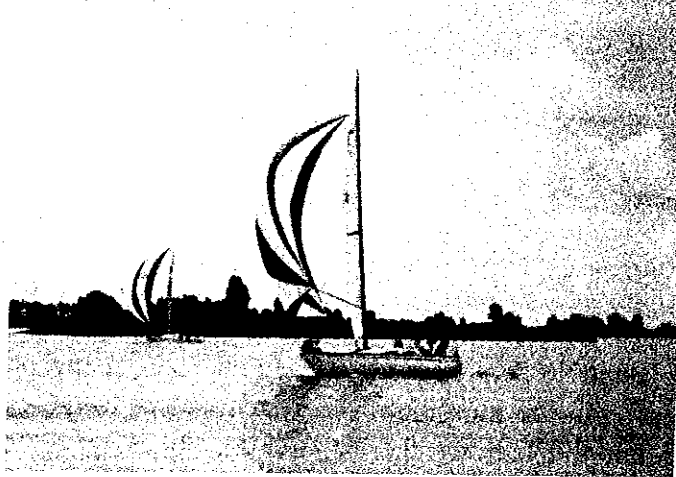


LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

THE CURRENTS

August 2007

Featured Boat: RAKAIA— Dennis Hendel



2007 Officers

Commodore: LARRY LAING 519-736-7152

-
- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Vice Commodore | • Dennis Pare | • Treasurer | • Yvonne McRobble |
| • Secretary | • Craig Morrison | • House Director | • Tom Boyce |
| • Maintenance | • Lothar Bauer | • Social Director | • Mary Nantais |
| • Race Director | • Bob Reaume | • Harbour Master | • Ralph Allen |
| • Road & Grounds | • Gus Martin | • Refreshments | • The Prettymans |

The Currents Distribution: Jeff Williams

1968

**LASALLE MARINERS YACHT
CLUB**

2640 FRONT ROAD

LASALLE, ONTARIO N9J 2N1

519-734-1363

2007

Sailing Season soon over!

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

From the Commodore:



Hello Everyone,

This years Fighting Island Regatta turned out to be a huge success. In the morning a storm was threatening but the bad weather held off and we ended up having a great race with plenty of wind and approx. 38 boats participating. After the race we had a fantastic meal put on by Mary Nantais and all her helpers. I had many people comment to me on how good the meal was. I even had someone ask me who catered the meal for us. Now that is a pretty high compliment to the chef's. As the day progressed the weather also just got better and better. It was a picture perfect day with kids enjoying games on the LMYC front lawn, and the adults enjoying the great entertainment provided by the Eccentric Band.

Of course to pull off such a great event it takes a lot of effort from a large team of people. I won't name everyone for fear of forgetting a few but every job (From the Race Committee, to the Food Prep, to the Beer Dispensing) is critical to make the event happen. Thanks Everyone!!!

The club grounds also looked very good for the Regatta. This is largely due to the efforts from a work party that Gus Martin organized

the week before the Regatta. As usual the work party turn out was not large but it was very effective.

Other news around the Club.

•Tom Boyce and Perry Basden installed a new counter top, large double kitchen sink, and a very functional faucet. This is a huge improvement to our club kitchen facilities.

•From the last General meeting it was decided to trim approx. 1/3 off the top of the large Poplar tree in front of the club. The trimming will probably occur in October.

•Again this year we had the harbour weeds cleared using a tug provided by Hotte. This system seems to be working very well and is not terribly expensive. Due to how well this is working with the tug, it was proposed and passed at the last General meeting that we will be putting our underwater weed trimmer up for sale.

Our next big Club event is the Sail for Hospice on Sunday Sept 9th. Please get an entry form, get as many sponsors as possible, then come out and enjoy a fun day of racing and an excellent meal.

Larry Laing
Commodore

Message from the Vice Commodore



LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

Come on Out!

