trips must be logged in the "Gone Sailing" book and reported to myself if you wish to receive yours. They are a handsome addition to your boat and I regard them as a badge of honour when 'dressing ship'.

I hope those who would have liked to join us this season, will be able to fit cruising into their schedule next year. We welcome any suggestions or comments on locations, menus, or potential dates for a cruise. You can put your comments in the Club suggestion box, or better still; use the TH&SC discussion forum at www.thsc.ca/forum. Others may be

inspired by your suggestion and add their comments as well! Your input is important, as we are constantly trying to develop cruising to become a popular sailing activity at TH&SC.

We wish continued success to our new Cruising Fleet Captains and look forward to future cruises with you.

See you at Awards night!

Chris and Elizabeth ▲



Got some good shots from this sailing season?



We need them for our Awards Night slide show.

- General sailing • Around the Club
- SailPast • Racing
- Cruising • Socials
- Vacations



You can email lothlorien.cs27@sympatico.ca or CD and leave it on the bulletin board for Chris Hanson by Nov 1st

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



The Deadline for the DECEMBER issue of Spar & Prop is **December 4**



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**

TREASURER

Mike Baker

WHERE HAS THE summer gone? Launch day 2006 seems like only yesterday? I guess that must mean that I have worked more on *Free Radical* than having actually enjoyed sailing it. I definitely have to correct this situation next year. But I have been saying this now for four years and I am sure everyone is getting bored by hearing the same old story.

Here a short update on TH&SC's finances 2006. A detailed report will be given to everyone at our AGM meeting in December. So far this year the various officer's budgets are on line and we have some money left to carry us positively to the end of the year—so no fear of a fiscal deficit! As you all know, we did have money put aside for some major capital expenditures, e.g. our much-talked-about balcony, relocation of our workshop and mast racks, etc. However, the uncertainty of our unresolved city lease—at least at the time of this writing—is holding us back with those desired projects and upgrades.

Yes, you heard right, I have signed up for another two years as your Secretary/Treasurer with Eva right behind me to continue as recording secretary and accountant.

Also my heartfelt thanks go to Patrick Lyons—our Ways & Means chair—who is also willing to perform this task for another year. Patrick and his wife Sandra are meticulous in recording our members' requisite workdays and believe me, nobody is getting away with evading this important task. Please mark it on your agenda—those who have not yet called Patrick to be assigned their club duties for 2006—do it now, to avoid paying the odious penalty fees.

My special thanks to Bill Appleton who has been our Accounts Receivable Officer for many years, but I guess the time has come for him to look at greener pastures—like moving out of Toronto to a smaller community—westwards. It was great working with Bill during my two-year term as Treasurer—it made it so much easier knowing Bill took great care of all those incoming cheques while Eva and I had our mid-February winter break.

Well I am glad to say that this job was filled almost instantly by Marilyn Goodman. Eva and I are definitely pleased that Marilyn will look after all the incoming members fees next year—

and we hope in years to come! Her expertise as retiring Vice Commodore will be a great asset.

I have enjoyed these past two years as your Secretary/Treasurer, mainly due to such great volunteers on our Executive and not forgetting those behind the scenes, whose assistance has been invaluable. Now that I seem to "know the ropes", I look forward to my next term. ▲

VICE COMMODORE

Marilyn Goodman

Once again we have had a wonderful summer and I hope good memories of your time on the water will help to soften the blow of boats going on land—always way too soon.

This year to date we are fortunate to have gained eleven new Sailing Members, and eight Crew Members. Our latest Sailing Members are John Norton with *Wind Passage* and Patrick Dunne with *Sojourner*—both from the Viscount Club next door, Chris Embree & Valerie Hauch with *Mango Sun*, and our new Crew member David Craddock has already moved up to Sailing and is bringing in his Star 23 which was at Queen City.

Our newest Crew Member is Jim Misener who is with the Toronto

Outboard Racing Club Inc. (TORC).

This Club races small hydroplanes and will now be using TH&SC Club house for their Executive Meetings and a place to call home. Although the hydroplanes will not be raced from TH&SC as our water is not suitable, TORC has a history of racing in Canada and the USA back from 1952 and can only add to our hydroplane history. One of our Founding Members Donald MacDonald was a member of TORC many years ago and some of their members remember Don well. There are some copies of TORC TALK their newsletter in the Clubhouse which make very interesting reading.

On behalf of the Executive Board I would like to welcome you all to our Club.

