



TORONTO HYDROPLANE & SAILING CLUB

Spar & Prop

JUNE 2017

NUMBER 241



Shadow above walk



"C" dock UP ramp



Crane walk a bit damp



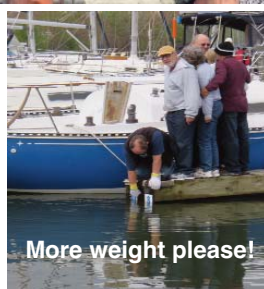
Crane walk a bit damp



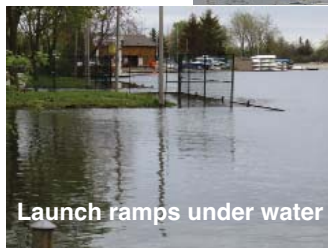
Imaginative problem fix



Easy dinghy launch at ABYC



More weight please!



Launch ramps under water



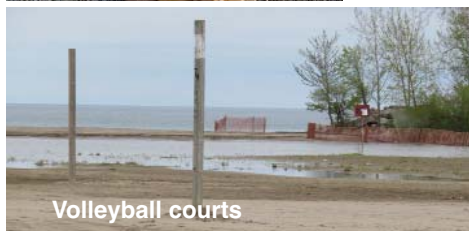
Valuable items



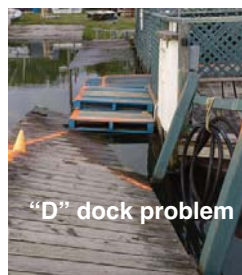
Last year



Down a bit in mid-June



Volleyball courts



"D" dock problem



Fall of 2015

JUREK'S SON DONATED SOME HEAVY DUTY PALLETS WHICH WERE CREATIVELY PLACED AND SECURED ON THE UNDERWATER MAST CRANE DOCK AND ON THE 'FIXED' WALKWAY ALONG OUR CLUB BOAT RAMP IN ORDER FOR D DOCKERS TO SCRAMBLE ALONG THE RAISED 'BRIDGE' LINKING THEIR DOCK WITH THE LAND. OUR HARBOUR MASTER PAUL EVANS AND PROPERTY MASTER GEORGE AND D DOCK CAPTAIN MIKE ADAMS AND OTHERS HAVE WORKED OVERTIME TO COME UP WITH FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS TO GIVE MEMBERS SAFE ACCESS TO THEIR BOATS AND TO THE MAST CRANE.—LYNDA



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Calendar

SAILPAST 2017—Saturday, June 10—Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. Prepayment is required for Sailpast. Plan your group. Reserve your tickets at Launch.

"Morning After" A-Dock Challenge Brunch—Sunday, June 11—Stay / come for breakfast. Always a surprise.

Port Credit Yacht Club Cruise—June 17–18—A nice trip to a beautiful club.

Canada Day Birthday Party—Saturday, July 1—Let's make it a big birthday party. *NEW! Potluck! People bring their own main dish/meat and sign up to bring an appetizer, beverage, salad or dessert. More details coming. City Fireworks in the park after dark.*

Holiday Weekend B-Dock Challenge Brunch—Sunday, July 2—Stay / come for breakfast. Always a surprise.

Lakeshore Yacht Club Cruise—July 8–9—Another familiar place that we like.

Summer Blast Event—Saturday, July 22—Shake it up! New Summer Blast event / menu in the planning.

Holiday Weekend C-Dock Challenge Brunch—Sunday, August 6—Stay / come for breakfast. Always a surprise.

Corn Roast—Saturday, September 2—Menu planning by Doris and Glen.

Last Holiday Weekend D-Dock Challenge Brunch—Sunday, September 3—Stay / come for breakfast. Always a surprise.

Cradle Laying & Thanksgiving Dinner—Saturday, October 7—Joanne and her volunteers plus potluck.

HAULOUT—Saturday and Sunday, October 14 & 15—Help the kitchen team on Saturday or Sunday.

Awards Night—Saturday, November 11—Look for some changes coming for dinner.

Clean up and decorate for Children's Christmas Party—Saturday, November 12—Decorate for Christmas.

Canada Day Birthday Party

Saturday, July 1

See pages 5 and 6 for details

SUNDAY BRUNCH

**B-Dock Sunday, July 2
C-Dock Sunday August 6**

Everyone is welcome to
enjoy a breakfast on the
holiday weekend

There is a nominal charge

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

Greg Smith

A GREAT SAILPAST was had by all. Pretty much a perfect day; with just enough sun and wind to move the fleet of forty TH&SC boats past *Shadow* anchored at Mark 0. This year's Sailpast offered a different twist to the normal Sailpast procession. Those of you who participated in the on water event were presented with a bottle of "appreciation" for supporting this year's Sailpast event. To you future Commodores, no need to worry about this year's slightly altered ceremony—it only happens every 150 years! I must say, I was delighted with how effortlessly the hand-off of the bottles went—didn't lose one. One in particular hand-off reminded me of Joe Montana's pass to Jerry Rice comeback play against the Eagles. Congratulations again to the Skipper and crew of *Insh' Allah* for the amazing on the water catch! Just wish we had it on video.

