

North Channel Yacht Club
P.O. Box 175
Elliot Lake, Ontario, P5A 2J7

www.ncyc.ca

Newsletter

Spring 2009

Commodore's Report

I don't know about you, but I'm finding the winter long. I'm actually flirting with the idea that black flies aren't that bad.

This winter was even more challenging for Dan, our trusted dock master. We not only had a freezing water line problem again this winter, we also had a problem with the septic tank lift pump. The new heating element that we installed last fall in the water line between the lake and the pump house worked well and the line did not freeze there. This year, the problem was somewhere between the pump house and Dan's house. Thanks to Mike Dupuis and Dave Margetts, an ingenious temporary working solution was devised that provided Dan with water for the rest of the winter. But we need to come up with a more permanent solution this summer. As for the septic lift pump problem, Al Penniston has worked out a solution with assistance from Dan, Jacob, Ken B. and Frank deVries. Thanks to all for bailing out Dan. And thanks for your patience, Dan.

Our April 25th Spring Planning Meeting is coming up very quickly. You will be getting the notice of meeting and the agenda very shortly. You will notice that there are a number of important attachments to the notice of meeting. This is background information you will find helpful to prepare for the meeting. I encourage everybody to familiarize themselves with the information so we can have a productive and rewarding meeting.

Here's a question for all of you...do we need somebody to manage the purchase of club apparel (hats, T-shirts, fleeces, etc) now that mall kiosks do it so readily? The demand, by members, for such items has been very low. Unless there is a big outcry for this service and somebody volunteers to do it on his/her own time, we are prepared to let this drop.

If approved by the members at the Spring Planning Meeting, we will be doing more storage track upgrades this summer. We need to wait until most boats are launched to get that started. Al Kenney is thinking of doing this work in late June, early July. This typically is not work party season, but, if you don't like working with the black flies in the spring, and you prefer warm summer work, feel free to schedule your work party hours at that time. This may work better for you and will be helpful to those organizing the work.

We are starting to give some thought to the management of our storage area, affectionately called "the back forty". This area is like a museum of old cradles, various abandoned items and plain old junk. Somebody's junk is often somebody else's treasure, but it's sometimes hard to tell the difference. We

need to put some thought, some order and ... yes.....some rules, around what can be stored, for how long, what's available to members and if we should be charging a cost to store stuff there. Management Committee would like your input into this because it will affect most of us. Let's take the summer to think about this and maybe we'll be ready to discuss it at the next AGM. Your ideas and opinions are welcome.

In order to keep our membership at a somewhat consistent and healthy level we need to attract new members to replace those that leave us. I have always said that the best advertising is through word of mouth of happy members. It's surprising how small our boating community really is and how quickly information gets passed along. A friendly welcome to a transient, catching a visitor's lines at the service dock, a stroll around the yard to show off our facilities to inquiring visitors, a ride to town given to desperate cruisers will result in new members to our club at no cost to the club. We will be printing a minimum number of pamphlets and guest passes again this year, but the best advertising we can buy is to offer our guests and visitors the same friendliness that we offer each other.

I'm sure I've used up more than my allotted space. Spring is here, the snow is melting and we'll be walking around the club yard in our sandals and shorts pretty soon. Can't wait!

Ray Girard, Commodore, rcgirard@sympatico.ca or
705-474-0544

Coming Events

- ✓ April 25 1300 hrs – Spring Planning Meeting
- ✓ April 25 1800 hrs – Opening Supper, convened by Connie and Doug Innes
- ✓ May 7 – Work Party, with hot delicious lunch served by Karen and Darryl Park
- ✓ June 13 – Safety Day with demonstrations on winch, fire hose and power washer
- ✓ June 13 – Commodore's Cruise

Fleet Captain's Report

As this season ramps up, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of their collective responsibility to conduct activities on the club grounds in a safe and responsible manner.

Make sure all boats are securely chained, and that all movements of cradles and the transfer car are clearly communicated to everyone concerned. Stay well clear of moving loads and equipment.

Take great care when working in, on, and around your own boat. Falls from more than five feet are often fatal. Secure your ladder to the boat. Ladders should be used at an angle of 70°. Check your electrical cords. Badly worn or old extension cords can present an electrical shock or fire hazard. Never leave boats plugged in and unattended and keep the area around your cradle neat and tidy.

Don't wait for others, to correct an unsafe condition!

Fire is one of the most devastating situations a boat yard can face. Closely stored boats, fuel, oil, tarps and numerous other combustibles can contribute to a quickly moving fire that can overwhelm even the best equipped fire department.

Fire prevention is the key to our own fire safety however preparedness is essential. Know where the extinguishers are and when and how to deploy them. You must quickly determine whether you can fight a fire effectively or immediately call for help.