The summer is wearing on. Come on out and enjoy your club before the cold closes in. It is a great location to spend some time. Have you ever thought about it? Look around. We have a good neighbour with his well-groomed landscaping to the north. We now enjoy a natural green windbreak to the south. A view of the river and lush islands to the west. Little animals drop by regularly, ducks, minks, rabbits, pheasants and many others. Come on out and watch the sun set over Grass Island and find out what a friendly lot your fellow members can be.

Looking back we find that the Regatta spruce-up effort has went well. I have recorded work hours for many people at this time. The regatta showed us again the dedication members have to LaSalle Mariners. As past Treasurer I can attest to the serious effort that a Treasurer must make to keep the accounts in order along with many other related financial duties. Yet our fine Treasurer found time to serve as Chair of the Fighting Island Regatta. Yvonne puts in many more hours for L.M.Y.C. than the required 12 a year. There are also many others that don't look at the time sheet but look at the jobs that need doing. If you haven't completed your work hours as yet there is a sense of satisfaction that comes with the support of LaSalle Mariners that you enjoy

when you come down and give of your time. Try it. You'll like it!

As Vice-chair of The Mission to Seafarers I would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the benefit of that charity. Over \$200.00 was raised for that worthy cause. Thanks also to Silver Stitch for their contribution of the raffle prize. Credit goes to Herb Lajoie and wife for running that project so well.

Time to give some thoughts to next year. Our 40th anniversary committee has formed and will soon be planning next year's activities. I expect we will be having a party of note, that is a given to mark such an event. We would, however, like to do that thinking outside the box thing and ask that you brainstorm to find suggestions for the committee. I don't expect that every suggestion can be implemented but your ideas are valuable to us. Sometimes a thought leads to another, and another. The results of creative thinking can take us to conclusion that sometimes surprise. We invite your submissions.

Like has been said many times before, "A bad day on the water is better than a good day at work". Get out there in your boat and enjoy the growing breezes that autumn will bring.

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

From the Harbour Master:

A REMINDER for FALL HAUL-OUT

- Check your cradle for any needed repairs- Pads, Bunk-boards, Uprights Bolts etc.
- Make sure the 6/8" Blocks of wood are attached to the bottom frame of the cradle, this will allow the Hyd. trailer to Pick Up the Cradle.
- Please bring 1 or 2 of your crew to help with Cradle moving.
- Call the Harbour Master to arrange for a Lift Crew to haul and Park your boat.
- For those needing to complete their work hours — Bring out your weed cutter to the Cradle Storage Area to cut the weeds and small trees in and around the Cradles. This will allow the lift crew to move your cradle without any problems.

Ralph Allen

THE MAC RACE

Mackinaw 2007

Praeceptor C&C 35 MK1

Boat Crew:

Bob Bingham, Steve Bingham, Bob Reaume, Jim Beaudoin, Dave Nantais, Paul Brancaccio, Chris Wysynski, Heather Hartley and Michel Grondin.

Support Crew. Andrea Bingham, Brian Casey, Mary Nantais, Rebecca Brancaccio, Sue Ouellette, Cheryl Clark and the families and friends who joined us at Port Huron and Mackinaw Island

As most know Praeceptor was purchased with the intention of doing the Mac. The boat had done previous Mac's but not for at least 15 years. Many required safety items were already onboard and the boat was in excellent condition with minor sail repair the purchase of Solas flares and a few new requirements to complete the list.

After many months of checking the necessary requirements And passing two inspections by the C&C group and one safety inspection by Bay View Yacht Club we were given the okay to race.

We decided to deliver the boat to Windsor (Brian Casey and I) on Wed July 18 and then leave for the Black River early Thursday morning. 7:00 am departure (Steve, Jim and I) with an-expected arrival at Port Huron around 5:00 p.m.

As with all deliveries the wind didn't co-operate and we found ourselves motor sailing against current and a north wind. At one point Jim and I went below leaving Steve to helm the boat in rain and 35 knot winds on the

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

nose. We attempted to take pictures and give moral support but only received dirty looks and comments (GO Figure) That is what young guys are for right??

