

# TILLER TOPICS



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## CRANE DAY FROM THE EYES OF A SAILOR

For most of us, the boating season is done. Many are getting ready to head for the hills to enjoy a season on the snow or are packing to go south for more sailing and/or sunshine.

Before that can happen, there is the monumental task of emptying the basin of boats. When it comes to sailboats, most are lifted out of the water with a large crane on "Crane Day."

Each skipper is biting their nails as the straps are placed under their boat and the signal is given to hoist, hoping they have prepared the boat and trailer properly, so it comes out of the water level and without damage to the invisible underwater parts of the boat. It's a big job to plan and organize crane day and this fall Mike L took the reins from Keith D to arrange for the crane and to get the sailors prepared so that each boat could be lifted out quickly and efficiently.

Keith was also on hand to support Mike on the mission. The pair choreographed the movement of boats from water to land and the operation went flawlessly, thanks in great part to the skill of the Alpha Crane operators.

Our ships now lie on the "hard" like sardines in a can, awaiting next year's warm weather when we crane the boats back in the water. Thanks Mike and Keith. And thank you to the large group of volunteers who took up positions to guide the boats along the dock, place the straps, catch the lines on shore, and position the boats properly on trailers and stands.

Some boats remain in the water over winter for the member's convenience, or so that die-hards can partake in shoulder season boating. For these boats, checking lines and cleats regularly is critical to prevent damage to boats and dock slips. It's good to keep an eye on your lines!

We are all already looking forward to next year's boating season. With good fortune, the racing group will be hosting the 2024 VYC Regatta. Be ready during the first weekend of June to join in the fun as crew, or enjoy the action from a distance.

For those of you wanting to become competent crew, the racing group may be hosting winter sailing instruction sessions. This depends on interest, and availability of instructors. Stay tuned for further development and please let the racing chair know if you would like to join.

Happy Autumn!

**Bob Annand**  
Racing Chair



# MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Hi everyone!

For members who missed our AGM, here are the membership numbers as at September 30th, our year end:

We have 482 members total.

Regular 321

Affiliate 48

Social 106

Life 6

Honorary 1

369 Regular/Affiliate members allows for 122 Social members. The maximum number of Regular members is based upon 150% of the number of slips at the club. We have 269 slips which allows for 403 Regular members. The maximum number of Social members is based on 33% of the Regular and Affiliate members.

I'm very appreciative to see our members volunteer at the club and represent VYC as North Okanagan Ambassadors for enjoyable boating.

Please join me in welcoming our new Membership Director Simon J! It was a privilege serving with our thoughtful dedicated Executive and as your Membership Director these past 4 years.

Thank you.

**Greg**

Former Membership Director





# LADIES NIGHT AT VYC

Ladies Night for 2023/2024 kicked off on October 19th (third Thursday) with a lovely wine tasting with O'Rourkes / Peak Cellars. Thank you to Bobby and Katya for taking us through 4 fabulous wines! I especially liked the mix and mingle that we did to kick off the night - thank you all for being so open to meeting ladies you don't know!

**Our line up as it looks right now for the rest of the season is:**

**Thursday, November 16:** Art from the Optimist's Attic -- \$25 a head.

This event is a joint production with the Optimists Club and their members. They have a live art auction and a silent auction. A fun night for all with a full suite of yummy appies.

**Thursday, January 18:** Comedian to brighten our winter post-festivities doldrums!

**Thursday, February 15:** A Valentine's Chocolate Tasting evening

**Thursday, March 21:** Painting evening

**Thursday, April 18:** Spring recipes

**Thursday, May 16:** The last Ladies Night of the Season

Ladies night is always the third Thursday of the month from October to May. Invitations go to Members who book their tickets at the VYC office for their table of friends. Ticket prices vary according to the costs of the event being put on. Announcements are made by direct email. Suggestions always welcome on themes and contributors.

# SAILORS WINDUP PARTY 2023

STORY BY CAROL CRASKE WITH ADDITIONS BY BOB ANNAND

On Oct 28, we gathered at the clubhouse to celebrate the end of the racing season. A total of 60 sailors and guests gathered to enjoy a potluck dinner and cheer on the winners of the awards.

Pamela Miller was the recipient of the Rob Ladan Memorial Trophy presented by Lorraine Ladan. This trophy acknowledges the VYC sailor who contributes to the improvement of sailing in the North Okanagan. Pamela not only chaired the 2023 Charity Regatta, she resurrected the annual sailing lessons, continued to teach new sailors by inviting them to race on her boat each Wednesday evening plus she coached in the Women's Sailing Series. Well deserved, Pamela!

Carol Craske was recognized for her many years of excellent accounting in the scorekeeping department and for her work in keeping us informed with announcements, photos, and stories on the Facebook page and VYC website.

