



Vernon Yacht Club

TILLER TOPICS

**Pub. Mail Agreement No.
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Vernon Yacht Club
7919 Okanagan Landing Road
Vernon, BC ,V1H 1H1**



VYC from the air

photo Lawrence McAuley

Delivery Address:

March 2010 Features

- Executive Reports Page 3-6
- Minutes Summary; Bouquet of Roses Page 7
- Security Team; Members Account Page 8
- Sailing Lessons 2010 Page 9
- Messing About in Boats Page 10
- Members' Classified Ads Page 11
- On the Water Front Page 12
- Vernon Power Squadron Page 13
- Cruisin' Canucks Musings Page 14 - 16
- Annual Rib-Off Page 17
- OK Yacht Clubs' Events 2010 Page 18-19
- March 2010 Calendar Page 20



Do you have ideas for Tiller Topics, do you have an opinion you would like published? Tiller Topics gratefully accepts your submissions. Please drop them off at the club or e-mail them to tiller@vernonyachtclub.com

VYC - 2009—2010 Executive

7919 Okanagan Landing Road, Vernon, BC V1H 1H1

Name:	Position:	Home:	Work:	Cell:
Tim Amy (Kerry)	Commodore	542-6322	833-2444	833-2444
Steve Bertram (Alicia Kay)	Vice Commodore	547-0025	306-7575	306-7575
Lawrence Johnson(Candace)	Rear Commodore		260-8003	
Rick Reichelt (Toby)	Staff Captain	558-5598	542-5550	309-2311
Bob Montguire (Katie)	Fleet Captain	545-8851		308-7879
Gary Pearson (Sandra)	Treasurer	979-0359	717-5700	859-5800
Terri McLennan (Rod)	Secretary	549-5056	549-2558	307-7140
Jim Caldwell (Susan)	Past Commodore	260-5846		540-5846
Dean Myrfield (Lacey)	Director 1 Year	558-3636	549-5251	308-6904
Dave Atkins (Fay)	Director 1 Year	542-2668		550-0186
Dan Irvine	Director 1 Year	549-0119	549-4161	549-0119
Allen Dubeski (Mary-Ann)	Director 2 Year	549-4531	545-9188	558-8478
Jerry Spelchan (Holly)	Director 2 Year	545-4564		549-0051
Mike Thomas (Gillian)	Director 2 Year	545-8501	545-8501	549-0320

Vernon Yacht Club **phone** number 545-5518
Vernon Yacht Club **fax** number 545-0388

Please leave a message if no one is there to answer your call.
All phone messages are followed up.

Vernon Yacht Club - **Email Address:** office@vernonyachtclub.com
Vernon Yacht Club - **Website:** www.vernonyachtclub.com

Office hours: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm.
Occasional changes to these hours will be posted on the office door.

Important Notice to All Members: If you access the clubhouse with your key card and are confronted with the alarm going off while you are inside, please follow this procedure: Re-swipe your card at either entrance. Then call the security company and identify yourself and have them cancel the alarm. The phone number is posted at both entrances. If you fail to do this, the club can be billed up to \$150.00. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

* **Submissions for Tiller Topics** can be sent via e-mail to:
tiller@vernonyachtclub.com

****Deadline for submissions:** the second week of each month.

Tiller Topics' Team to date:

Hanny Kooyman - Layout & Design
John Clark - Proof Reading
Cees Kooyman - Mailing
Rob Ladan - Website
Allen Dubeski - Advertisement

Regular Contributors:

Kerry Richardson - Bookcorner;
Bouquet of Roses; news reporter.
Doug Stewart - CPS News
Ron Heuman - Security Team
Carol Craske - Valley Girls;
Racing; Sailing Lessons
Dave Atkins - Messing about
in Boats
Dave Horsham - Sailing Fleet
Dan Irvine - On the Water
Front

Executive members and
many occasional writers and
photographers.



Commodore's Report

Tim Amy



Vernon Yacht Club 2010

Navigating the First Fifty Seven Years

Rotted pilings

and rusted steel, Okanagan echoes of the big sternwheelers churning the lake at the turn of the century (1900); the Okanagan Landing Regatta with

volunteer firemen racing rafts across the bay (1930); plywood powerboats and rowing races; North Okanagan Aquatic Association; North Okanagan Sailing Regatta for the Rose Bowl Cup (1940); nautical coffee talk at Vernon's Okanagan Café and at Johnny's Grill; the Mayor's challenge (1950); the imagination, vision, determination and hard work of the club's founding members. All set the scene and contributed to the Vernon Yacht Club being granted its' charter, June 23, 1953.

During the 1890s the CPR drove pilings along the south shore of Okanagan Lake at Vernon to support the heavy decks and rails needed to load and land box cars and produce for transport by barge and paddlewheeler to communities and outposts the length of the lake. This Okanagan Landing rail and water terminus ceased operations during the 1930s and most structures were removed, leaving a drowned forest of pilings and steel to rot and rust in the shallows.