After docking on the Black River we learned that we could not enter the U.S. without first checking in at the bridge. No customs were present at the dock to assist us as previously stated.

Two taxi cab rides, two new I-68's very helpful customs and the total of \$50.00 US we were able to have a cold beer legally landed. Being our first drink of the day it tasted great. HA HA.

Friday crew and friends started arriving and many hours were spent showing the boat, loading food, gear and refreshments. During all this the walkways are packed with people here for the party.

We partied ,met all kinds of people bought Irish sweaters to ward off the chill for \$3.00 and probably due to the cool night hit the bunks early.

Early rise, find some breakfast say goodbyes and prepare to head for our start which was at 12:50.

The trip out of the Black river with all of the boats, the crowds cheering our boat and hailing port being announced brought a feeling of joy that's hard to explain. Having my son Steven come from Calgary and my boating friends

sharing this with me is something that is hard to explain.

We left harbour dressed identical in blue/red hats ,blue shorts and white-long sleeve shirts with emblem,boat name and Canadian flag on them .

I believe we were rated a perfect 10 by the shore party and when proceeding up the Canadian shore were cheered by 1000,s as we waved our flag and cheered along with them.

It is quite a site to see 246 sailboats of all sizes and types preparing for their turn in the pre-start area and then moving to the start area for their chance to do the Mackinaw race..

All starts were 10 minutes apart thus allowing plenty of time to check the line, pick your sail combination and ready the boat.

Our choice was a heavy #1 with full main as the first leg started out as the weather leg with most boats going to Stbd. for the first leg. Shortly after the start we tacked on to port and headed for the Canadian shore as chosen by Jim. Our plan was to go east to the shore and it seemed to work as we were doing quite well in our fleet of 16 C&C 35s..

We went almost to Bayfield at a fairly good pace and were quite pleased with our progress. Some boats tacked the layline and others took a flyer

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

and continued up the Canadian coast. Two boats tacked up to Goderich with one then breaking it off and heading for the weather mark while Mystery continued to hold the coast all the way till Southampton before making the turn. This ended up being the great move reported in many papers after.

We went from Bayfield towards the mark and sailed into lighter air and then into no air.

In one 11 hour segment we did a total of 10 miles toward the mark..

Speeds at times were 00 and keeping the boat pointed in the right direction was always a challenge. Night watches were beautiful if you liked to search for shooting stars or satellites.

During the day the water was flat as piss on a plate. Pardon my French!

Moral was good and everyone was hoping for a return to the good air we had at the start.

After the weather mark with at least 4 C&C's in site we set the shoot and were pleased to notice us making distance on the other boats. A few good hours of spinnaker sailing and then the doldrums. At one time we sailed with only the. 5oz. spinnaker up. It worked and we kept moving.

Reporting our position by radio to the Coast Guard at designated times was a futile effort with never once being answered.

Weather wise our days were warm and nights cold with water temps of only 56. Quick baths when stopped made for some lovely comments as the boys got cold. Michel had her own version of a warm bath which caused quite a bit of laughter and teasing . Monday afternoon we started calculating our finish time by what time we would be at the PINK PONY. 10:00 p.m, 11:00 p.m, last call and so on as the air continued to soften.

Our finish time ended up being 6:07 or there about with many boats all coming out of the dark at a snails pace to join us in the crawl to the finish.

The emotions of finishing my first Mac. with Steve and all my friends brought a lump to my throat which is hard to describe.

We had done a Mac, finished with our group and didn't embarrass ourselves. Quite a feeling.

We were met at the dock by family members and friends bringing hugs and well wishes along with a little bit of liquid cheer. I asked for a drink, was given two and was put to bed shortly after consuming them feeling no pain. Bad Mix I guess.

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

Around 10:00 we headed up town for breakfast and found a place that would do steak and eggs. Great meal with lots of laughs. Bob Reaume went to turn in our times and pick up our party passes and informed the person in charge of tickets that we had 20 crew.