Out of the maximum 40 races that could have been run during the regular season, B fleet ran 32 races while A fleet ran a total of 30. A possible four races were cancelled due to smoke! But only 4 races were cancelled or abandoned due to lack of wind once we were on the race course. We also ran 10 races in the highly contested Hot Rum Series. On a good note we still maintain our record of NO registered protests! What was done or said in the heat of the moment was quickly forgotten in the clubhouse. There were some nights when the wind was calm at the start of the race then grew to over 10 kts with even higher gusts resulting in some close encounters. One of those nights saw a strong gust flatten Varua to the water resulting in some damage to her main sail but not to the enthusiasm of those on board.

The committee boat had three near collisions with the racers as they jockeyed for position on the start and finish line. On those nights the noise in the clubhouse rose as the skippers and crews relived the excitement on the water. We had our share of spinnaker problems - Eagle Moon raised its spinnaker sideways, Scotch Mist attempted to do a 720 with its spinnaker up resulting in a forestay wrapped like a present, Tsonqua thought it was time to wash their spinnaker and gave it a good rinse cycle, Split Decision & Storm Castle Rock ripped their chutes. Ka ching!

2023 also saw a successful return of the Sailing lessons lead by Pamela Miller and a successful Women's series lead by Kate Stefanuk. Storm Castle Rock placed third in the Santana Nationals held in Kelowna and Mystique won the coached fleet at the Okanagan Women's Regatta. All in all, a very successful year!

Not only were the weekly races affected by the irregular winds but so were the regattas and social events. The Whiskey Island Race in our regatta was abandoned due to lack of wind yet the race to the Paddle wheelers in the Northern Arm was done in record time due to the high winds. The End to End was abandoned north of Kelowna due to lack of wind yet it was the high winds in August that set off the devastating forest fires near Kelowna and Shuswap and caused the cancellation of Commodore Cup.

Congratulations to all the winners:

### **Overall Winners:**

A Fleet:

1st Overall, 2nd in the Spring Series, 1st in the Summer & Fall Series Storm Castle Rock

2nd overall, 2nd in the Summer Series, 3rd in the Fall Liquid Assets

3rd overall, 1st in the Spring Series, 3rd in the Summer Series Mystique

4th overall and 2nd in the Fall Series Ayesha

B Fleet:

1st Overall, 1st Summer & Fall, Stormy

2nd overall, 1st Spring, 3rd Fall Cygnus

3rd overall, 3rd Summer Series, 2nd Fall Cimarron

4th overall, 2nd in the Spring & Summer Series Tsonqua

5th overall, 3rd in the Spring Series Valuta

### **Hot Rum Series:**

A Fleet: 1. Liquid Assets 2. Ayesha 3. Rapid Transit

B Fleet: 1. Stormy 2. Cygnus 3. Cimarron

Full results can be found on the club's website. Now a lot of the sailors will move onto skiing and we will meet periodically during the winter months. Racing will return in 2024 with Bob Annand still at the helm.



**MIKE REILLY SCR OVERALL  
A FLEET WINNER 2023**

# **SAILOR'S WINDUP SCRAPBOOK**



**RAGGEDY ANN KATE S PRESENTED  
WITH 1ST PRIZE COSTUME CONTEST  
BY SWEDISH CHEF BOB A**



**PAMELA MILLER RECEIVING THE ROB LADAN  
MEMORIAL AWARD WITH THE LADAN FAMILY**

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Karol K	Vice Commodore	vice-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Bill M	Rear Commodore	rear-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Liam F	Fleet Captain	fleet-captain(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Bob A	Staff Captain	staff-captain(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Gerald G	Past Commodore	past-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Marta B	Treasurer	treasurer(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Deirdrie L	Secretary	secretary(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Simon J	Membership Director	membership(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Dave G	Director	publicity(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Ciy Y	Director	director2(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Mike L	Director	director(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Peter W	Director	director3(at)vernonyachtclub.com

## YACHT CLUB MANAGERS

Corrine K	Kitchen Manager	kitchen(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Deb M	Office Manager	office(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Darcy M	Maintenance Manager	maintenance(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Rachel R	Lounge Manager	gangplank(at)vernonyachtclub.com

## REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

Bob A	Sailing Committee	sailing-fleet(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Terry R	IT/Webmaster	webmaster(at)vernonyachtclub.com
William W	Security	security(at)vernonyachtclub.com

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Vernon Yacht Club

7919 Okanagan Landing Road, Vernon, B.C. V1H 1H1

Phone: 250-545-5518, Fax: 250-545-0388

Email: office(at)vernonyachtclub.com

www.vernonyachtclub.com