Now we are at the end of the sailing Season the Gate Code will only be changed occasionally, and the next change will be the Sunday of Haul Out—October 15th. If you wish to be added to the bulk email please let me know at marilyn.goodman@rogers.com

And finally, as my term is coming to an end I would like to welcome Dan Demers who will be taking over as Vice Commodore effective January 1, 2006. Dan has been a member since 1988 and being very knowledgeable in many areas will do a wonderful job for us. Thank you Dan and welcome to the Executive Board. ▲



ASHBRIDGE'S BAY YACHT CLUB

Challenge Bay, Yorkville, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A6
Tel: 416-968-1900 Fax: 416-968-5100

Special Events

1. The 2006 Annual Meeting and Dinner
Saturday, 11th February
12:00pm - 10:00pm

2. Dinner at McMan's Restaurant
Booked for Monday

Dear Members

I am pleased to see you all enjoying the summer and the beautiful weather. It is a pleasure to have you all back for a summer of fun and relaxation. We are looking forward to a successful season together in 2006. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the special events that we have organized for the 2006 and the 2007 season. Please see the table below.

Special events that we have organized for the 2006 and 2007 season are listed in the table below. We look forward to seeing you all at our 2006 Annual Meeting.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Batt

Recording Secretary
Challenge Bay Yacht Club

Midweek Overall—Results—TH&SC

Rnk	Boat Name	Dv	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Div 1—Spinnaker																			
1	Tsunami II		11.00	(7)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	(2)	(3)	(2)	(4)	2	Winner—Series 1 and 2; Second—Series 3
2	Legacy		28.00	(7)	(4)	4	2	(5)	3	3	4	2	(5)	3	4	1	2	(5)	Third—Series 1; Second—Series 2; Third—Series 3
3	Handsome Jack		31.00	7f	2	(10)	4	(10)	(10)	(10)	3	4	2	1	1	6	(8)	1	Winner—Series 3
4	Fauvette		33.00	7f	3	3	(10)	2	2	(10)	(10)	3	3	(10)	(10)	4	3	3	Second—Series 1
5	Missee Lee		43.00	(7)	(6)	(6)	5	3	4	2	5	5	(6)	10	5	3	5	6	Third—Series 2
6	Rock It		51.00	(10)	(10)	(10)	3	(10)	(10)	10c	2	10c	4	10c	2	5	1	4	Eighth—Series 1; Sixth—Series 2; Fourth—Series 3
7	Triple Threat		66.00	7f	5	5	(10)	6	(10)	4	(10)	6	(10)	(10)	10c	10c	6	7	Sixth—Series 1; Seventh—Series 2 and 3
8	Dark & Stormy		86.00	(10)	(10)	2	(10)	4	(10)	(10)	10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	10c	Seventh—Series 1

Div 2—White Sail																			
1	L'autre Femme		15.00	(7)	(2)	1	2	1	(3)	2	(5)	2	(3)	2	1	2	1	1	Winner—Series 1 and 3; Second—Series 2
2	Skookumchuk		17.50	(7)	(15)	2	1	(3)	(5)	1	1	1	1	(7)	2	3	2	3	Winner—Series 2; Second—Series 1 and 3
3	Trevor Kane		35.00	(7)	4	(10)	4	5	(7)	5	4	3	2	(7)	(7)	1	5	2	Third—Series 2 and 3
4	Figment Squared		41.00	7f	3	(15)	7	2	1	(15)	6	4	(15)	3	(15)	4	(15)	4	Third—Series 1
5	Crackerjack		48.00	(15)	1	(10)	5	6	(8)	(15)	(7)	6	6	1	5	7	4	7	Fifth—Series 1; Sixth—Series 2; Fourth—Series 3
6	Puff		67.00	(15)	(15)	(10)	8	(15)	6	(15)	8	5	7	7f	6	5	6	9	Eleventh—Series 1; Fifth—Series 2; Seventh—Series 3
7	Maldives		67.50	7f	6	10f	6	(15)	4	(15)	1	(15)	(15)	(5)	9	8	8f	8	Seventh—Series 1; Eighth—Series 2 and 3
8	Sassy III		81.00	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	4	2	3	(15)	15c	15c	15c	3	6	3	15c	Ninth—Series 1; Seventh—Series 2; Sixth—Series 3
9	Spectrum		85.00	7f	5	10f	3	8f	(15)	(15)	3	(15)	4	(15)	(15)	15c	15c	15c	Sixth—Series 1; Ninth—Series 2
10	Pendragon		102.00	(15)	7	10f	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	15c	7	5	15c	8	15c	15c	5	Tenth—Series 1, 2 and 3
11	Wildrose V		118.00	(15)	(15)	3	(15)	(15)	(15)	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	4	15c	15c	6	Eighth—Series 1; Ninth—Series 3
12	Lothlorien		139.00	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	15c	4	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	Eleventh—Series 2
13	Let It Be		141.00	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	15c	6	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	15c	Twelfth—Series 2

