



# THE MAINSHEET

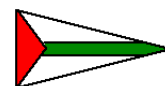
April 2012  
In this  
edition:

## They're Back!!

**12 boats showed up for the 1st race of the season on Sunday, April 1.**

**The rain, hail and thunder could not stop them!!**

Cover	
Social	2
News from the Board	
Condolences	
Ed-ifications	3
Letter from Editor	
Commodore's Comments	4
Commemorative NOTL War of 1812 Bicentennial	
Cruising	5
Junior Sailing	
Club Ambassadors	6
Small Vessel Reporting System	
Winter Sailing Buddies	
Photo Contest	7
Debbie & Larry Bayer's Living the Dream	8-9
St. Maarten Holiday	10
Notices	11
Club Photos	
NEW First Cruise of the year**	12



## SOCIAL CALENDAR 2012

### Mark your calendar....

**May 12th** - Pig Roast

**Sunday, June 3** - Sail Past

**July 7th** - Steak BBQ/Niagara Cup

**August 18th** - Corn Roast—this is correct!!!!

**October 13th** - Tom Turkey

**Also, mark your calendar for Friday, May 25th...**White Building - 7:00 p.m. Capt. Ron (Red Stripe) and Capt. Paul (Psykocis) for "KNOT NITE"...Bring a piece of rope, and learn basic knots!!!

### May 19th - Flower Planting Day

Come out, have some fun, get some sun (we hope!) and help us beautify our Club.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Two additional reciprocal cruises approved.  
NOLSC now has reciprocal agreement with  
The Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba.

Club Facebook page will soon appear.

Shade shelters will be added this summer.

Flower Planting Day will be May 19.

## CONDOLENCES

We would all like to extend our sympathies to Barb Wells and Janice Corvino who both sadly lost their fathers a short time ago. Our thoughts are with them.

# “ED-IFICATIONS”



## Ed's corner

April 2012

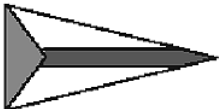
No ice ..... anywhere! No boom in Erie, no threat of ice entering the slip so let's get going! I'm sure you all noticed how packed the yard is, people on the perimeter hopefully will get ready earlier than usual. This weather excites some but not all, please be patient with the launching schedule. We have nowhere to move boats to access boats behind you. Let's work together! Greig and Andrew have the yard and equipment ready for launch and are continuing with the dock replacement program. All early due to weather.

Did you know ?

I was part of history on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. I went to the Daytona 500! First night race in the history of "The great American Race". The driver I was rooting for wrecked on lap 2 ..... Danica returned on lap 63 and finished her first Daytona 500. My neck isn't totally red yet, but I did enjoy it. Been there, done that and indeed got the "Go Daddy" T-shirt!

See you soon in the yard,

Ed



## Letter from the Editor

Greetings Everyone!

Thank you to all of you who have sent me photos and articles for this edition of the MainSheet. I didn't realize so many of our members went sailing in the winter - anyone need a cook???

I've posted photos of their travels and the first installment of Larry and Debbie Bayer's travels (second installment coming up in the next edition). Hopefully seeing these gorgeous scenes will encourage all of us to get our boats ready as soon as possible so that we can make Greig and Andrew's job easier.

See you all soon,

Judie Martin - E Z GO'N

judiem1@hotmail.com

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS



### Ready, set – launch!

Oh dear, last spring I whimpered (yes, even a commodore can whimper) because *Sweetie Punkins* was ready to launch, but she was blocked by other boats in the front row yet to be scrubbed and polished -- so we waited.

Happily this year my boat is at the end of a row and is easily accessible. Now with 20 degree temperatures in March the pressure is really on to get ready. It would be very embarrassing if I was blocking someone else.

The first boats, *Manana* and *Penguin* went in the water March 14, the first race was April 1 and even though it's been known to snow in April, Greig, Andrew and Ed say it will be an early launch.