Back at the clubhouse our Super Social Director, Lynda and her team prepared the club for an evening of fun, delicious food, and live music. Congratulations to team de Jonge van der Halen for another successful TH&SC event. In the middle of this event, is your Rear Commodore, Glen Eddie. Glen seems to be everywhere on the day of Sailpast. At one point in the evening I'm certain I saw two Glen Eddies moving tables—one at each end of the table. Thanks Glen for all you do for the TH&SC. You can breathe a bit easier now that our club's premier event is over—you're in the final stretch! Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to make this year's Sailpast a memorable one. Your time and effort is appreciated.

On a more serious note, we are one of the fortunate clubs on the lake. The majority of the clubs are experiencing serious flooding and damage. With their fixed docks under a foot or more of water it's almost impossible to safely sail one's boat. In fact, most of the fleets have not been able to step their masts. It's hard to imagine, but the 2017 sailing season may be a total write off for many sailors around the lake. Unfortunately, our own cruising program may be cancelled for the season. Let's hope the waters will subside in the coming weeks.

For those of you who are lucky to



have your boats in the water and masts stepped, I encourage you go for a sail or crew on a Wednesday night race. It's already the middle of June and before you know it you'll be asking yourself, where did the summer go!

In closing, I would like to remind everyone about the club survey. If you've not completed the club survey, we ask that you take a few minutes to do so. For those of you who completed the survey, we say thank you. We've had a good response thus far and the results are both interesting and revealing. Your answers will help us formulate a plan for the next few years. The final survey results will be released to the membership in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer season. Safe sailing.

Greg Smith

N, 73° 34' 25.36" W 45.500414

Different Spot / Different Day ▲

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**The Deadline for the
AUGUST issue of
Spar & Prop is
JULY 31**



**Spar and Prop is emailed to all
members and is available
to all from our website.**

Website address is
www.thsc.ca

VICE COMMODORE

Claude Soulodre

HELLOOOOOO sailors!! Ever been to sea? I know you have!! So this Spar and Prop VC Update is just for you. ☐



Ok, so first topic of the day is parking, or more accurately, parking lot security. We're pretty lucky ducks to have access to lots of parking, and there are some scallywags out there who see a locked gate and a good-size parking lot behind it, and want in. And as much as we all know

that sharing is caring, our parking lot is an area that needs to be safeguarded for the security of members and all of our waterborne lovers (our boats, of course!!!). So, in order to maintain security of the lot, two things need to happen.

1: Get a TH&SC parking sticker and affix it proudly to your windshield. It's a snazzy addition to your car décor, and it identifies your vehicle as legit in our lot.

2: Keep an eye out for those crafty ones who sneak in the gate behind a member, park their car, and then scoot off to the beach. If you see this happening, stop them and ask them what's up, and politely inform them that they are on private property. Failing this, take note of the vehicle in question and find a board member to help out.

We don't have full-time security, so keeping the lot secure falls to all of us. Thanks in advance for making an effort in this way!

Next up is the internet. Yeah, it's true, many of us have a pretty wicked addiction to it. If we're not sailing, we're surfing...the web. And so when it goes down, all we have to amuse ourselves with are the usual boats and beers (which is really not so bad, right? But anyway...) So, please know that I feel your pain. With that in mind, I will place a whiteboard on the bulletin board in the clubhouse, indicating the internet status. My ask of you is this: before phoning me at 8am on a Saturday to tell me you can't connect, put down your device, and check the whiteboard to see if I have already been notified. If not, have a coffee and watch the boats bob from the patio for a while, and then check your device again. If it's still not working, and if the sun is reasonably high in the sky, call or text me, and then note on the whiteboard that you have done so. This will let everybody know that I'm aware. And then...go sailing, and forget about the internet while you lap up the sun, wind and waves! Because after all, we are here to sail, not watch endless back episodes of Friends on Netflix.

Ok, last item—the TH&SC Club Survey!!! If you haven't filled it out yet, please do, so that we can make your club what you want it to be. If you haven't filled it out yet, you have 'til the end of June. Here's the [link](#).

Happy sailing, everybody! Seeya at the Club! ▲

REAR COMMODORE

Glen Eddie

NO CLUB supports its social events like our club and Sailpast 2017 was no different. What an event! What a day! What a band! It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves and letting their hair down. Well at least those that still have hair. Yes Don, that was directed at you.

Of course, an event like this doesn't happen by itself so a special thanks to Peter and Lynda de Jonge van der Halen for spear heading the day. You and your crew did a fabulous job as usual and we are deeply in your debt for all your hard work.

Let's give a big round of applause to Bob Prosper, Tom Monson, Ian Whan, Rosemary Johnston, Peter and Lynda de Jonge van der Halen, and Dorothy Williams on being honoured



for all the hard work they have done in the past and continue to do around the club. You make the club a better place for all of us—so thank you.

Also Richard Peirce and his band "Mobius Stripper" were amazing. We actually had to shut down the show with people screaming for more songs.

On the Silver Spatula front, A-Dock has thrown down the gauntlet with a themed *New York Diner* brunch. The food was great and the service was...well the service was perfect Carnegie Deli. Next up is B-Dock on Sunday July 2nd. Good luck.

On the racing front, the next weekend race is the Dufferin Bell Buoy on June 24.

It's a great race and especially for beginners as there is not a lot of jockeying around marks. If you want to race but are a little hesitant stop me when you see me at the club and I can hopefully ease your concerns.