1900-1950, residents of the 'The Landing' area organized a variety of annual power and sailing regattas on the lake. Interest in boating grew with the population and during the early 1950s power boat aficionados would congregate for steaks and whiskey at Vernon's OK Café while sail boaters gathered for toasted cheese sandwiches and beer at Johnny's Grill where John Dedora, passionate sailor and a founding member of the Calgary Yacht Club (1933), and his wife Eileen, had chosen a sailing theme for the grill. For many years the old ship's wheel, presently mounted in the VYC club lounge, was a feature of Johnny's Grill, till John donated it to the Club. He donated it twice as it turned out. Mayor Theo Adams, a community booster with his ear always close to the ground, frequented both establishments and, in July 1951, commented to John that,

"Both power and sail boat people have been talking yacht club and it's time you did something about it."



To generate interest, a sailing race was organized for August 1951 at Okanagan Landing. The wind did not attend but many people did. Encouraged, the organizers arranged a meeting for November at the OK Landing United Church hall. With a good attendance it was quickly decided to form a yacht club, with Dr. Hugh Campbell Brown elected Commodore, Dr. Leon Causier Vice Commodore, Horace Gailbraith legal advisor and Austin Collins as Secretary. Another thirty signed up as founding members, each contributing a few dollars, and June 23, 1953 the Vernon Yacht Club received it's charter as a society.

Meanwhile, the hunt was on for a waterfront club site. Enter the rotted pilings and rusted steel, bane and boon to the club. This debris from the paddlewheel era resulted in depressed values for Okanagan Landing water front properties and in 1955, with the assistance of Dr. Campbell Brown, the club purchased one lot with a small building and 50 feet of lake frontage, directly across the road from the doctor's then new house. The Campbell Brown residence remains and the VYC is the only Okanagan yacht club to own its' property.

Before boats could enter the water from this lot, heavy equipment on a barge was recruited to begin pulling the forest of pilings with the commodore and two other club dignitaries wading out chest deep to set the choker cable. Unfortunately, all other members were out of town that week!

Cont. page 4

From page 3

A launch ramp was built in 1956 and served the public and the club for several years. Next year, the first club house opened, funded by members purchasing 15 year debentures at 7%. Built at waters edge, the clubhouse had a stone fireplace and chimney and a verandah which imitated a ship's upper deck. The first Commodore's Ball was held that year at the Allison Hotel ballroom and club records of the late 50s mention: many deadheads in the lake; midnight cruises on Charlie Holmes' 50 ton float, "If you arrive late, stick around the launch ramp with your lights on and someone will come ashore to pick you up"; family cruises "with time for the children to swim before eating and have them home by 10:30pm"; junior club formed; Ladies Auxiliary organized.

1959 saw the opening of the club's federally funded wood breakwater and the member funded docks behind it. In June 1960, the treasurer was seen banging his head on a wall, muttering, "annual dues, annual dues." By July, payment of dues was reported as "gratifying."

During the early 60's, the club held predicted log family cruises, hosted Girl Guides and the Spokane Outboard Club, assisted the Canadian Power Squadron to establish in the Okanagan, obtained a liquor licence and assisted in having navigation lights installed at Rattlesnake and Cameron Points and at Grant/Whiskey Island.

Then, on February 14 1967, there came an opportunity in disguise; the clubhouse burnt to the ground. The large ship's wheel, now in the lounge with its story attached, was the only item to survive the fire. Within 48 hours there were plans to rebuild, bigger and better, using non combustible concrete blocks, and with much hard work by members, the new building opened October 22, 1967.

During the 1970s an annual fishing derby became popular with a world record 9 lb 6 ozs. Kokanee landed in 1988. Membership grew slowly and, by the early 1980s, planning for an enlarged marina was underway. The waterfront lot to the west was purchased from a member and, in 1987, work began on a major redesign and expansion of the marina. Members were assigned to highly organized work parties and slaved like the pyramid builders, the new marina opening in May 1988. In 1989 the new marina became the sight of what was then the largest on water boat show in BC, organized by members and becoming an annual event.

During the 1990s the number of sail boats increased steadily, two more of the adjacent lots were purchased and in 1998 a further expansion added moorage and a floating concrete breakwater. Photographs of that time compare with those of the preparations of the Mulberry floating docks for D-Day as eight 50 ton concrete cassions were formed and poured in the parking lot prior to being floated into place.

Now in it's 57th year the Vernon Yacht Club numbers 300 members, power and sail boaters evenly represented, with boats ranging from 16 to 35 feet in approximately 250 berths. Cruising the club's orange mooring buoys placed strategically around the lake and visiting other clubs are

favorite pastimes. An active sail racing fleet of 30 boats holds weekly competitions in the bay. Members of other Okanagan yacht clubs enjoy invading the VYC and the club's spring time Charity Regatta is well attended by competitive keel boat sailors from throughout the valley, and elsewhere, becoming the largest single contributor to the OK Valley United Way Fund.



At Christmas and New Year, club sail and power boats wintering on the water have evolved a tradition of dressing the rigging with coloured lights and cruising the bay for the enjoyment of residents. It is reported that some of these "die hards" sail each week, all winter, on the almost ice-free lake. Other members volunteer to skipper a pontoon excursion boat for elderly and infirm members of the community. The concrete club house has served well and is frequently the scene of formal, and not so formal, socializing. Some members are also Power Squadron members and provide boating courses throughout the year. The club provides a marine sewage tank pump out for public use, moorage, and a meeting place for the Vernon Sea Scouts and moorage for the Okanagan Landing Volunteer fire boat.

Now on course to its' 100th anniversary, the Vernon Yacht Club's tradition of imagination, hard work, membership participation and community service, will continue to bring together those lively souls who love to mess about in boats.