So there's lots to celebrate! An early sailing season, new sun shades, exciting plans for junior sailing, the Ron and Debbie Critchly social agenda, which this year in addition to our club parties and sail past will introduce *Meet Your Neighbour Nights*. Held on five Friday evenings over the summer MYNNs will see participants decorate their boats with Christmas lights and flags and invite other club members to drop by. It's like a progressive party at the dock or an at-home cruise. Should be fun.

This year as part of our Women on the Water program we are planning a parallel docking night. Women "skippers in training" will pull their boats into the gas dock and/or along the front wall. The date is to be confirmed, but it will be the week of June 18. Refreshments and high fives afterwards.

Happy sailing!

## Commemorative NOTL War of 1812 Bicentennial



You've probably noticed momentum building as Niagara prepares to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the war of 1812 this summer. You can join in and show your support by purchasing a special commemorative burgee available only at NOLSC.

As you sail the waters this season, proudly fly this colourful burgee and be reminded of the significant role Niagara played in shaping our country.

The 12"x18" nylon burgee (\$15) will be available (dateTBA ) at the NOLSC office.

"Party like it's 1812!"

For more information 1812 Bicentennial events visit: [1812niagaraonthelake.ca](http://1812niagaraonthelake.ca)

## WINTER BUDDIES

Our crew from "Free Will" -Voyage 440 as we celebrated at the Soggy Dollar Bar- Jost VanDyke, BVI.

Garry and I took our old club burgee and hung it up in the rafters on one of the clothes line. The next time someone from our club goes to the Soggy Dollar Bar they will be able to see it flying proudly.

We had a great time.

Crew included: Captain- Norm Behring (Silent Flight), First Mate-Andrew Durward (Gypsy), Dingy Captain- Garry Brown (Beyond), and the rest of the crew & drinking buddies- Barb Behring, Kathy Brown, Cassandra Johnston, Lisa & Brian St. Hilaire, Rex Sutcliffe and Brian Howard.



## Junior Sailing

### 2012 NOLSC Learn to Sail Update

We have been busy getting ready in a number of ways for the coming season.

As previously advised, the Junior program will be offered this year in 2 week sessions. This was done to make it more convenient for parents to be able to fit their children's sailing school session(s) into their summer holiday plans. Hopefully, it will make it easier to fill up our sessions, too, particularly in August.

We are also changing the Adult Learn to Sail format to monthly 3 week sessions that go both Tuesday and Thursday. It is hoped that this dinghy program will also fit better with adult plans for summer. In addition, we will have a new Shark keel-boat learn to sail program running at the same time.

Together, these adult programs are intended to attract adults looking for a convenient way to get into sailing, perhaps operating their own boat, and possibly as future members of NOLSC. While NOLSC does not presently suffer for lack of members, it is always important to be grooming potential members who will take the place of those retiring from the club in future.

Finally, our Head Instructor, Jake Harper, and I, have been together taking a CYA Program Manager Course. This course, offered by the Ontario Sailing Association, is helping us both become better aware and organized for the coming season. We hope to be able to tweak the existing good program for the coming season by adopting some of the Best Practice principles and methods learned at this course for operating a sailing school.

All of this is hopefully leading to another great sailing season!

David Shantz

## Club Ambassadors

OK, I wasn't sure what else to call it.

This is an idea that I have heard discussed around the club for a couple of years so we thought we would give it a try.

A Club Ambassador would be someone who would volunteer two or three hours to help our staff greet arriving boats on the 1st day of one of our reciprocal cruise weekends. They would help our staff direct boats to their slips, and answer any questions about the club or the town, that our visitors may have. This would usually take place on a Saturday afternoon.

If this is something you think may interest you, or you would like any more information, please contact me.

David Bruce, Toucan

## Small Vessel Reporting System

For anyone who likes to boat over to Youngstown, Wilson or anywhere else in the US during the season, there is an alternative to having to check in at a video phone.

The Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS) is a program from US Customs and Border Protection for both Canadian and American residents to ease the border crossing experience by boat.

I completed mine last week. I did a search for SVRS and filled out the online application. I scheduled an appointment at the Peace Bridge and after a 15 minute interview I was given my program number. When I am planning on boating to the US, I go online within 24 hours of when I am leaving, fill out a simple sail plan form, then when I cross into US waters, I call on my cell phone to get my customs reporting number.