() = Thrown out c = DNC s = DNS f = DNF Number of Boats in Series 21

Weekend Overall—Results—TH&SC

Rnk	Boat Name	Dv	Pts	Ice Breaker	Circle of Life	Race des Voyageurs	Dufferin Bell	Bluffers	Frostbite
Div 1—Spinnaker									
1	Tsunami II		6.00	1	1	2	1	0c	1
2	Fauvette		20.00	9c	4	1	3	0c	3
3	Legacy		21.00	2	3	3	9c	0c	4
4	Dark & Stormy		32.00	3	2	9c	9c	0c	9c
5	Handsome Jack		33.00	9c	9c	9c	4	0c	2
6	Rock It		34.00	9c	5	9c	2	0c	9c
7	Missee Lee		37.00	1	1	2	1	0c	1
Div 2—White Sail									
1	L'Autre Femme		8.00	1	2	2	1	0c	2
2	Skookumchuk		31.00	13c	1	13c	3	0c	1
3	Cheetah		38.00	13c	13c	1	4	0c	7s
4	Trevor Kane		48.00	13c	13c	13c	2	0c	5
5	Spectrum		50.00	13c	13c	13c	8f	0c	3
6	Nambucca		51.00	13c	13c	4	8f	0c	13c
7	Let It Be		54.00	2	13c	13c	13c	0c	13c
8	Lothlorien		55.00	12c	13c	13c	13c	0c	13c
9	Maldives		56.00	13c	13c	13c	13c	0c	4
10	Au Natural		57.00	13c	13c	5	13c	0c	13c
10	Ghost		57.00	13c	13c	13c	5	0c	13c



Fog at the Start



Fog at the Start



Winners of the Frostbite Race

PICTURES FOR OUR GALLERY

Paddi O'Neil will be collecting pictures to make a montage depicting our Club for the past 50 years. Pictures will be returned to those who provide them. Look through your old pictures and pick out lots for Paddi to choose from. There will be more information in the December Spar and Prop.

MILLARDS ARE IN VENEZUELA

Manamo River, Orinoco Delta, Venezuela

Oct. 11, 2006

Hi Folks,

We left Trinidad Oct. 6, and are now down here in the Orinoco Delta of Venezuela, anchored in a tributary of the Manamo River about 50 miles upstream. The delta covers an immense area, greater than the whole of Trinidad. I will send logs of this trip, with pictures, as I bought a new camera before leaving. We are doing well, and enjoying this remote tropical jungle delta, and trading with the Warao (Canoe people) who paddle out in their dugout canoes with beads and baskets to exchange for whatever we have.

All the best,

Judy and Aubrey

T2P.tv

Have you visited the **T2P.tv** web site yet? On this site there are many videos of sailing races around the world, with most of them from the U.S. There are two categories of membership. One is free and the downloads are shown in a smallish window. If you want the full screen you have to pay for it. There are some interesting races shown. You probably need a fairly high-speed connection to avoid long download times.

ELECTION RESULTS

Election Night on September 24th was completed in record time. Our Vice Commodore for 2007-08 will be Dan Demers. Ross Campbell has agreed to stay on for another term of Harbourmaster, and Mike and Eva Baker had also agreed to stay on as Treasurer and Bookkeeper. The final year of the Property Manager's term will be filled by Don Bland. After official business most members stayed and discussed the up-coming Open House of the Coatsworth Cut Environmental Assessment. It was agreed that we need to go to the Open House and see what it is all about.

CLUB WEB SITE HAS PICTURES OF EVENTS

Check out the Club web site www.thsc.ca from time to time and look at the pictures posted there of Club events. In fact, if you have taken pictures during events—racing, cruising, parties, etc.—why don't you upload them to Mike Montgomery, our webmaster, so he can post them on our site. ▲



Nauticals

Lengthy Sea Voyages. Perhaps the longest voyages were by the American whaling fleet between years 1814 and 1869 - The Golden Age of Yankee Whaling when the whalers, mostly 300 ton, square-rigged vessels with a 30-35 man crew undertook voyages of up to 4 years. ~ They were outfitted with gear & provisions enough to cruise for that long. Trips of 5 years were recorded. The main home ports for the Yankee whaling fleet were Nantucket, and New Bedford in Massachusetts. The hunt for sperm whales and spermacetti oil lessened with the discovery of oil at Oil Springs Ontario in 1858, and later in Oklahoma in 1859. By 1869 the Whaling Industry and its long voyages were just memories.