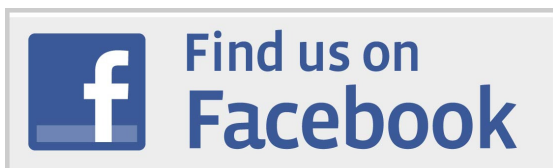
Tim

Vice Commodore's Report

Steve Bertram



'THINKING ABOUT IT ALL'



Rear Commodore's Report

Lawrence Johnson



Another month gone by! We are well underway with the pricing and product research for the reno's in the lounge. I have approval from the directors to move forward on the purchase of the new pump out and hope to have it ordered

and on the deck which will take place this month. We are in negotiations with Burton Marine for the work that needs to take place on the breakwater and will be having another meeting with the Commodore and Vice Commodore this week to review our options.

I have set a **date for the spring clean up for April 10th**. I will send a confirmation out on a confirmed date as soon as possible to give you all ample time to set aside any time you have on that day to help with the spring clean up. It is light duty for the most part when we have good participation and a good time to get to know other members. Looking forward to seeing you there.

this month. Mike and I have met with the electrician for upgrading the power outlets in the lounge,

Lawrence

Fleet Captain's Report

Bob Montguire



I had hoped by today [Feb 17] that we would have completed the moorage assignments. Unfortunately we still have a few members who have not paid their dues and some others who have not

returned a signed copy of the moorage contract. It now appears we will have to wait until the end of this month before we can assign moorage.

When we sent out the forms for this year we stapled the contract to the moorage regulations. Some

members returned their contract still attached to the regulations. It was our intention that you only return the signed moorage contract. Since we feel it is important that all members have a copy of these rules, copies will be available at the office. If a moorage problem should arise [which is very unlikely] not knowing the regulations will not be accepted as an excuse. When members signed the moorage contract they acknowledged that they had read and understood the moorage regulations.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Bob Montguire

Staff Captain's Report

Rick Reichelt



Hello all,

We have placed a few ads in the Morning Star to let people know about the clubhouse rental. Hopefully this will bring the club some extra revenue.

Plans are in the works for the **Dry Land Invasion on March 20th**. Details will follow later.

Thanks,

Rick.



Vernon Yacht Club Minutes Summary

February 15, 2010

By Teri McLennan, secretary

- Family of Six at Sea evening presentation a success!
- Ad for public rental of the club will be in the Morning Star.
- Members Security Team to continue in operation. Contact Ron Heuman 250-558-1063 to sign up.
- Long Term Planning Committee created, want to have plan by March.
- Breakwater major adjustment budgeted and planned.
- New pump-out will be ordered soon.
- Monitoring the amp usage of winter boats and will begin sending out invoices.
- 2 New members have joined!
- New Members hospitality evening Feb 26th.
- Looking for volunteer boats for the West Side evacuation plan. Contact Bob Montguire 250-545-8851
- Forming a Club house renovation committee to form a design plan. Contact Mike Thomas 250-545-8501
- Will be upgrading the street sign

Full executive meeting minutes are available in the office.



Bouquets of Roses

In recognition for dedication of time

and effort throughout the winter season, when clouds can be hanging low with temperatures hovering just above 0 centigrade, appreciation is extended to all members who continue to participate in the Vernon Yacht Club activities that keep the boating spirit “alive and well” all year long.

Of special note for this month...

MJ and Chuck, for their personal generosity in assisting with the February Friday evening dinners. Organization and delivery of “what was needed” was simply awesome!!

Linda and Dave Horsham, for their time in organizing and advertising” three nights to rev up your motors”: Cooper Sailing, A Family of Six At Sea, and still to come, Sailing DVD Night (with Deep Water, and Volvo Ocean Racing, March 10th, 7pm). Your passion for sailing is infectious!

For all skippers, crew, and visitors who grace the buildings, docks, and boats at the Vernon Yacht Club in all kinds of weather with an earnest “How goes it?”, and a ready hand “to pitch in”, you are the “epitome” of our friendly boating community. You rock!

March 2010

Kerry



SECURITY TEAM

"...our presence is needed!"

Security Crew sets sail!!

The VYC Security Team is again ramping up to provide member surveillance of Club and member's property for the 2010 boating season.

The Club Executive is very enthusiastic about the success of the Team concept last year, in particular member involvement and dedication.

To date this year members are showing a great deal of interest and have come on board to join the team..... there is still a few spaces available for more members to join up.

This is an excellent way for members to contribute to the security and safety of our Club.

The task is not onerous. Members are asked to do a minimum of one three hour shift per month. Scheduling is worked around the team member's availability. Simply, it all works out to the benefit of both the member and your Vernon Yacht Club in general.

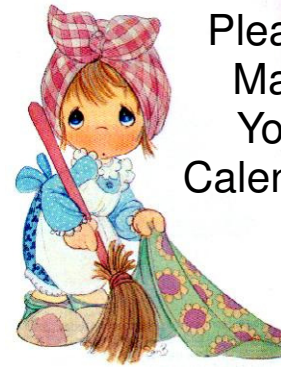
If you would like more information, or have any questions, give Ron a call.

Ron Heuman, Team Leader
Phone 250 558 1063
or contact him through the Club office....