Call for the North Shore fire department using 911. Their initial response time will be fairly good but half of their resources and manpower must come from Serpent River and that will take 20 or more minutes. If manpower is available, set up the fire pump. Fight the fire from an up wind position. Many times the most effective strategy for fighting a fire is to protect the assets or boats that are not burning. Trying to extinguish a raging fire without adequate water, equipment or manpower as opposed to preventing it's spread, often results in much greater losses. Another possible strategy is to move the boats ahead of the fire, creating a fire fuel break. Only attempt this if there is sufficient manpower and it is safe to do so.

June 13th is the Commodores cruise and Safety Day. On the morning of the 13th we will be setting up a variety of equipment safety, as well as fire pump and fire extinguisher training sessions. Anyone who would like to bring their boat extinguishers to me for a complementary service inspection is welcome.

Lastly; it may not be common knowledge but smoke detectors are now mandatory in all recreational properties including camper trailers and boats with sleeping accommodations. Failure to properly install a working smoke

detector or removing the battery from a smoke detector can result in a \$235 provincial fine.

Have a safe launch
Ken Barnes

Volunteers Needed

- 40th Anniversary Committee – We need a few members to sit on an ad hoc committee to work with the 25th anniversary team to decide, plan and organize next year's 40th anniversary celebration. Chris Margetts suggested at the AGM that the 40th could be a "Batten Down like" event, possibly coordinated with the club race, in the warmer time of the season.
- We are also looking for a member to go through the years and years of club papers, files and documents, to cull what is not required, and organize and file properly what we need to keep
- Thanks to our Social Coordinator Anne Phillips, volunteers have been found for all except the Batten Down Barbecue, scheduled for October 3. There's lots of help available, and a clear outline of what is involved can be found in the Events Binder in the clubhouse. Contact Anne if you can take this on - it earns work party hours.

Dock Box Condo

Last year several members decided we needed more on-site storage at NCYC. The present dock box area is a shamble of unattractive facilities A new idea was needed to clean up the mess and accommodate the members needs. Having the majority of storage in one building satisfies the needs of the members and the need of the club to have some control over it's property.

I have taken on the task to facilitate the project. To do so I need everyone who wants to participate and those who would like to see that area cleaned up to contact me and the management committee with their support and what commitment they will make to the project The summer is coming soon and we would like to get started on this.

The first assessment of the cost of a storage area is about \$250-\$300.00 per unit. We feel that is a high estimate, as the serious data can't be collected till support is determined. I am willing to

organize and work with the steering committee on this project but help is needed to complete it this summer or early next season.

I await your support and commitment so we can put the final touches on this plan.
Chet Beeswanger

The Mac/Man Challenge

The Little Current Yacht Club would like to invite you to the "Premier Yachting Event" in Northern Lake Huron "The Mac/Man Challenge" This event starts on Mackinac Island stops in Gore Bay and ends in Little Current the heart of the North Channel. For more Information go to: www.lcyc.ca/macman/MacMan.html

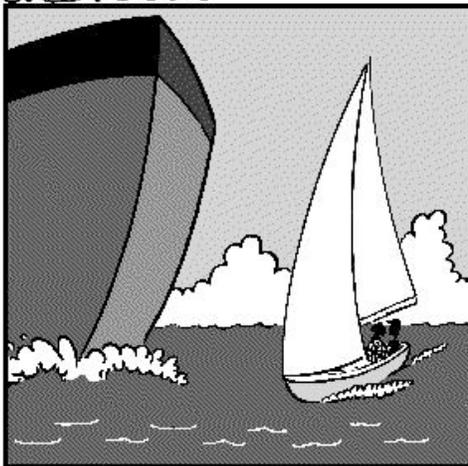
Think about entering the **Mac/Man Challenge**, to take place July 23 to 25. The first leg is from Mackinaw Island to Gore Bay, with the second leg from Gore Bay to Little Current.

Bob and Lucille Legault made us proud when they entered the second leg of the challenge two summers ago. It would be great to have a few more of our boats entered this summer.

As our Commodore commented, the best advertising for NCYC is face to face, and here's an opportunity to talk up the club to sailors from far and near. The Management Committee has decided to issue an invitation to all participants to visit us on their homeward sail, and offer one free night's accommodation. We know we can count on you to make them welcome, so that hopefully they will return.

SAILTOONS

by Michael Mazone



Don't worry... according to the rules
they have to give way to us.

Proposed Amendments to the Navigable Waters Protection Act

Canada's recent Budget in the House of Commons contained some hidden clauses, one of which dealt with "minor waterways". These are creeks and shallow waterways that would not directly affect our boats. However, we found it disturbing because all our waterways are connected. Pollution in one finds its way eventually into the others.

We are grateful to Tim Ruthenberg. His knowledge of how government works helped us to reach those decision makers who could possibly override this damaging legislation, which would allow projects such as bridges, causeways, dams etc, to proceed without having to undergo environmental assessments. Their rationale was that this would reduce the backlog of projects on the drawing board, but at what cost?

