



THE MAINSHEET

June 2012
In this
edition:

Congratulations Ed!!

30 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING!!

**NOT THAT WE'RE GREEDY ED, BUT WE'RE
LOOKING FOR 30 MORE. THANK YOU FOR ALL
THAT YOU DO.**

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Volunteers Wanted!

NOLSC will be opening the waterfront section of the club to the public when the brigantines and schooners visit for the naval re-enactment July 14.

Marshals are needed on the dock to make sure the public doesn't wander through the club. The gates near the river will be open from approximately 4 to 8 p.m. so people can see the tall ships up close.

Please contact Ed McIlroy if you can be a marshal.

PHOTO CONTEST

Now's the time to take all your pictures for the photo contest. The deadline is October 30. Just drop off a 4 by 6 inch print at the club office addressed to PHOTO CONTEST or e-mail a jpg (no larger than 3 or 4 mg/no smaller than one mg) to: Mainsheet@niagarasailing.on.ca

There are three categories:

Action on the water Fun at the club NOLSC seasonal

There's more info about prizes and the entry form online in the April edition of The Mainsheet – on our website.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

James Gardner will be the head instructor for the Junior Sailing program this summer. Sections of the boardwalk or dock along the river will be replaced in the coming weeks.

Kayak stands will be built near the launch ramp.

Texas barbeque – Donal McDavid will be bringing his amazing giant-sized barbeque all the way from Texas again this year. Texas BBQ will be held on July 25th at 8:00 pm all are welcome!!

CONDOLENCES

We would all like to extend our sympathies to John Vanderperk who sadly lost his Mom a short time ago. Our thoughts are with John and his family.

“ED-IFICATIONS”



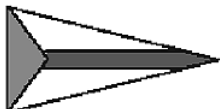
Ed's corner

June 2012

End of May and 30 Celsius. One can only wonder what the summer will be like. A little rain would do the water level some good however. So, does everyone have Tragically Hip tickets? An iconic Canadian band right in our backyard.....I will be attending! Stuff like this is what community is made of! (oops..... I must sound like an old town townie) All that will go on in relation to the 1812 celebration (of which NOLSC is a big part) this summer, should make for a season to remember.

Greig and Andrew are ahead of schedule by approx. 30 boats from 2011. Garrett Sartor has returned for the summer and we welcome Kara Petrunick to the staff for the 2012 season.

One more thing, if you hit a docked boat.....contact the owner asap or leave a note. There has been some serious damage lately and it has gone unreported. I find that inexcusable. Cheers, Ed



Letter from the Editor

Greetings Everyone!

This year is shaping up to be huge for NOLSC with all the additional cruises, War of 1812 events, a 24' shark for adult sailing lessons—I can hardly keep up with all the news! It seems we could almost run a monthly edition of the MainSheet in the summer just to keep everyone up-to-date! (Wait a minute—that means more work for me! SCRATCH THAT IDEA (just kidding).

The final installment of Larry and Debbie Bayer's travels is here! Enjoy it and a big "thank you" to Larry and Debbie for sharing their adventure with us.

If you sent me photos or articles for this edition and you don't see it, I will try to include them in the next edition. Thank you for all your support!

Judie Martin - E Z GO'N
judiem1@hotmail.com

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS



Ahoy there!

The brigantines are coming! And the navy appreciates our help.

In an article in the May 30 issue of the Niagara Advance Victor Suthren, Commodore of The Navy of 1812: Sailors On The Lakes, says “Their (NOLSC) support means that this exciting and important national commemorative event can go ahead...we’re very grateful.”

He added that the club couldn’t be more helpful.

The event is a mock naval re-enactment battle, which will take place July 14 at Queen’s Royal Park. Four brigantines and two schooners will dock at our club and 20 longboats will be launched here. Whether we watch from shore or the water or on Sunday join the longboats as they say goodbye to the tall ships it should be an exciting time.

And speaking of pageants thank all of you who took part and/or watched our Sail Past. As always it was a grand event and I felt truly honoured to salute all the amazing NOLSC boats as they paraded by. It was so much fun to see the flags, skippers and crew, plus babies (future sailors for sure) and puppy dogs in the procession.

We laughed as one Shark was being towed – that’s one way to keep a consistent distance from the boat in front of you. There were colourful costumes and even a couple of boats from YYC.

We were so lucky that the weather co-operated. It was raining in Virgil and Niagara Falls, but it stayed dry at the club until the Sail Past was over.