Our motto is
"Vigilance aye Vigilance"

Ron

Spring Clean Up Saturday April 10th



Please
Mark
Your
Calendars!!!



Member's Account

Your \$125.00 Member's Account is now available for your use at the Yacht Club.

Thank You for your patience.

Rachael


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SAILING LESSONS IN 2010

VERNON YACHT CLUB once again will be presenting sailing lessons in 2010!

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For only \$175.(including gst) you will receive eight hours of actual sailing, eight hours of classroom instruction, various useful handouts and a textbook.

Sailing can be whatever you want to make it – a quiet relaxing time on the water or an exhilarating battle with the elements. Whatever you choose, it is environmentally friendly, affordable, and the people you meet are great!!

These lessons are only presented once a year. Dates for the actual lessons are to be announced later.

Do not miss out on this opportunity.


For more information or to register call Vernon Yacht Club at 250 545-5518 or Carol Craske at 250 542-5644

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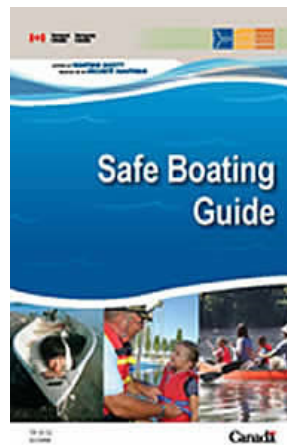
Messing About in Boats

by
Dave Atkins

It is getting to the time of year when we start thinking that the boating season is just around the corner. Spring skiing is starting to lose its appeal and the water calls. It doesn't matter what kind of boat you have, the first thoughts are for checking the boat over and doing those jobs that didn't get done before the snow came. The mechanical condition of the machinery is always something to check and the condition of all the attachments above the deck, especially on sailboats, but equally important on powerboats. One doesn't like to have a rail give way just because you had to lean on it as you steadied yourself over that big wave. These are the obvious things but there are a few other places to check as well. Have you checked the "Through-hulls" for security

and are the valves working? Did you remove equipment for winter storage? Where did you put it? Time to get it out and CHECK the condition before you stow it back on board.

Have you got the new Safe Boating Guide? Did you know that the 10 year old one that is somewhere around is now out of date? Those life jackets that have been around since you got the previous boat, are they still in good condition? Where do you stow them? When I was doing Marine surveys I had to check on the number and condition of life jackets to see if they complied with the Transport Canada, and many times I had to check in the most obscure places to find the "Life preservers". Stow your life jackets in easy to reach places or hang them up where they



can be seen, encourage wearing of life jackets when under way. If there is an emergency you need to have them NOW. What about that fire extinguisher? When was it last serviced? Is it hung up on a proper bracket in an accessible place? Or laying in the bottom of a locker? I have found them in the most unlikely places and they are not likely to work when needed if they are not properly looked after. Boat fires do happen and need to be dealt with quickly if you are to survive and save the boat. Have you checked the electrical system to see that the batteries are good and fully charged? Do all systems work as intended? Have you checked the navigation lights? Boating can be a lot of fun and relaxation in the summer time and even all year round if you are so inclined but remember the water is a HOSTILE environment and we are not designed to live in water like our ancestors were many millions of years ago. "Be prepared" is a good motto and not just for Boy Scouts.

Dave Atkins



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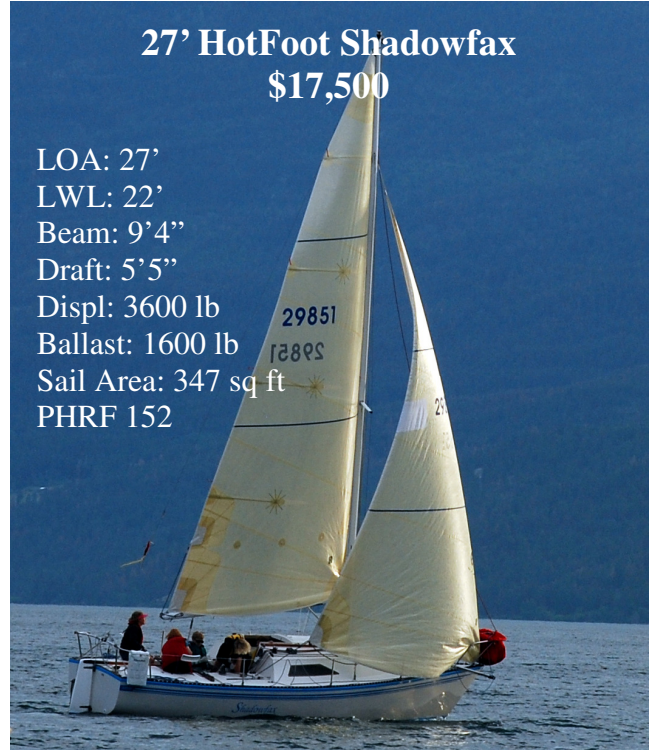
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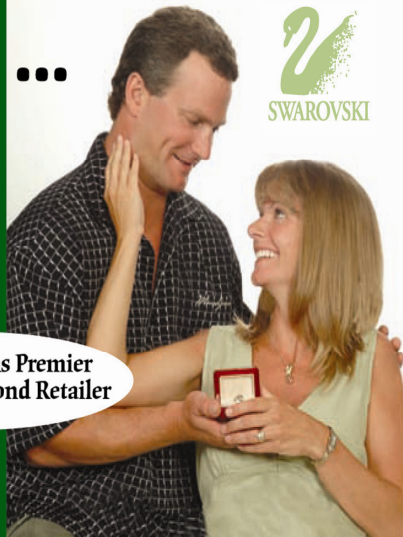


David Simpson
250-542-0053(res)
Email: simdav@telus.net

With This Ring ...