Well that's all I have for now. See you at the club. 🚤

RACING CAPTAIN

Jamie Carroll

HI EVERYONE!

Everything seems to be coming together on the racing front this year. We have had a number of races in varying weather conditions (especially the high tides we are experiencing!). This year, we have opted to continue to run the two white sail divisions, based on a change of phrf lo rating ≤ 225 or > 225 . If there are enough racers, we may re-create the spinnaker division for one of the coming series. Let me know if you are interested, as it is all about the numbers of boats committed to trying racing with a spinnaker.

On the bulletin board that members should take note of:

1. The requirement for "all" skippers to complete and return a signed waiver to the appropriate envelope on the board (most have done so!) prior to taking part in the races.
2. We have posted a list for any members wanting to gain valuable experience in racing to sign up as "crew". In addition, Skippers looking for crew can sign the list as well. We are leaving it up to crew and skippers to contact each other when the need arises.
3. Richard Coutts, continues to do a fine job on the committee boat, *Shadow*, setting up the races and recording the finishes. However, he does need additional help on board while running the Wednesday night and weekend races. If anyone would like to volunteer to help Richard on the committee boat please let me know. If we are not able to find a 'helper' then we may resort to asking that each boat racing, provide a volunteer to help on the committee boat at some point during the season ... no experience is necessary!
4. We have in hand most of the phrf lo ratings for the boats, with only a few that need to be processed. If you are interested in joining in on the racing fun and require a phrf certificate, please either contact Bruce Bateman or myself.

I would like to welcome the new skippers and their crews for joining the racing fleet, namely:



Martin Osborne—*Highland Fling* a Grampian 26

Jeff Hocking – *Sweetpea* a Tanzer 22

Next up...Wednesday night Series 1 continues and our next weekend long distance race will be the Dufferin Bell Buoy Race on June 24th.

See you around the Club!

Cheers

Jamie Carroll

Race Captain

416-421-2565 home

jfcarroll@trebnet.com 🚤



RACEQS

by Lee Rixon

Club racing

There are a number of boats that are racing at TH&SC that are using a relatively new app called RACEQS.

This app is available for both Android and Apple users and is free. You will also have to sign up at RACEQS.COM for an account, and also have a smartphone that has a GPS chip.

The way it works is you run the app during a race and then once the race is finished you upload your track. One of the people in that race then need to sign on to the RACEQS Web site and set up the race course, and then RACEQS amalgamates all of the tracks in that geographical and time window and allows you to see the fleet race unfold. Any of the participating boats can look at the race and you can see how you did against other boats and various metrics of your own boat's performance.

It still has a few bugs to iron out, but generally it seems to work very well and can certainly help you tune up your performance.

It would be really good if more boats use it, and that way our fleet display will become more comprehensive.

I'm by no means an expert on this, but am happy to set up the courses/divisions/start times and answer any questions that I can.

Regards
Lee
EMRYS



Saturday July 1 Canada Day 150th birthday

Let's make it a big birthday party!

In celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, we are planning a potluck supper on Canada Day.

Members and guests are invited to bring their own main dish/meat and to sign up to bring an appetizer, beverage, salad or dessert.

Let's make this a bigger family event at THSC in 2017. There will be music from noon in Woodbine Park (near corner Lakeshore and Coxwell). There is also a water play area at the east end of Woodbine Park near Lakeshore Road.

The magnificent City of Toronto Fireworks display at Woodbine Beach at 9:45 pm approximately (area of the volleyball courts) are always a crowd pleaser and bring thousands of people down to the waterfront.

Members and guests should plan to bring their membership/guest card with them as police often close off the access to Ashbridges Bay Park Road, south of Lakeshore by early to midafternoon, and they may need

Continued on page 6

to show the membership for access to the road to our THSC club parking lot.

Gather for a Pot luck supper at 6:00 p.m.

Please sign up ahead of time. Bring a dish appropriate to the size of your own group to share on the communal table. On the bulletin board or email lynda.dejongevanderhalen@gmail.com

Categories such as appetizers, snacks, dessert, beverages, salads, surprise us! **Think Canadiana or red and white or just bring something tasty!**

THSC will provide a variety of red and white table clothes and novelties. Each group to then decorate their own table. Open seating. You may add to the theme décor by bringing some of your own items.

Bring a game (for lawn or table top) for your group to enjoy. Ask others to join you.

Bring an activity for the kids, eg. make a Canada Day craft or a food creation for the communal supper table.

THSC to provide sparklers and/or glow bracelets (only with parent supervision). Bucket of water handy for dousing sparklers.

Watch the fireworks from the balcony, D dock, some boats, or walk into the park if you like crowds.

THSC will provide some Canadiana puzzles, a scavenger hunt, trivia, dvds, eg. Paddle to the Sea, available throughout the afternoon and evening. Families are invited to bring a kid friendly dvd if they wish.

Make it a pajama party! Sleep on your boat and in the morning you can be first in line for the holiday Sunday breakfast!