It was also a special day for Ed McIlroy, who has been with the club now for 30 years. Ed is known for entertaining us with his rendition of *Mack the Knife* so Janis Corvino and Donna Genge created new lyrics just for him. Then he was serenaded by Janis, Donna, Carol, Howard, Debbie, Barb and me – we hope he was a happy camper.

Just recently, Ed and I were chatting near my dock and he mentioned that in 30 years he had never fallen in the water. Then he disappeared. No, he didn’t fall in. He jumped across the launch ramp, scurried over to the tool house – to knock on wood. I knew he was handy, mechanical and could dock anything that floats, but I hadn’t realized he was a bit superstitious too. Congratulations Ed and thank you.

NOLSC— REALLY GREAT REGALIA

Looking for a great gift or simply want to wear the club ‘colours’?

There are t-shirts, windshirts, cosy windbreakers and golf shirts
Available in the office.

Cruising 2012

The War of 1812 cruise to Tuscarora Yacht Club in Wilson NY was a great success. We invaded Wilson with 15 boats (Tuscarora only sent 10 to Canada so we won the 1st. battle).

The weather turned good, the dinner was fabulous and a good time was had by all.

Upcoming cruises are Queen City Yacht Club June 30th to July 2nd, Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club August 4th to August 6th, and Mimico Cruising Club September 15th and 16th.

If you are interested in joining us, contact the office and let Barb know. More details to follow on these cruises.

Keep on Cruising,

David & Shirley Bruce, Toucan

Gate Access Proximity Cards

“Gate access proximity cards” are now available at the office. We will be issuing one (1) card to each dock holder. As soon as the majority of dock holders are in possession of a gate card, we will be changing the access code (1245)

Junior Sailing

2012 NOLSC Learn to Sail Update

The coming Learn to Sail Season continues to evolve!

We have a change in Head Instructor. Jake Harper has decided to pursue other opportunities and James Gardner has agreed to take on the job. James was a senior instructor last year, and has taken additional training to be able to certify students in the new CANSail Program that CYA is now putting out. Jake may be available for evening adult sail lessons.

The 24 ft. Shark keel boat that the program has acquired will soon be used for adult lessons. While we had hoped to start adult dinghy lessons in June as well, we seem to have more work to do to get interest in this. However, a number of people are already interested in the Shark lessons.

“Sign up” for the Junior program has started, and spaces are being filled. Call Barb at 905-469-3966 to get your students registered. Or, if more convenient, we now have “ON-LINE” registration available from a link at the bottom left of the NOLSC website home page at www.niagarasailing.on.ca.

In addition, we now have an attractive brochure on the Learn-to-Sail Program, thanks to Barb. These brochures are available in the plastic box outside the main gate, and in the office.

There will be recycle containers around the yard again this year to collect beer cans and wine/liquor bottles. Proceeds from the empties collected goes to the Learn-to-Sail Program, and your assistance to support this would be greatly appreciated.

So, final preparations are underway for the season. The boats are being readied, and Instructors primed. However, there is concern about the Junior Sailing Room refrigerator which has seen better days, and now works poorly. Anyone with a better fridge to donate? It would be a big help for keeping kids’ lunches and drinks on hot days. Contact Barb and we could get it picked up.

Regards,

Dave Shantz

NOLSC Sailing School Director

SAILPAST





Part II; Larry, Debbie & Copper on BearsNest in the Bahamas

Our friends Karen & Mark had arrived safe & sound on Fri March 9 around 7:00pm. But by now we are very antsy and can't wait to get moving again.

The next morning we crossed the harbour by dingy and walked to Maxwell's grocery store to replenish our main food supply for the week. We then headed back to Great Guana Cay, but stopped at Scotlands Cay to anchor for a quick lunch and dinghy ride over very shallow & sandy areas hoping to get some lobster or conch. But, all we found were some beautiful sand dollars to add to our collection of shells. We made it to Nippers again and had a great time partying with people that we met from Germany and Alaska. Onward we went to Treasure Cay for a night on a mooring ball. The next day we left and took the 4 foot shallow draft route through Don't Rock Channel and sailed to Manjack Cay. We anchored next to NOLSC member's Terry & Ruth Bolton, staying on "Quartet". It turned out that Terry was Mark's high school teacher way back.. They joined us on BearsNest for Caesar's and some guacamole dip that I had made earlier. Next day while on shore, Larry cleaned two coconuts that we picked up along the way and we had some unexpected visitors, 2 wild boars came up nibbling on my bright coloured crocks. They followed us around like pets. Well, the week certainly goes by quickly gunkholing around, as now its time to head back to Marsh Harbour where Karen & Mark would be flying out from. It took us about 6 hours to sail back in lumpy seas, so we put Mark on the helm to keep him distracted from the seasick motion he was feeling by now. It was Friday, March 16 and they were off early in the morning, so we got our laundry done and we set off to Great Guana Cay, taking 3 passengers with us, friends we had met on other boats. We were going to see the "Barefoot Man" in concert that afternoon at Nippers. We anchored in Fishers Bay, front and center of Grabbers Bar & Grill. Now, there were about 50 boats anchored with us, not like the dozen or so that were anchored in the weeks before.