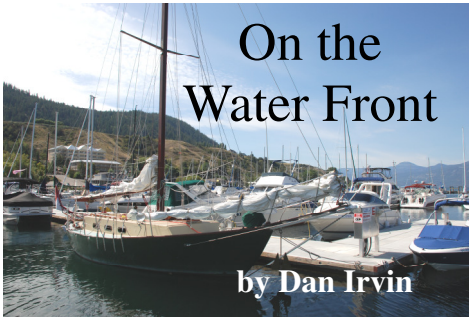
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Greetings fellow boaters

and welcome to this instalment of On The Waterfront.

I'm lettin' ya have it with a double broadside this issue because there are two important VYC events on the horizon. First up is the 21st annual VYC Boat and Leisure Show scheduled to arrive in port Okanagan April 24-25th. Most of you reading this will have participated in the boat show in some capacity or other over the years and will know the event benefits our yacht club in more ways than one. For those new members who are just itchin' to get in there and find out what makes the club tick this event is a great way to meet some fellow VYC'ers and have some fun in the bargain. Members volunteering together and getting to know each other is what makes the club, well, a Yacht Club and much more than just a place to park your boat.

There is also the public awareness benefit that comes from hosting a free event featuring displays by community organizations such as the OKL Volunteer Fire Department, paddling clubs, rowing clubs, and the Search & Rescue volunteers. Last year's show also promoted somewhat the Personal Watercraft Operators Card and dozens of non-members came out to the boat show to take the class and test provided by the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron. Oh and don't forget the food, AAAARRRHHH!!! yah that kind of food. Pirates from all over the world, well OK from all over the

neighbourhood, swing down from the riggin' and cook up pirate fare that brings the public out in droves. Some might even come out to imbibe a pint of that delicious local product generously supplied by Okanagan Springs.

Of course the focus is boats, boats and more boats of every description. Whether your passion is the latest whiz bang, go fast, wake setting, mobile mega stereo platform or the newest belly boat accessories, you can find it at VYC Boat Show. Marine businesses from all over the Okanagan and other parts of the province converge on the club for the weekend so plan on coming out and see the hardware, get educated in the latest trends in the boating industry, and have some fun to boot.

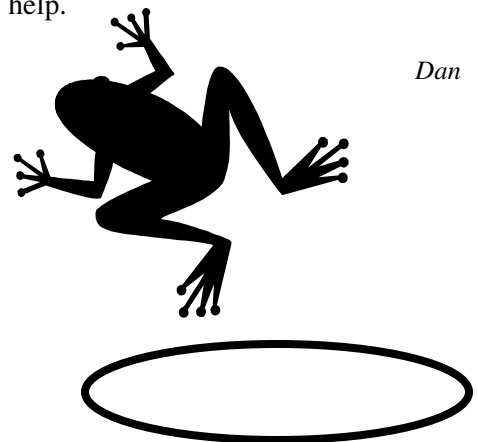
There are many ways to get involved in the VYC Boat Show and most commitments are a mere two to three hours out of your weekend. Think about driving the shuttle van between the Marshall Field parking area and the club. Maybe you'd like to help out with the VYC regalia booth or register people who want to go for a short sail...maybe you and the kids want to go for a sail yourselves. It's not a big job it's a thousand little ones and your involvement helps make the boat show a success. Many of you will have ticked the boat show volunteer option on your renewal or membership form and we will be in touch. In the meantime feel free to drop me an email dan@danirvine.ca and let me know what capacity you might be interested in. If you are lucky, and early, you might even get to wear one of our ever dwindling supply of snazzy boat show staff shirts. They must be snazzy because each year people just wear 'em right home and don't bring 'em back. Maybe a regalia recovery job for some well armed pirates once they are done feedin' the crew.

AAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRHHH!!

Did I mention the double broadside? The boat show broadside was loaded with rum balls but this one has a few cannonballs, nice soft nerfy kind of cannon balls, but cannonballs nonetheless.

What do you get, stop me if you've heard this one, when you cross an amp with a volt? You get a what? At least that's what some of the wintering over denizens of D&E docks must have thought I meant in the last issue of Tiller Topics.

I didn't mean a WHAT I meant a WATT, actually thousands of them, actually tens of thousands of them, hundreds of thousands, megawatts, gigawatts even, I don't know. I'll razzle dazzle you with the math in next Tiller Topics when I figure out the formulas BC Hydro has graciously provided but now for the second important VYC event I mentioned at the start of this installment. I'm talking about the first annual individually measured winter power bill. Not as much fun as a boat show, I know, but work with me here. That's right fellow "stayer inners" last Sundays meter readings have been added to the chart and some of us will be getting power bills that we are going to have to amortize. There is still time to save a few doubloons though. Once again, if you want your consumption measured, and maybe some advice. dan@danirvine.ca I'd be happy to help.





Your Lifejacket ...



It only works if you wear it!