SOCIAL CHAIR

Lynda de Jonge van der Halen

Meet and Greet

On May 27, the Rear Commodore's Meet and Greet, aka Meet and Greek event was a good start to racing and socializing at our fine club. More than 70 people attended and enjoyed a filling meal of kebobs, Greek salad, pita and roasted potatoes. Thanks to our kitchen team and those who prepped and cleaned up and kept the 'spirits' flowing. Your reliable assistance is greatly appreciated.

New this year was the Nautical Yard Sale. Thank you for taking time to offer a variety of goods to our members. Thanks as well go out to Peter Fuller for providing background music on the patio. Unfortunately we had no visiting boaters this year due to the high water level and conditions at clubs with fixed docks. How would you like to meet a duck swimming over your dock as you splash along in your knee high boots as you try to reach your boat? Such things are happening at CBYC. We are definitely better off at TH&SC with our floating docks and our supportive Executive and members who have been keeping us safe with creative access solutions and electrical service for our boats.

Sailpast 2017

CELEBRATING CANADA'S 150th BIRTHDAY—WHAT A PARTY!

Planning starts with a small group in January. By the time of the March Ways and Means Social volunteers are being sought to work in a variety of ways for a three day period for Sailpast. No plan, however detailed, works without these people and those who spontaneously pitch in, and who provide the muscle, the creativity, the detail work, the expertise, and the enthusiasm that provides the setting, atmosphere and service for this great annual event we call Sailpast. **THANK YOU ALL!**

And of course we need the party goers! During the afternoon on the lawn for the Commodore's Punch and the eavestrough races with Jamie and the family activities with Ashleigh and Chloe! For dinner and dancing! This year we welcomed our member Richard Peirce and the band "Moebius Stripper" to shake things up on the dance floor. Very well received!!!

Thank you.

Drop in visitors for the afternoon and party goers who drop in after the meal were all welcome! This year a special thank you also goes out to the 12 individuals/boats who contributed an appetizer for the Canadiana appetizer challenge, three of whom were visitors on Del's boat. Your generosity is appreciated as well as the creative and tasty presentations.

Once again we were pleased to have five George Brown College Hospitality students gain experience by working at Sailpast as our bartenders and servers. Doris and her students prepared and circulated the gourmet appetizers. It is a win,win situation. Thank you very much!

Merci to Lucie and Sylvie and the French connection as we did our salute to Canada on its 150th birthday in French and English.

Our Rear Commodore Glen and First Lady Janina who are always there to support the Social team also deserve a big hand! Glen does much more than host the event with a microphone in hand! Glen arranged for three serving areas instead of the usual two buffet lines. There were many positive comments about the new system and the quality of the food.

Also thanks to George, Bruce and Del for the behind the scenes contributions to make our clubhouse welcoming, safe and attractive.

Thank you everyone for your contributions to make Sailpast 2017 a great success. We salute you!!!

This year at least twenty members signed up to work at Sailpast for one, two or three days to bring this event to our members and guests. More than a dozen others pitched in here and there when help was needed. Rich took a photo of just some of the Social helpers at the time of the Blessing of the Fleet.



Some of the people who made Sailpast a success



At launch, everything gets cleaned!



RCMP checks us out



Mike Tomlin's creative group



Singing "Oh Canada" before dinner



Eavestrough boat creation

SAILPAST



WAYS AND MEANS

Mark Pearson

HI EVERYONE—Ways and Means at your service here. I hope everyone is having an awesome season so far. I have to say that our Sailpast this year was pretty amazing—fantastic weather with lots of boats out in the Bay enjoying fair winds and calm seas.




Ok—onto business—for all you members who haven't decided how to work your 16 hours yet there are plenty of jobs that are still looking for volunteers. Sign-up sheets can be found near the entrance to the club house. However, here is a summary list to whet your appetite

1. Repair Area where the old water heater was in the Kitchen—great opp for handy persons
2. Outside east wall drainage—eaves troughs and down spouts—working outside in the sunshine
3. Outside east wall—other work—even more outside work—catch some rays
4. Resurface and even out the parking lot—great way to show off your muscles and athletic build
5. Replace and repair the timbers around the garden areas—another great outdoor job—become 'one' with nature
6. Empty attic and re-insulate—great way to see if there are any skeletons up there
7. Replace breakers in electrical panel—chance to work with Terry and learn loads
8. Dinghy Rack and surrounding area—if you need an excuse to hang out close to D dock—here it is
9. Dingy rack staining—see 8
10. Mast rack painting and grounds cleanup up—see 8

So, plenty of opportunity to get all your hours in early with lots of projects outside. For more information check-out the sign-up sheets or contact the work party leaders.

Lastly, an update on our plans to make submission and reporting of annual work hours easier and more automated. As you know we have an absolutely fabulous new club website—great job Richard Peirce and co...We are still working on the 'Club Members' area where you will be able to report your hours. This is a work in progress and we hope to have a better update at next publication.

Happy sailing everyone! 

PROPERTY MGR.

George Tsapoitis

HELLO club members, George here.



Tony Resendes is working on a plan for the kitchen and our new stove works well. We will be upgrading the kitchen in a manner that will minimally interfere with the use it.

Dell is doing a great job with the gardens and we are all grateful for his contribution in beautifying the club!

The club parking lot will still require more gravel and grading before Sailpast.

David Tollington is in charge of weed control at a pace he can manage. We have decided not to use ROUNDUP which contains Glyphosate a pretty nasty chemical! The vinegar / dish soap / epsom salt spray that we used last year is not very effective for our applications at the club.