Larry & I took a walk to the pier to wait for Albury's Ferry to arrive with one expected passenger being Michael Gaspich (Masher). He arrived excited and had a story to tell of his adventure of importing his Canadian Coors light with him and what an ordeal it was!!!! When you have some time this summer, I am sure he will fill you in! He was still in time to catch the last set of the Barefoot Man, and that seemed to do the trick to quickly set him in the Bahamian party mood. On Sat. March 17 with everyone in their greens, we celebrated St. Patty's Day at Grabbers and later at Nippers, drinking, dancing and singing along to the

By Sunday late afternoon, we had enough partying between Grabbers & Nippers, so off we went to Treasure Cay for a night of rest and to restock our water, ice and food supply. Monday afternoon, we made it to back to Manjack Cay for the third time, after sailing for about 4 hours. Once anchored and everything settled in, Larry and Masher went diving and came back with 2 lobster. The next day after a good nights sleep, we lazed around and decided late around 4 pm to make a small move. The weather looked a little suspicious, we decided to set sails anyways and were on our way to Spanish Cay, but the storm caught up with us. The winds gusted to 35 knots complete with heavy downpours! By the time we got to Spanish, the sun came out and the skies cleared. It was our last stop for any supplies until we get to Bimini. The next day we sailed on the beam for 6 hours and reached Cave Cay, the north entrance to the Bight of Abaco. We were the only boat around, anchoring in supposedly good holding ground, but not quite so. Larry dove the anchor to help dig it in and then came back and put the killet on the anchor chain to help hold us through the night. Early Thursday, we set out for a 40 mile crossing through the Bight. The seas became lumpy with the winds on our nose again. They had been forecast to be in our favour earlier, but shifted early morning so we motored into it for 9 hours, fun wow! On the way we hooked and released 2 large Barracuda's, they gave quite a fight. We arrived and anchored at Moore's Island, a true Bahamian native island, where very few boaters stop because both ends of the Bight have limited draft of 4 feet at mean low water. We were greeted by local fishermen, many women and children who were curious to see us and especially our dog, Copper. They seemed to have come out of nowhere and were very curious. We sat down to a yummy fresh cooked order of cracked conch and watched the conch still squirming on the dock as the locals cleaned more.

Now it's Friday, March 23, and after not being able to buy any diesel, we left with our sails set and motor sailed 65 nautical miles across the deep Northwest Providence Channel towards the Great Bahama Bank. The winds were on our beam, so the seas were much more comfortable. At dusk, we finally reached Mackie Shoal, a lighted pole(which wasn't working) in the middle of nowhere, a charted midway point on the Bank to anchor at. Other sailboats were sailing on by in groups, planning to sail through the night without stopping, so we were the only sailboat anchored out there about 2 miles south of a Bahamian fishing trawler. All being tired after another long day at sea, we settled down, but the winds increased and changed directions, making it very uncomfortable sleeping in the rolling pounding waves. Early morning, after breakfast, we set sail to beautiful sunny skies and the water had calmed considerably. At high noon we toasted our son Lawrence's birthday and Larry sent him with a 3 gun salute from the 12 gauge. Later we anchored, in hopes of another shot at spearing some lobster, but Larry only spotted about 8 poisonous Lion fish and 2 Nurse sharks laying below him in a small reef. After a pleasant sail, we arrived and tied up to a dock at our last destination of the Bahamas, known as Bimini Blue Water Marina. The next day Larry and Masher went out by dinghy in search of lobster , they came back successful with 16 and then 6 more on Tuesday. Wednesday we sat down to a good feed of lobster for dinner.

Well weather was starting to look good for a final crossing back to Ft. Lauderdale on Thursday, March 29. Just in time, as our cruising permit would run out on April 1. So its back to reality we go!!!