Everyone on the boat must have registered with the program. There is no charge for this.

Remember, any boat 30 feet or over must have a US cruising permit to travel to the US.

David Bruce,  
TOUCAN

## CRUISING 2012

As I mentioned in the January Mainsheet there are two cruises already booked for the 2012 sailing season. Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> thru Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> we are at Queen City Yacht Club. Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> thru Monday August 6<sup>th</sup> we are at Cathedral Bluffs.

Shirley and I will be your hosts for the July cruise; we are looking for hosts for the August cruise. The cruise logistics will be all set up ahead of time, we just are looking for someone or a group of people to host our gatherings. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact me.

In addition, we will be adding two more cruises to our schedule. One is planned for early/mid-June and one for mid-September.

I will forward on information and dates as soon as they are confirmed.

David Bruce, Toucan

# Photo Contest

Send us your gorgeous NOLSC photos &  
WIN!!!

**The Mainsheet is featuring a photo contest!**

**We want to see all the fabulous photos you, the NOLSC members, take every year – both on the water and around the club.**

Just drop off a 4 by 6 inch print at the club office addressed to PHOTO CONTEST or e-mail a jpg (from 1 – 4mg) to: [mainsheet@niagarasailing.on.ca](mailto:mainsheet@niagarasailing.on.ca)

**There are three categories:**

- 1. Action on the water.**
- 2. Fun at the club.**
- 3. NOLSC seasonal**

**First prize**

The glory of winning plus two free tickets to a club function, a bottle rum, a framed copy of your first-prize photograph and a surprise gift pack.

**Second prize**

A bottle of rum and a framed copy of your second-place photograph.

**Third prize**

A bottle of wine and a framed copy of your third-place photograph.

The contest will be judged by a panel of professional photographers. The winning photos will be framed and displayed in the clubhouse. These and other photos will be featured in the Mainsheet.

**DEADLINE: Entries must be received by October 1, 2012.**

Winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in November.

In the case of prints please write your name and phone number on the edge.

**Each entry must be accompanied by the following entry form:**

**NOLSC photo contest entry form 2012**

**Photographer's name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enter this photo in the \_\_\_\_\_ category.**



### LARRY & DEBBIE BAYER ARE LIVING THE DREAM...

On December 26th, Past Commodore Larry Bayer, his wife Debbie and their pet cockapoo Copper set out on a journey that was only a dream a few years prior. After purchasing our catamaran in May 2010, a 1992 Fountaine Pajot, Antigua 37', we knew that our dream was about to take place. She was a past charter boat in the Abacos known as "SnowCat" but we decided she was best suited to be re-named "BearsNest".

We drove down to Ft. Lauderdale to board our boat and start to ready her for our first trip. Our children Lawrence & Kelsey along with a friend each flew down a day later to join us on the first crossing.

Weather and timing was on our side as we only had a one day window of opportunity to cross the gulf of Florida and motor sail across to North Bimini, Bahamas. Weather was good and seas were just right for making the 10 hour trip arriving around 5pm just in time to celebrate New Years Eve.

Larry and Lawrence spent the next 3 days diving the reefs in the beautiful turquoise waters of the Bahamas and were successful in spearing 23 lobsters in total. It was a great feast for the 6 of us one evening before we had to sail back to Ft. Lauderdale. The kids had to fly back home on Sat. Jan 7.

From then on, the time we spent in Florida was to repair, replace and improve the boat to make her more seaworthy and safe. Our friends Mel & Fran joined us on Jan 25 to make the next journey into the Abacos for our winter vacation. But after having to wait a couple of weeks for parts and also a good weather window to cross, it wasn't until Feb 8 that we were finally able to leave Florida.