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

by Eric Muff

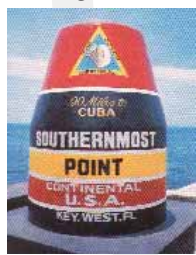
IN MY HASTE to catch my deadline last time (procrastination is my watch-word) I neglected to mention a couple of highlights that still exist in Key West.

Sorry! Senility you know.

Mallory Square is still worth a look-in. Remember, I told you on other trips that the natives (Konks, as they are known) congregate on Mallory Pier every evening to celebrate the magnificent sunset. This has evolved into a mini "Cirque du Soleil", a regular buskers paradise.

They have tightrope walkers, jugglers, puppeteers, you name it. If there's a buck to be made, they got it. Be that as it may, it's a fun gig, don't miss it.

The other highlight for me is Mel Fisher's Treasure Museum. I don't know if you remember, but most of his search for the sunken Spanish treasure galleon *Atocha* was televised a few years back. He was finally successful in finding it, at the cost of one son and a daughter-in-law. Now,



after many hassles and court cases with the U.S. Government (a.k.a. organized crime) most of the treasure is housed in the museum that bears his name. Don't miss that, either. And, of course, pig-out on conch fritters and buckets of beer.

Did I tell you the watch-word of the Hog's Breath Saloon? Hog's Breath is better than no breath at all.

Oh yeah! They still hold "Papa" Hemingway look-alike contests.

The weather at Key West when we were there was 82°F. Not bad, eh?

I think, when we chatted last time, we were pulling into beautiful downtown Santo Tomas de Castilla, in equally beautiful Guatemala.

Before I neglect and/or forget to mention, here is our itinerary.

Saturday 8 April—Tampa, Florida
Sunday 9 April—Key West, Florida
Monday 10 April—At sea
Tuesday 11 April—Santo Tomas De Castilla, Guatemala
Wednesday 12 April—Belize City, Belize

Thursday 13 April—Costa Maya, Mexico

Friday 14 April—At sea

Saturday 15 April—Tampa, Florida

Like most other areas in Central America, Guatemala gained her independence from Spain in the early 1820s and officially became a republic in 1847. Guatemala is the most populated country in Central America with about twelve million people.

More than half of these twelve million



are Mayan, the largest indigenous population in Central America. Most of them still live in small farming villages and grow corn and beans as their ancestors did before them.

These people, like other in Central America are famous for their intricate and colourful handmade textiles. These have a name that sounds like "mooloos" but I can't remember the spelling (or for that matter, much of anything). These are usually made in brilliant colours, red, yellow, orange, blue, green, purple—they are very eye-catching. I used to have a few I'd picked up in the San Blas Islands, but like most of my goodies they've gone



by the board.

Even though Spanish is the primary language more people speak Mayan than Spanish.

Santo Tomas is the primary port of entry for Guatemala. It handles containers, ro-ro (roll-on, roll-off), cars, trucks, anything with wheels, break-bulk and general cargoes.

The weather, for our stay 87°F— not bad, eh?

We sail during the evening and night and by 7 a.m. Wednesday we are in beautiful downtown Belize City.

There are more than 600 Mayan cities. Belize is the centre of the ancient Mayan world and also an active member of the "Mundo Maya" program.

Belize was a former British colony with a long history of stability, democracy and tranquility unmatched

in the Central American region.

Belize shares borders on the North and part of the west with Mexico, and on the south with Guatemala. The mainland is approximately 180 miles long and 68 miles wide, it has a population of about 200,000. Belize is also home to the second largest barrier reef in the world at over 168 miles in length.

Arthur's Author's Note—It just dawned on me while penning that last paragraph that so far I haven't used my byline. Shit! Maybe this ain't much of an adventure after all.

Maybe I should change my byline to "Fireside Travels with the Elderly and Infirm".

We are anchored quite some distance from the shore, so, instead of using our lifeboats as tenders, we are using Belizean-provided tenders. These are high-speed and high capacity tenders and can cover the distance from ship-to-shore in about 20 minutes.

Water skiing, anyone?

But, hey!!!...(sorry! That's the best I can come up with.)

Once I'd dried off from water skiing, I spent an hour or two wandering through their fabulous arts and crafts market.

I keep telling myself not to buy any more "objet d'art", but the disease is incurable, though I *am* tapering off. All I bought was two hand-carved "Jesus Pieces" (crosses, to the unrighteous) not because I'm a bible-thumper, but I am queer for carving and ~~erotic~~ exotic woods.

Having satisfied my touristic



impulses I went in search of a local watering hole called the Wet Lizard that I had read about previously.