Coming Events:

- Seamanship - look for course starting late January, 2010
- The Boating Course will commence in March, 2010
- GPS Navigation - Spring
- VHF Radio - Spring

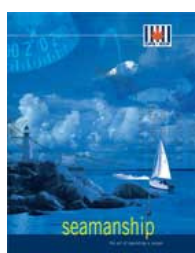
See you in the Spring!

See Us on the Web!

Want to find out more about the Power Squadron and its courses? Check us out on our web-sites: **Vernon Power & Sail Squadron** www.cpsvernon.ca

Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons www.cpsboat.ca

CPS Courses - What's on the Horizon?



Our Seamanship Course (formerly Piloting) is the second course in our series of Navigation Courses. It will run for approximately 12 weeks (Tuesday evenings), commencing in late January. This course continues from where our Boating Course finished, and covers all aspects of boating and seamanship, as well as extends the concepts of marine navigation and chart plotting. All manuals, instruction and exams are included in this great value. Prerequisite: Boating Course or equivalent knowledge.



To operate a marine VHF radio, you are required to have the Restricted Operators Certificate (Maritime) [ROC(M)]. It is the law! The Maritime Radio course teaches emergency radio procedures, as well as everyday operating techniques. All mariners, including recreational boaters, will want to take advantage of the many features and capabilities of the new DSC radios. Spring 2010

For more information, and to pre-register, please call Simo Korpisto at

250-542-5525. Register on-line www.cpsboat.ca or www.cpsvernon.ca.

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Cruisin' Canucks

Musings

on

Club Nautico

in Colombia

Barb and Richard Rotteveel



Being landlocked for the first winter in five years has stirred bits of nostalgia in me as I think about destinations past. Like most memories, the urge to share some of these experiences is triggered by an event or some abstract detail that presents itself to you as you go on in your daily routines. It could be an old photo or a wrinkled ticket found in the pocket of that old suit jacket destined for the 'Boys and Girls Club' that magically makes its way onto the counter top and captivates your mind for a wink before being discarded in the recycling bin. For that instant, your mind goes back in time and you involuntarily relive past emotions and senses transporting you into a state of recollection. I am susceptible to a lot of those moments these days, either due to age or just my propensity for constant daydreaming. In any event, it has inspired me to tell a story of one of our favourite places in the world, 'Club Nautico' in Cartagena, Colombia.

Barb and I were introduced to this amazing part of the world when delivering a 45 ft yacht from Costa Rica to Colombia a few years back. The reason it comes into focus today is due to a number of factors which I shall explain as I give you our view of this

part of the world. A few months ago, as I was sifting through some old bookmarks on the laptop, I clicked to the Panama Yacht Club. This yacht club is the first stop after going through the Panama Canal, arguably the wrong way, from the Pacific to the Atlantic side. As far as a structure goes, this yacht club was old and tired suffering from years of neglect and basic cruiser poverty. Yet, the life that it provided was as vibrant as an artificial reef. Cruisers from countries all around the world and speaking every language imaginable gathered to discuss great sailing experiences, both past and future. Some were going east and some were going west...but, only a few were staying. The article described the destruction as the bulldozers levelled the yacht club to make way for container storage and so within eight hours, decades of history was removed from the face of the earth. At the time, I did not think much of it as I was in Brazil on another adventure so...big deal! I thought that the newer yacht club across the way was probably a better option for everyone anyways.

This morning I was doing the random book mark thing again...the modern age way to daydream and lollygag the day away, when my attention was

peaked to an event that I needed to study. 'Club Nautico' in Cartagena was in danger of suffering the same fate. This is not for any other reason, but, political posturing between old families and the modern city fathers. We had learned about this years ago when we were moored there. This to me is heartbreaking as our future plans include cruising to Cartagena and spending time on our own yacht there in our golden years of actual retirement. So before it is gone, let me tell you about this gem on the world's cruising crown.

When you enter Cartagena, you are met with a statue of the Virgin Mary that stands guard over the harbour and with her outstretched arms welcoming all mariners who have either beat their way from the magic of the 'Rosario Islands' or rode one of the most challenging passages from Aruba. Even the most crotchety old sea salt has had to have his jaw lifted from the floorboards after witnessing this magnificent entry into the harbour. We sailed right up to the designated area of 'Club Nautico' and with little effort, proceeded to set the hook amongst the 30 plus vessels around. Once we were safely anchored, we discovered that we were in the middle of the Sunday sailing races which drew every serious sailor in Colombia to match wits and skills with the 2 or 3 vessels operated by the Colombian Naval Academy. The idea of one design racing really hasn't caught on, so we were surrounded by vessels that varied from sleek Benetau's to Captain Ron's wooden Formosa as well as a few hybrid sloop, ketch and catamaran style vessels all chasing around the harbour. The anchorage seemed to provide some tactical advantages as the racing vessels weaved in and out through the anchored vessels. The boats were close enough for everyone on board to learn Spanish for starboard, raise the spinnaker and those other choice words that

Cont. page 15

could not be printed in a family publication. You know the ones heard loud and clear in plain English on any race night in North America...announcing one skipper's displeasure with another's blatant disregard for his own interpretation of the rules! After a few weeks of settling in, Barb and I were invited to race on one of the fastest boats in the fleet and mastered enough Spanish to contribute to the general chaos of the event.