We cut up the twin keel boat in the yard and put it into a bin and will be gone soon, if not already as I write this.

The new water heater seems to be working well, just be mindful when taking a shower to let the hot water run 'till it is warm enough to shower.

When taking garbage recyclables etc. from your boat or car PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE put it in the large bin next to the gate marked garbage or recycle!

No smoking signs have been put up on the patio areas and should be obeyed please and thank you all.

As is apparent a lot of grounds work needs to be done around the lawn area, grass, brickwork on the paths, painting and lots more. If You are looking for work hours step up to the plate.

The internet problems are being addressed by Michael Wheatstone and the modem is being replaced with a better faster one at Michael's behest.

Cheers and thank you—George 



REAR COMMODORE'S KICKOFF BRUNCH



The Eddie Family—chefs extraordinaire



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Shadow

CRUISES STILL QUESTIONABLE

Our cruises to other clubs are on hold for the time being due to the so many clubs not able to take visitors. Keep an eye on the bulletin board for "Krooz Nooz" and the latest information.

CORN ROAST and RACE ON LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

There's something for everyone and a double treat if you want to race and then come home to a wonderful Corn Roast at the club. There's always good weather on Labour Day Weekend (I think).

THE PERILS OF PEREGRINE

by Peggy Wheatstone

The Perils of *Peregrine* Episode 3 – 17

The last issue left you in suspense with baited breath waiting the arrival of our friend John Stevens.

You may recall that he was arriving on the very delayed Westjet flight that was taking Diana Delahaye back to Toronto. He and Mike had set up a meeting location in advance so all should have been set for a smooth pickup. Foolish thought. They had planned to meet at the local dinghy dock in the area that was once the Simpson Bay Yacht Club (it is in fact still inscribed in the tile work by the road side) but is now the Simpson Bay Marina. Mike had allowed 45 minutes for John to get out of the airport and to the dinghy dock so he did not have to sit around and be mosquito fodder as he waited.

Unbeknownst to us, John was the second person off the plane, had virtually no wait at immigration and his parcel was first off the plane and waiting for him. He was getting in a taxi outside the airport within 15 minutes of arrival at the gate and shooting off to the SBYC. Unfortunately arriving “early” at the dinghy dock and finding no Mike, John went next door to Jimbo’s for a beer. While drinking said beer, Fiona the bartender convinced him he was in the wrong location and should really be at the St Maarten Yacht Club, just a “short walk up the road”. After dragging his wheeled case and large box more than “a short walk” he got there to find no Mike and decided it was in fact, the wrong place. However by this time Mike had left *Peregrine* to get him and was hunting all around the Simpson Bay dinghy dock.

When a Skype call from John came in I was alone on the boat with ALL the radios and cell phones and no way to get hold of Mike. But I have an inflatable kayak! So, since I had been in bed, I wisely got dressed and went out to haul the kayak out and attempt to inflate it by deck light. Without the instructions. It did not go well. Luckily, and finally the point of this sidebar narrative, I was generating enough odd noises that our shore side neighbours the Symonds, heard and came out to

find out what had warranted this very odd behaviour. It is about now that we are very thankful for not only having wonderful neighbours but having become very good friends with them. When I explained I needed to get a message to Mike on shore. Mike Symonds launched his dinghy and came out to ferry me to the Simpson Bay dinghy dock. We found Mike right where he should have been, relayed the message and off went Mike to the SMYC to get John. As Mike S was taking me back to *Peregrine* I received a very nice scolding on not having called for help at the outset. I took it on the chin, kept my mouth shut and apologized.

John was with us until Tuesday when he flew out to Antigua for further business. We meanwhile had a nice little visit. Sunday we all congregated on shore and helped the Symonds fix and paint their picket fence. Something satisfying about using ones hands to fix things! The next day he and Mike replaced our friend Andrew’s problematic wind turbine. Apparently that was the large box. Not sure many Presidents give that level of customer service.

Friday was my birthday and celebrated with a wonderful Neapolitan style pizza with friends and fellow Leopard owners, Tom and Mage. St Maarten is full of these little gems. The restaurant is licensed, has table service, serves through a pickup window and the tables and chairs are set up on what I am sure was originally meant to be the parking lot.

Saturday Alexis arrived and that evening we headed over to the cruiser’s party on Buccaneer Beach. Alex compared Tattoos with Bob Bitchin, who apparently started Tattoo Magazine back in the 50s, and then we sat on the beach and enjoyed the music. We went home early as we had a flight to Saba at 7:30 Sunday morning.

Upon asking Mike and Dyana Symonds if we should pre-order a taxi or just try to get a cab that early in the morning, they suggested we ask their security guard gate people to order one for us. As it turned out, one of the guards was on his day off and drove us. Very civilized.