If you've been in the Islands or Southern Florida (and Mexico) you've seen the abundance of these lizards, I call them geckos and they come in all sizes and colours, the prettiest one I've seen was an electric blue, somewhere in South America.

I searched the waterfront in vain— no Wet Lizards. Foiled again!

Just as I was about to give up in

But, Hey!!!...

Continued from page 8

despair, I glanced heavenward and noticed a happy throng, on a wrap-around balcony, swilling ale and stuffing their fat faces with seafood delicacies. This must be the Wet Lizard, and lo and behold, it were. God is good. Up the back stairs and to

TOTAL MILEAGE THIS VOYAGE			
PORTS		MILEAGE	AVG. SPEED
TAMPA BAY	KEY WEST	264	21.1 KNOTS
KEY WEST	SANTO TOMAS	682	19.2 KNOTS
SANTO TOMAS	BELIZE	131	13.4 KNOTS
BELIZE	COSTA MAYA	108	10.8 KNOTS
COSTA MAYA	TAMPA BAY	594	19.8 KNOTS
TOTAL DISTANCE		1779	

1 NAUTICAL MILE = 1.15 STATUTE MILES = 1.85 KILOMETER

a high bar stool overlooking the harbour. Neat-o.

The local beer is Belikin and while waiting for my order of conch fritters (have you noticed my affinity to conch fritters?). I kill several, or eight.

Fresh conch and lobsters are delivered every morning and go into delicious seafood tacos. They also serve ceviche, and coconut lobster with true Belizean rice and beans. If you're not conversant with ceviche, it is raw seafood or fish marinated in lime juice. Bon appetit.

Pedestrian me, I stick with the fritters and Belikin.

They do have rum punches and a Wet Lizard creation called the Iguana Stud. I did not partake of house creations but I did try Belizean cashew wine and coconut rum, and listened to the live steel band while continuing to Belikin.

The "ski" back to the ship seemed much shorter, though much wetter.

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

The weather? Still 87°. Still not bad, eh?

After another all-night sail, we find ourselves Thursday morning 13 April in beautiful downtown Costa Maya, Mexico.

Stretching from Tulum to Belize, Mexico's Caribbean resort area boasts unspoiled beaches and undiscovered Mayan ruins. Archeologists have unearthed five ancient Mayan cities in this area, including little-known Oxtankah which they believe dates back to 350 A.D.

History nuts can unlock the secrets of this mighty civilization at the Chetumal Museum of Mayan Culture. Or if you're a snorkeler or scuba nut you might check out the underwater

gardens of Chincharro Bank, an off-shore barrier reef.

Or, if you're an all-out, dyed-in-the-wool, card-carrying beer nut—follow me!

Puerto Costa Maya is an ideal spot to delve into the fascinating Mayan culture.

And it's *still* 87°F. Still not bad, eh?

All day Friday at sea and an 8 o'clock arrival in Tampa. Then a day and a half on that Christly bus and back to reality, *such as we know it.*

The last night at sea with Holland America is quite memorable. They sail basically with an all Filipino crew.

The crew puts on a stage show that is second-to-none. They open with the whole cast singing their national anthem.



Followed by the Candlelight Dance—PANDANGO SA ILAW
Then the Castnet Dance—LA JOTA MONCADENA
Then an ordinary song
Then planting rice—MAGTATANIM
Then The Bamboo Dance (where they try to break each other's ankles)—TINIKLING
Then the Filipino farewell song—ANG BAYAN KO (my country).

Topped off by a closing salute to all.
The libation du jour is Luningning Marikit—\$2.95 U.S.

What's in it? I don't know. But after four, you won't give a shit!



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

P.S.—A question that's drivin' me nuts. Why is the country the PHilippines, and the people are Filipinos?


And always remember, my children:

"A pat on the back is only a few vertebrae removed from a kick in the arse. But it's miles ahead in results.


Luv yas! 🚤

SOME CLUB PICTURES







October 2006




Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Cradle Placement
8 Cradle Placement	9 Thanks-giving Day	10	11	12	13	14 HAULOUT
15 HAULOUT	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
MASTS DOWN – A SAD TIME FOR SAILORS						


November 2006

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
TARPS/COVERS ON?						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Awards Night
26	27	28	29	30		
AWARDS NIGHT – EVERYONE IS WELCOME						





December 2006



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Children's Christmas Party
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Day	25 Boxing Day	26	27	28	29	
31						
JOIN US AT THE NEW YEAR'S LEVEE						

JANUARY 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 NEW YEAR'S LEVEE	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	31			
COME EARLY TO THE LEVEE AND CHECK YOUR BOAT						