We sailed and motor sailed 69.9 nautical miles in the Gulf Stream to West End, of Grand Bahamas Island in cool NE winds of 10-15 knots and 2-4 ft seas and gradually building to 4-6 feet and arrived in about 10 hours, with Larry and I taking turns at the helm. We spent a quiet night at Old Bahamas Bay Marina, resting for whatever laid ahead. The next day, we set out across on Little Bahama Bank heading for an overnight anchorage at Mangrove Cay with winds N-NE and 4-6 ft seas for total of 21 nautical miles. Onward from there in 6-8 ft seas and 22 knot winds, we headed to another anchorage at Great Sale Cay. Once anchored the winds clocked 200 degrees in a matter of 2 hours, leaving us exposed to the west, which were not ideal conditions for that anchorage, so needless to say that it was not comfortable sleeping in choppy & pounding waves all night long complete with heavy rain squalls in the mixture. What can we say, its winter in the Bahamas and anything goes, but we knew there were plenty of warmer & calmer days ahead.

Daybreak, Sat. Feb 11 and the skies looked dark & stormy; do we stay for another night of pounding on the hook or run with the front for the Sea of Abaco's shelter? Captain Larry made the decision to set sail and run downwind rather than be trapped for a couple of days. It was the right choice, as the winds went West 18-20 knots with gusts to 25 and seas 4-6 ft. but to our favour. With winds astern and only a full main our Cat showed her stuff with Larry at the helm reaching a high of 12 knots, while I could only hit 10.4 knots in total control. We sailed to Spanish Cay, galloping the 32 nm in 4 hours. A beautiful island, very nice and clean so we stayed for 2 nights with the first being pretty bouncy till the winds clocked. On Mon. Feb 13 we decided to carry on and headed for Green Turtle Cay. Low and behold, we met up with fellow NOLSC members: Debbie & Russ Hosgkinson & Dave Rourke who were vacationing on "Quartet" and moored in Black Sound. They helped us moor, and then we got together for some Caesar's aboard "BearsNest". Later on the 4 of us got into the Dark & Stormy's, now the official beverage of "BearsNest"! The next day, we toured around the island of New Plymouth thoroughly enjoying the sunny warm weather finally. After a couple of nights moored in Black Sound of Green Turtle Cay, we now had to move to Marsh Harbour where our friends would be flying out, going back to Florida to continue with their winter vacation.

Now Larry, I & Copper were on our own for about 5 days, so we headed for Man-O-War Cay, another beautiful island (BYOB as it's a dry but very friendly island), where we moored near the marina. It was a nice quiet and secure anchorage to be in, protected in all winds, so we stayed for 4 days, enjoying the quiet peacefulness and just plain relaxing on the boat. We met a very nice couple from New Brunswick there, on their Niagara built Saga 409, and spent some time getting to know them and playing cards. Another couple of friends Perry & Sherry were flying in to join us for a week, so off to Marsh Harbour to meet them. We docked at Marsh Harbour Marina awaiting their arrival. Then, after replenishing our food supply, we headed to Great Guana Cay for a couple of nights in Orchid Bay. A very popular island, known for their parties at "Nippers" and another well known drinking spot "Grabbers". Both served great foods and special happy hour slushy type drinks known as "slippery nipple" and "grabbers", made with 5 kinds of rum, so careful, they'll really knock you out!



Larry, once again got hungry for lobster, so off he went snorkelling and speared a total of 10 nice lobsters.

Time to move again, so we headed northwest, but altered course, due to change in weather, of course, so we ended up in Treasure Cay on a mooring for 2 nights. That did not disappoint us in the least as we walked on the most beautiful 3 ½ mile long white sandy beach of the Sea of Abaco. Every island was as pretty as the next, and people were always friendly. We met other boaters from Canada as well as the US. It always gives us a calming feeling to talk to people from our own homelands.

We want to see more, so off again, now to an uninhabited cay known as Manjack Cay, and yet still another nice anchorage. Larry and Perry were off snorkelling picking up another lobster, and then Larry couldn't believe his eyes stumbling across a huge Stone Crab, just waiting to be captured. Meanwhile, Sherry, I and of course Copper, walked along the beaches, keeping a watchful eye on the guys, but also looking for some different shells to gather. After one night at that anchorage, we moved to the north side of the same cay, again in search of more shells and more lobsters. No shells but Larry came back with 1 Spiny lobster and 2 Spanish lobsters which are somewhat rare, but are renowned for their excellent taste and large tails.