Arriving on Saba (shortest commercial airfield in the world) we were picked up by a taxi organized by the Andries, owner of El Momo

cottages where we were staying. This was the same place we had stayed at with Paul and Marie two years ago and also in conversations with others is one of the more inexpensive but pleasant places to stay. The cottages are a fair walk (uphill—did we mention Saba is a dormant volcano?) from Windwardside but the view is spectacular, the place rustic and friendly and a delicious breakfast (available for a fee) is freshly made to order. All water is collected rain water and precious so not to be wasted. If you are a boater it is nothing you are not used to. The bathrooms are outside, showers are just above warm and the toilets are on septic so please no excess flushing. The kitchen had three burners and a small fridge. The king size bed was comfortable and at 1200 feet was glorious sleeping. Alex’s cottage had two twins beds so she had her pick. She was to share her bathroom but was so close to us she just shared with us. Sunday afternoon we walked to the village and got the lay of the land stopping in at the glass blowers at the foot of the stairs to the cottages to see about glass bead classes. Dinner that night was at the Brigadoon and I fulfilled a wish for Lion fish after having read in the Globe and Mail about how this exact restaurant was trying to create a market for it as a food fish. It was delicious.

Monday we headed off into town to prepare for a our little walk up Mount Scenery. After brief stops for sunscreen, water and take out sandwiches for a picnic lunch we borrowed some walking sticks from the bin at the trail shop and headed up the mountain. They say it is only 1062 steps and I am sure it is, I didn’t count them. What they did not include was all the sloping paths between. All is good, we made it. Then Mike, Alex and myself enjoyed a well earned picnic lunch at the summit. Interestingly we kept leapfrogging up and down the mountain with a very nice dutch couple we had met at the restaurant the night before. They translated the plaque at the top for us which proclaimed it is the highest point in the Netherlands kingdom.

On reaching the town again we headed straight for a little outside cafe where we found a fair few of our fellow hikers and enjoyed delicious cherry vanilla milkshakes. At the trail shop we picked up our certificates proving our adventure and a of couple

FLEET CAPTAIN CRUISING

Lee Rixon

Peggy Wheatstone

N EWS from the Crooz Crew

Well, as I'm sure you have all noticed, we have rather more water this year than usual. Whilst our club is currently fine, a lot of other clubs around the lake are not. This has resulted in a lot of clubs being closed to visitors.

This directly affected our planned cruise to Bluffers, as their docks were under water, and may well affect our upcoming cruises too. In club cruising around Lake Ontario it is like a huge game of moving pieces and if we are cruising to a club and it is not a reciprocal cruise, then some of their member boats need to be out to allow us space. If they have limited destinations to go to, then this has a ripple effect.

It is a very fluid situation (pun intended), and can change on short notice, so please continue to sign up for cruises and we will keep you informed as we get information. Our next planned cruise is to PCYC on June 17/18 and the sign up sheet is on the notice board.

Happy sailing

Your Crooz Crew



The Perils of Perigrine...

Continued from page 10

souvenir tops. Our day finished up with a return home for a swim and a rest, a walk back to town for dinner then family games night and a very sound sleep.

Tuesday saw us back in town trying to provision for dinner at the cottage which was a challenge, as the grocery stores restock on Wednesday. After stops at the tourist office and few stores, we also stopped at the dutch museum on the way back.

A very interesting place, the "museum" is really a home housing a family's passion and multi generational collection of dutch artifacts and furniture. Alex was thrilled to be able to touch a 500 year old bible and admire the calligraphy and plated illustrations. A very unusual and informative little excursion.

By now it was raining so walking home found us going barefoot through the rivulets in the road. After a leftovers lunch at the cottage we braved the steps yet again (we had a few protesting muscle groups) and spent the afternoon learning to make glass beads. The proprietress only charged us for two lessons as that was all the equipment stations she had working but did allow us to trade off and even Mike got into it making some truly lovely pieces. Clearly hidden talents.

Wednesday started slowly but eventually saw us stowing our bags at the airport security desk and walking down to see the tidal pools. Yes, there is a place that will still let you leave your bags unattended and leave the premises.

The pools were unfortunately quite inaccessible due to the high winds and surf but very moonish topography non the less.

After a picnic lunch at the airport waiting porch we finally boarded our delayed flight back to SXM. Arriving back at the gated community the Symonds live in, to collect our dinghy, Andre our "taxi driver" smiles welcome back. Back to *Peregrine* then Alex and I rush off for her first snorkel/swim followed by shopping at the Heineken Regatta merchandize booth and the best Swarama ever at Little Jerusalem.

Thursday was our annual pilgrimage, present and souvenir shopping in Phillipsburg followed by a

stop at the larger "Magic Hands" shop near the boat. Magic Hands is the Caribbean version of 10,000 Villages and has some very nice, unusual and affordable locally hand crafted gifts and jewellery. We finished the day with the \$6 current run movie at the local theatre.

Friday was a fix things on the boat day followed by a swim and Alex trying out the dive board Lee had made and brought down to *Peregrine*.

Saturday had Alex heading off home and Mike and I heading to the St Maarten Yacht Club (and yes the TH&SC burgee is still on display). The boats coming back in from competing in the Heineken Regatta are encouraged to put on a "show" as they go by the SMYC and we were there to watch the entertainment as the boats returned through the causeway bridge and meet up with friends (and the brokers who helped us buy *Peregrine*) Mike Disch and Che Decastro. It was actually Che who started the bridge "show" tradition for returning racing boats several years ago. Delightfully Che's partner Susan and her parents were also there as they were visiting the island.