Shortly there after he went back and said he forgot five. Thank 's to Bob we ended up with 125 tickets for free drinks to be consumed in a few hours. Along with family members we almost did it.

Needless to say we had to go to the PINK PONY to finish off the evening.

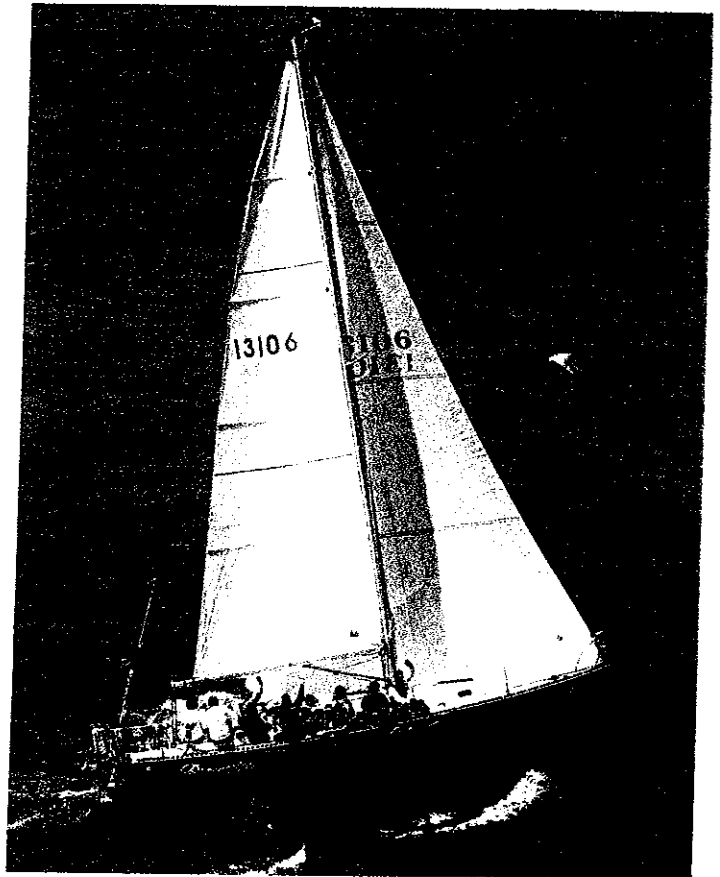
LaSalle members know how to party.

Wednesday morning we had to leave the docks so after unloading gear,sails and crew Jim ,Becky and I said our farewells and started the trip home. Air is up of course and on the nose of course resulting in overnights at Rogers City and Harrisville and then an overnigher and long 32 hour slog home.

Would I do it again, YES
With the same crew

YES, NEXT YEAR WE HOPE.

On the same boat, Ages differed from early 20,s to mid 60,s. We all got along we had fun and we came home safe and sound.



My Thanks to all who made it possible.

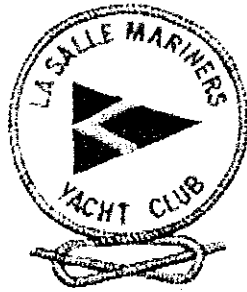
Bob

Single handed, NEVER!

Give them credit it is a long way.

Bob Bingham and crew

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club



LMYC River Rat Race

Sunday, October 14th, 2007

Skipper's Meeting at 11 am sharp

Race Start at Noon

Skipper and crew accept full responsibility for the safe conduct and operation of their vessel.

There will be no fees, no protests – just plain fun.

Each boat is requested to bring a dish to pass. Hot soup, sausage and hot apple cider will be served.

This is the last race of the season and we are looking forward to seeing many boats (both racing and cruising) register. Handicaps will be assigned to non-rated boats.

Boat name _____ Length _____

Rating _____ Skipper's name _____

Signature _____

For further information or registration please contact Bob Bingham at

Home – 519-736-1245 or Cell – 519-551-0278