The check-in process in all the countries we have sailed to varies from the sweet and simple in Bonaire to an absolutely mind-numbing 3 day ordeal in Fortaleza, Brazil. In Colombia, the process was very straightforward and thanks to the help of 'Club Nautico', very easy. An agent comes out to the vessel dressed in his Sunday best and armed with a warm, welcome smile and a notebook. You then head into the Club's dinghy dock to make arrangements with the harbourmaster, John. He is Englishman, married to a Colombian with 3 pretty daughters. He readily gave you the lay of land and helped you throughout your stay. He spoke excellent Spanish, as well as numerous other cruisers' languages. He gave given a detailed guide to Cartagena that lists everything from where to shop for gadgets or services to who are the best

plastic surgeons in Colombia. The staff was more than helpful, the open air clubhouse was cleaned regularly and the bar had regular hours. 'Club Nautica' immediately puts you on a tab system so you just go to the bar and order by your boat name. Every



facilities (showers, bathrooms, restaurant, TV, pool tables). The Mediterranean-tie moorage was a whopping \$35.00 per week for a 45 footer. I do not think you have rates like that anywhere in the world. At times moorage was scarce, but available. It depended on how long it took the 'BackPacker' boats to fill up before taking world travellers on to Panama (there are no roads or buses between the two countries). Trust was not a big issue as you must check-out with your agent and leaving on the sly could be a challenge in either direction. Besides the Colombian and US Navy were stationed right across from Club Nautico.

Tuesday, you paid all your charges for the past week. Happy hour was at 5:00, beer was less than \$1 regularly and Tuesdays were always the best as a world full of cruisers came in to pay their weekly tab. When we were there, everything was so inexpensive even against the Canadian loonie, that it shocked us. We could eat all three meals at restaurants for under \$20 for both of us a day. If you anchored out the deal was to pay about \$2 a day for the use of the dinghy dock and club

Barb and I quickly discovered that Sunday is the best day to explore and get your bearings in a new culture. The shops are basically closed and you have most of the city to yourself. We were on board the vessel with an American who warned us about the evils of all other people in the world. For a brief while, we felt the ugly paranoia that this narrow-minded thinking causes. Barb hid her camera deep in her backpack as we walked along the historic wall that circles the

Cont. page 16



Jay Johnson



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city of Cartagena. After about an hour of enduring the vibrant smiles and constant, "Hola! Cómo estás!" of the locals, her camera emerged and our nervousness was carried away on the wind. This walk around gave us a real firsthand look of this magnificent city and its people. The constant breeze from the ocean keeps you cool even mid-day. Sunday in Colombia (as well as Venezuela) is a day for families on the beach and lovers in every nook and cranny experiencing

the romance that living by the sea evokes in the soul. It was very refreshing and gave me the opportunity to use the

"when in Rome" line to steal a kiss or two as we strolled along the walk.

Once you settle into your daily cruiser's routine of starting your day at 8:30 listening to the 'Cruiser's Net' on the VHF to get up-to-date gossip, weather reports and lists of local events. Every net includes the famous 'Treasures of the Bilge' which is the

equivalent to a cruiser's Craig's list of items to buy and sell. You then proceed to plan your day accordingly based on the fact that everything has to be done between 9:00 and 11:50 am as all banks and businesses, except for food stores and restaurants serving lunch, close down from 12:00 to 2:00. The plan after 2:00 is that you complete daily tasks by 4:55 so you don't miss "Happy Hour". This becomes the focus of your relative time restrictions that are forced upon



your "hectic" lifestyle. Our two month stay included a day long city tour with Duran Duran where we learned the very interesting history of this beautiful city. We toured the San Felipe Fort, the Maritime Museum and La Popa (monastery at the

top of the hill), rode in a horse-drawn carriage through the light streets at night, visited downtown shops and parks by day and at night, checked out emerald shops, walked around the city walls regularly, rode city buses to many locations, hit the spa in Boco Grande, took private Spanish lessons, shopped for fresh fruits from carts and spent an unforgettable day at the

Carnival in Barranquilla. The point is that 'Club Nautico' was a yacht club for everyone. It was considered to be a home-away-from-home for so many wonderful people from all corners of the world. We fostered lifelong friendships that have spanned the globe to this day. Many of our cruising friends are now scattered in places such as Venezuela, Mexico, South Africa, Bonaire, Grenada, Spain and even back in Canadian waters, but we keep in touch through Skype or the occasional random meeting at a happy in some Yacht Club worldwide. The possible removal of 'Club Nautico' would hurt as much as the loss of a treasured pet, but also inspires us to revisit fond memories and savour them with the delight of triple chocolate cheesecake. If you have not yet ventured into the cruising world and you are contemplating your cruising adventure, take it from us 'the Cruisin' Canucks', "Get out there and do it!!" We enjoyed these experiences by signing up initially as unpaid crew. All boat costs were therefore covered and if you get a good owner, food and libation at least enroute, may be covered too. Some of the best experiences of your life are waiting for you on the dinner table of life. Remember, you will always be able to savour your just desserts even when they are gone forever.