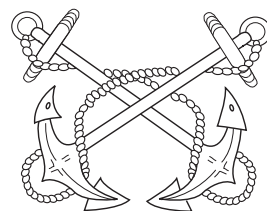
Sunday we returned to the SMYC for more bridge show antics where Che conscripted me to judge the show!

Monday our theatre/sailing friends Peter and Diane joined us on *Peregrine* for few days during their week escape to St Maarten. We spent the week showing them the island, enjoying some of the nicer restaurants and not sailing. The wind was much stronger than comfortable to take to the sea. Mike and Peter did get to Philipsburg to go out match racing on the 12m ex America's cup boats now located there.

The week also included tragedy as we learned that on the Monday our good friend Che Decastro was drowned while body surfing at Sunset Beach. Some of you may have seen the Facebook video of the memorial at the St Maarten Yacht Club given for him on the Friday. We miss you Che.

More next issue with the arrival of Miranda for March break.

Peggy and Mike—*Peregrine*



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HARBOUR MASTER

Paul Evans

WELL, it was a very good launch and I want to say thank you to everyone.

You are all aware of the high water problem but to try and put it into something that is easier to relate to, the water is currently 5 feet and 3 inches higher than the datum value on your charts. My wife is only 5 feet 1 inch tall.

As a result of the high water, the chains on the docks have been adjusted again and again. If you see a group of people going around the docks clustering together on a finger, then please feel free to join in.

The bridges are going up to the docks instead of down so please be very careful as it is getting to be a big step on some docks.

I want to say a big thank you to Jurek's son for supplying some shipping skids that we have employed as a temporary solution to the approach to D dock and the mast area. Please be careful tho as these can still be very slippery if they get wet.

We are actually very lucky that we are open for business as many clubs are closed to visitors and some are only open for emergencies.

I would like to ask everyone to ensure that your boat is not over hanging the docks by springing them back. Please also tidy up your lines on the docks so they are not a tripping hazard.

Many Thanks

Some members have expressed an interest in having a seminar about man over board procedures including some on the water practical time.

If you are interested in that, please send me a note to

harbourmaster@thsc.ca

Hope to see you out on all this water. ▲

GET MORE USE FROM YOUR BOAT

COME RACE ON WEDNESDAY EVENING AND/OR SATURDAY DISTANCE RACE

WE'VE ALL COME IN LAST MANY TIMES BUT THAT'S HOW WE LEARNED

RACERS HELP EACH OTHER TO SAIL BETTER



PAST COMMODORE

Don Bland

THANKS to everyone who took part in "Sailpast" Weather co-operated, we had a memorable turnout on the water.

I feel obligated to say that the current Commodore, the highly regarded Greg Smith, disappointed me though. In order to get more members to come out for his Sailpast than mine he actually publicized an offer to bribe each vessel as they saluted him. What's next?? free drinks at the bar??

An observation regarding the unusual high water levels. The amazing members of this club came up with a way to step our masts from a mast dock that was and still is under water.

The total upgrade of the electrical connections to all of our docks a few short years ago has enabled us to use our slips.

The Harbour Master and his minions have kept our docks functional and accessible.

The majority of our sister clubs have not fared nearly as well—most have limited access, many have no electric connections or water.

Final observation—water levels have dropped three to four inches in last couple of days, the worst is over.

My congratulations to all of our



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Judy & Aubrey Millard (Veleda)

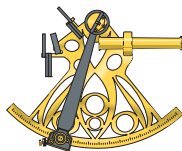
Judy and Aubrey have sent ye editor the story of their latest adventure. It deals with their experience with bureaucracy and their solution. It is too long for this Spar and Prop so it will be in the August issue...(Editor)

Peggy and Mike Wheatstone

See page 10 for the "Trials of Peregrine".

Pat and Geoff Craigie (Beach House)

Pat and Geoff are in Toronto and sail with Chris on Remedy. ▲



A-DOCK BREAKFAST

Theme—A New York Diner



Complete with surley waiters



MOTHER'S DAY STOWAWAY

by Peter Martyn

I hadn't visited *Peregrine* for a couple of days. So Saturday, May 13 — a week after Launch — I was looking forward to ticking off a couple of items on the to-do list.

It was not to be.

I stepped aboard, looked down and saw a small screen lying on the cockpit sole. I knew instantly what it meant. The 2¼-inch tall portlight, inset under the port-side seat, provides a bit of airflow to the cramped quarter berth. I'd installed it the summer after I bought the boat in 1994, and because it had admitted nary a drop of rain or spray in the years since, I'd never closed it.

Yet somebody had deftly managed to spring it loose. I had a stowaway.

Before Launch, I'd spoken to a downcast Del Schinkopf, who'd just discovered a family of raccoons aboard *Our Affair*. The next day, he seemed in better spirits: the smell from several dishes of ammonia he'd left aboard had encouraged the little family to abandon ship for friendlier quarters.

I climbed down *Peregrine's* companionway and peered aft over the top of the nav station seat, which folds down extending the quarter berth. Yep, raccoon. Quite a small face, compared to the rotund, basketball-sized monstrosities that frequent our urban backyard. One of Del's babies, I thought.



A gentle prod with the boathook provoked an outsize reaction: the coon sprang raging toward me, hissing and spitting. Okay, leave it be for now. No one at the club had any ammonia aboard, so I called Shelley who promised to pick some up later.