Those who care about keeping our waters clean made their voices heard, but because of the recession, there was considerable pressure to pass the budget quickly, and it did. The Senate, despite concerns about this and other hidden clauses, also passed the Budget. We emailed the Senate and found surprising support for further study on these clauses. The same day the Budget passed, the Honourable Senator Cowan moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Hubley:

"That, notwithstanding any rules or usual practices, and without affecting any consideration or progress made by the Senate with respect to Bill C-10, the *Budget Implementation Act, 2009*, the following committees be separately authorized to examine and report on the following elements contained in that bill:

(a) The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment, and Natural Resources: those elements dealing with the *Navigable Waters Protection Act (Part 7);*"

We live in hope....

Member's News

Some spend the whole winter in warmer climes, others just take a break. Nick and Colleen have spent the winter land cruising, and from all reports are loving it, although Northern Ontario's summer is calling them home soon!

Paulette Roslyn went down to Phoenix to see them (while also spending time on the golf course). She was fortunate to be able to get tickets in the gallery to watch Tiger Woods perform.

Anne Phillips and Terry Polkinghorne couldn't wait for summer, and chartered in the Caribbean. We hear

they had a fabulous time and are looking to buy a bigger boat!

Pat Sharpe is enjoying his recent retirement and planning to sail south with Dianne next summer.

Russ and Louise had a foretaste of the Cruising Life when they flew down to Belize and joined Bill and Barb Mawhinney on Babsea for two weeks. They really enjoyed snorkeling on the Barrier Reef, the world's second largest. Plans are to take a sabbatical and head south at summer's end to cruise around Cuba, hopefully with local guide, Debbie Armstrong, then on to the Bahamas.

News from the Mawhinneys on Babsea

It's been one year this April that Bill and I were sailing the Bay Islands near Auckland, New Zealand with a magazine group called Latts And Atts and their Share the Sail program. What a wonderful way to end a winter of cruising.

This last November, we once again returned to our "Babsea" in the Rio Dulce River, Guatemala and headed to Placencia, Belize to have Christmas with about 30 of our friends and also fellow cruisers. Somehow, 3 large turkeys were produced and cooked (in halves I believe) and each boat brought at least one dish to pass so we had enough food to feed a whole village, or so we thought. This all was on an open dock donated to us for the day by a local resident. Well, to say the least, we ate everything but we also feed close to 70 people. With cruisers, when someone suggests a party, look out! It will happen.

We then sailed to Honduras and spent a month in the Bay Islands of Honduras which are Utila, Roatan and Guanaja. Back to Belize to pick up Russ and Louise and spent 2 glorious weeks doing it all. The rest of our winter has been spent cruising the Belize Cays and we'll post pics and more "stories" for the web page.

We are now back in the Rio Dulce River which is a fresh water river between 2 mountain ranges and totally protected from hurricanes, where "Babsea" will spend another summer. Hope to see everyone soon.

Barbara and Bill Mawhinney
S/V Babsea
Rio Dulce River, Guatemala.

From the Gills on Isle of Skye, Power

Jon's and he has been trying to set up a trip to Brazil and he leaves today.

Our daughter was on 12 hour night shifts, for a plant shutdown and brought us our grandson. We got him in Panama City and had him for 3 weeks and then she joined us.

. We spent about a week at Sun Harbor marina, Panama City because of connecting with her and because Jon had to fly to Toronto for business...

Got to roll our way from Dog Island to Steinhatchee, Jon had to dive to cut one crab pot..

We are enjoying Florida very much.

Highlights:

We went up the Suwanee River. We were invited to a private home to sample good FL cooking. Fresh mullet and swamp cabbage and cheese grits. It was very enjoyable.

We continued up the Suwanee and saw springs where manatee hide in winter (we missed the manatee here)

We anchored and dinghied into a couple little creeks, and I finally got to see alligators. We saw seven or eight. We had one great view of one racing off a bank and jumping into the river in front of us.

We went to Crystal River and there we went to the Three Sisters spring...which is among the houses, It is roped off, but we were able to see Manatee. (They are there between Nov. 15 and Mar 31 and then they are out grazing and they are more difficult to see) We watched them for awhile. It was great to get a chance to see them, but JB, our grandson, was much more interested in watching the snorkelers near us.

We had fine weather for our trip to Tarpon Springs. It was a bit bumpy for our trip into Gulf Port, but only because of a beam reach.. sailors would have been fine!

Gulf Port has a great beach. It is a lovely little town. We spent one night in St. Petersburg. (holding there is poor) but it is a great place to stop. We are presently at the Gulf Port Municipal Marina and Jon is off to Brazil today for a week.

All the best to our NCYC friends,

Jon and Candy