Barb and Richard

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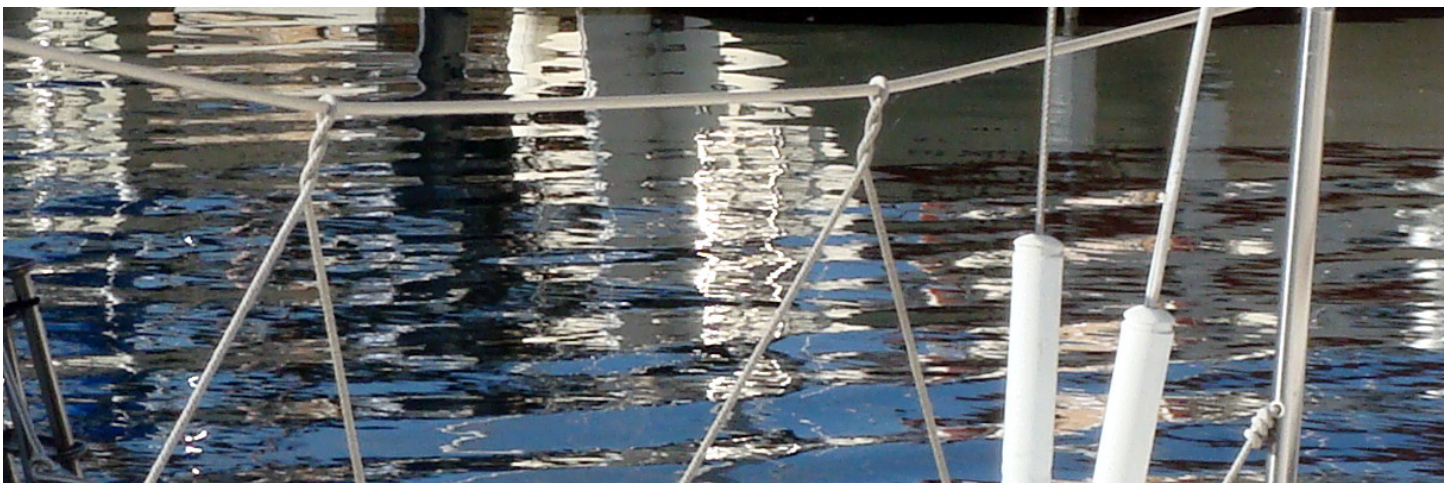


2010 Calendar of Events for Okanagan Lake Yacht Clubs

DATE	YC	EVENT
MARCH		
20	VYC	Dry land Invasion
APRIL		
12	KYC	New Comer's event
16	SYC	Spring Fling - wine & cheese
17	SYC	Life in Summer
24	WYC	New Comer's event
24 & 25	VYC	Boat Show
TBA	KYC	Hosts - Victoria Boat Show (call KYC for more info)
Apr-Sept	WYC	Thurs night Anchor Club dinners starting Apr 22nd
MAY		
1 & 2	KYC	Boat Show
8 & 9	VYC	Commodore's Ball & Sail Past
15	VYC	Rib-Off, Larry and Ken
15 & 16	WYC	Commodore's Ball & Sail Past
22 & 23	KYC	Blossom Time Regatta (Cosa regatta)
May-Sept	SYC	Sunday night Steak/Rib dinners (call ahead)
JUNE		
4,5 & 6	VYC	United Way Regatta
5 & 6	KYC	Commodore's Ball & Sail Past
12	SYC	Dock Party (used equipt sale) All clubs
19	KYC	Boat for Hope - All clubs
25	WYC	Lobster Fest
26	KYC	Randy's Retirement party
JULY		
3 & 4	SYC	Commodore's Ball & Sail Past
9,10 & 11	SYC	Regatta
16,17 & 18	WYC	All Club Invasion - Poker run
23,24 & 25	VYC	All Club Invasion
31	PYC	Members BBQ (all clubs invited)


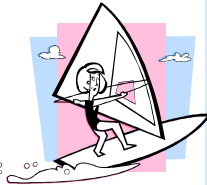

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DATE	YC	EVENT
AUG		
6,7 & 8	SYC	All Club Invasion (ball tournament)
14	WYC	Rib'n N Blues
14	KYC	Commodore's Cup Regatta
20,21 & 22	KYC	All Club Invasion
28	PYC	Commodore's Ball
SEPT		
3,4 & 5	PYTC	Grand Prix Regatta
4	VYC	Pig Roast
11	KYC	CNIB Fishing Derby
17,18 & 19		All Club Regatta - End to End - call KYC for more info (to volunteer call Tracy @ 250 861-7033 or tracy.delorme@shaw.ca)
18	WYC	Golf Tournament
OCT		
30	SYC	Halloween Party
Year Round	VYC	Friday Night Steak Dinners





March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	4 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	5 Lounge Hours 16:00-22:00 Friday Night Dinner	6 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00
7 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00	8 VYC Executive Meeting 7:00PM	9 	10 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00 Sailing DVD Night	11 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	12 Lounge Hours 16:00-22:00 Friday Night Dinner	13 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00 
14 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00	15	16	17 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	18 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	19 Lounge Hours 16:00-22:00 Friday Night Special Dinner	20 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00 Dry Land Invasion
21 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00	22	23	24 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	25 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	26 Lounge Hours 16:00-22:00 Friday Night Dinner	27 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00
28 Lounge Hours 13:00-17:00	29	30	31 Lounge Hours 16:00-20:00	Spring Clean Up Saturday April 10th		VYC Boat Show April 24th—25th 