The raccoon and I coexisted peacefully for a couple of hours. From time to time I checked and could see the small face at the far end of the quarter-berth, cowering behind some life jackets.

In early evening, I put out three shallow pans of acrid ammonia water — one on the nav station seat, one on the companionway, and one on the chart table. Closing everything except the quarter berth port — I would've needed gauntlets and a suit of chain-mail to get near it — I locked up the boat and headed home, hoping the Schinkopf method would drive the young coon out.

Next day was Mothers' Day.

I arrived after brunch. The club was unusually quiet for a sunny May morning. The rubber gasket from the quarter-berth port lay on the cockpit sole, a sign I hoped meant the raccoon had knocked it out during its departure.

When I opened the boat, the fumes had me blinking away tears. Optimistically, I peered into the quarter booth. Uh-oh. The stowaway was still aboard, its eyes watering from the fumes, but stubbornly not dislodged.

More strenuous measures were called for.

I grabbed the string mop. Poked and prodded. No luck.

Moistened the mop with ammonia. The coon moved away. Poked and levered till the stubborn beast crawled onto the shelf inside the port and stuck its head out for fresh air. Things were moving in the right direction.

I pushed and heaved with the damp mop, and finally levered the coon out into the cockpit. It kept trying to climb back in, so I wet the mop with more ammonia and chased it onto the dock.

Success!

Panting with the exertion, I looked over the nav station seat.

And saw four little faces....

The mop didn't budge them.

Donning leather work gloves, I gingerly reached back. To touch them I had to remove the seat back and lie on my belly, and extend my hand. They were, fortunately, too tiny to attack.

I grabbed a kit by the scruff of its neck and it hung limp, like a kitten. Deposited on the shelf inside the port, which has a fiddle to keep things from falling off, it shivered but protested that it wasn't going out into the glare of morning sunlight in the cockpit. I grabbed another kit and with the two, managed to squeeze them through the port. They clung valiantly with their little claws to everything they could hold onto but finally plopped onto the cockpit sole, squealing piteously.

I hoisted another pair onto the shelf (turns out there were six kits), but as I shoved them out, Momma, who'd come back to rescue her screaming babies, was trying just as hard to shove them back in. I finally doused her hindquarters with ammonia, and she fled.

The squeals of her offspring brought her back, however, and we did a little dance as each of us tried to stuff a baby through opposite ends of the 2¼-by-8-inch port. Despite her efforts, I finally got all six out into the cockpit, and wedged the reeking mop in the opening.

She grabbed a baby and ran.



In a few minutes, I saw her galumph down the dock toward *Peregrine*, jump aboard, grab another kit in her mouth, and flee.

Lee Rixon was startled by a spitting, hissing Momma when he unknowingly crossed her return path along the dock. I alerted Jamie Smallwood, who was working on *Sassy*, that the coon might be coming past with babies.

When I got back to the boat, there were only four left. I watched her grab one by the scruff of the neck, clamber up past *Peregrine's* starboard winch, jump onto the dock and dash to her new lair, somewhere deep in the City lot to the south of us.

Then there were two, and finally just one. ("Momma left me for last," it whined: Years of therapy ahead.)



Thus ended — happily for all for all — *Peregrine's* Mothers' Day adventure. ▲



June 2017



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
SAILPAST—A GREAT DAY				1	2	3
4	5	6	Race Series I Race 37	8	9	10 SAILPAST
A-Dock Challenge Breakfast11	12	13	Race Series I Race 414	15	16	Port Credit YC Cruise17
Father's Day18	19	Summer Begins Tomorrow20	Race Series I Race 521	22	23	Dufferin Bell Buoy Race24
25	26	27	Race Series II Race 128	29	30	
COME OUT TO RACE—YOU WON'T REGRET IT						



July 2017



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
CELEBRATE 150th AT TH&SC PARTY						Canada Day—Big Party
B-Dock Challenge Breakfast		Independence Day—USA	Race Series II Race 2			Lakeshore Yacht Club Cruise
9	10	11	Race Series II Race 3	13	14	15
16	17	18	Race Series II Race 4	20	21	Summer Blast Regatta
23	24	25	Race Series II Race 5	27	28	29
30	31	TRY A CRUISE—GOOD COMPANY, FOOD				



August 2017



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	Race Series III Race 12	3	4	5
C-Dock Challenge Breakfast6	Civic Holiday7	8	Race Series III Race 29	10	11	12
13	14	15	Race Series III Race 316	17	18	Race des Voyageurs19
Cruise to MCC-yesterday20	21	22	Race Series III Race 423	24	25	26
27	28	29	Race Series III Race 530	31		
COME OUT TO RACE—NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED						



September 2017



Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
RACE AND CORN ROAST ON THE 2nd					1	Bluffer's Race / Corn Roast
D-Dock Challenge Breakfast 3	Labour Day 4	5	Make-up Race (if necessary) 6	7	8	Frost Bite Race 9
10	11	12	Make-up Race (if necessary) 13	14	15	Cruise to FBYC 16
17	18	19	Make-up Race (if necessary) 20	21	22	Circle of Life Race 23
24	TH&SC Elections 25	26	Make-up Race (if necessary) 27	28	29	30
ELECTION, RACES, CRUISES CONTINUE THIS MONTH						