Well, another week has flown by so it's back to Marsh Harbour to see our friends off to the airport. We are starting to feel like its home now.

It's back to the 3 of us again, so we think we would like to go to Hope Town which is another island about an hour and half away. But now a front is moving in with unsettled weather. Nobody is going anywhere! So we decide its best just to stay put at a secure dock in Marsh Harbour Marina for the forecast of 20-35 kts of Easterlies for 4-5 days. We can move as soon as the weather clears, but it's now day 6 and we are still here. The howling winds are unbelievable and the once calm beautiful Sea of Abaco is full of white caps. It seems to be settling down, and then before you know it, it starts to build again, and the winds are constantly veering.

We have now found out how difficult it is to plan for people to come down to visit us, in hopes of good weather and where and when we can get to a certain place. You can't be in a hurry to get anywhere!

We are making new friends with fellow boat owners, doing the same as us. What else can we do, but play cards, dice games, read books and watch movies. We walked around to the other side of the harbour into town a few times, picking up a few souvenirs. Then, we decided to see more of this island, so we rented a car for the day. This island is a lot bigger than what appears to be on the maps. Another thing that we learned in our travels is that we are spoiled when it comes to using the internet so readily. Here, its hit and miss when you can get good connections with their wifi. They were out of service for 5 days, and no one was in any hurry to get it repaired.

The weather forecast for today was no rain, only cloudy, but we got surprised with a couple of quick downpours that only lasted about 5 min. In a couple of days, our friends Karen & Mark will be joining us for a week of fun and hopefully hot sunny weather with less winds.

As I try to finish writing this article for this MainSheet publication, our trip will still be ongoing so:.....

Our trip will continue with Masher, (Michael Gaspich) arriving on March 16 and sailing back towards Bimini, which will take us about a week, once again everything depends on the weather. Our plan is to be back in Florida by the beginning of April where we will close the boat for the season to come. Then, drive back home to Canada by mid April, just in time for the Commodore's Ball.

Hope you enjoy reading this as much as I in writing this.

We have many pictures and many memorable moments while on this wonderful journey. Our dog Copper had a good time as well and has been good company for us. He certainly has proven to be a good seaworthy travelling dog. I know he will be anxious for our next adventurous trip next year, as we plan to do it again!

Submitted by Debbie & Larry Bayer.

Part 2 next issue.



## WELCOME TO PARADISE...

Ron & Debbie Critchley (Red Stripe) had a fabulous 2 week holiday sailing through the Leeward Islands with Dave & Maureen Shantz (Rampant Red), Kevin & Denise Roach and Larry & Joyce Hildebrandt. We started our trip at Sunsail Base, Oyster Pond Bay in St. Maarten. Our boat was a 43 ft. Leopard catamaran, lots of room for 4 couples!! Cruised to beautiful islands of Anguilla, St. Barts, Nevis, St. Kitt's and Eustatia. Best charter yet!!



## Notices

A “One Ounce Spinnaker, in bag” last seen between docks #35-#44. If anyone happens to know where it got to please let Rick Sherk know. Thank you.

## Photos from around the Club



**YOUR PHOTO HERE**

**HAPPY PHOTO SHOOTING**

**SEE IF YOU CAN WIN A PRIZE!!!**

HEAR YE HEAR YE HEAR  
YE

*On this the 2nd day of April in the year 1812,  
His Majesty King George III calls on all able  
bodied sailing men and all able bodied sailing  
women, (seeing that we now have joint membership),  
to assemble a sailing fleet on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>.  
to invade Wilson N.Y.*

## War of 1812 cruise

**Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Our 1<sup>st</sup> cruise of the season will be an overnight to Tuscarora  
Yacht Club in Wilson NY.**

Fly your flags proudly as we head east along the Lake Ontario shore  
line to invade Wilson N.Y. As we pass the invading boats from the Tus-  
carora Yacht Club heading west towards Niagara On The Lake, please  
extend them the usual courtesies as war was actually not declared until  
June 19<sup>th</sup>. However a warning shot fired across the bow would not be  
out of order.

