

The Current

REMEMBERING JIM OUELLETTE

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

WINTER 2009

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THE DOLPHIN

Jim Started sailing years ago in a Dolphin did a lot of crewing with Jeurgen Hendel and Dale Soulliere - raced a lot and as a group were nearly impossible to beat.

Jim bought an Abbott 33 "Roller Coaster" and with his brother Rocky and others became quite an accomplished racing skipper

Jim put together a crew composed of Lindy Walker-O'Brien, Rachel Parent and Charles Oldfield - This turned out to be a very happy and successful combination- they were

very competitive and won more than their share of races. This crew stayed together with Jim for 10 years---talk about loyalty.

One year they did more than 60 races - you don't have to know much about Jim to understand he must have been one hell of a guy to command this much loyalty and devotion. No question the crew loved this guy and they weren't alone!

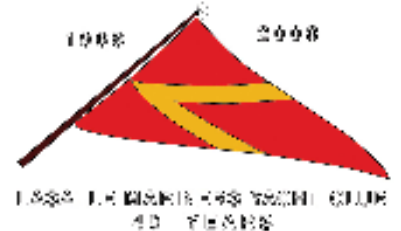
Jim won' the first guy to break the males only shakedown' tradition by taking his female crew on this race- his comment



was "if they're good enough to race on my boat they're good enough to do shakedown"

Jim was very active around the club -and always did more than his share of work. He was instrumental in tearing out the wall to the kitchen and building a bar where it is now

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REPORT FROM THE COMMODORE

This is a special edition of the Currents, a memorial edition in memory of the past publisher, Jim Ouellette. My thanks to Jonathan Smith for producing this Currents. I am sure big Jim is

looking on with a smile for us all.

As I write this article there are five days left in the current term for the 2008 Board of Directors. It has been an energetic Board,

which started strong and finished just as strong putting in maximum effort for their club. I thank each member of the Board for their devotion to service for LaSalle Mariners.

Read more on page 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Report from the Commodore.
- New Members.
- "The How Toos"
- A look back at 2008.

Jim Ouellette, Jurgen Hendel and Dale Souillier sailing the Detroit River in Jim's Dolphin 23' on a bitter cold New Years Day 1988



"THE HOW TOOS"

I remember back in 1991 Jim gave me sailing lessons on my new boat "Therapy" I was grateful for his knowledge and experience in teaching me "the how toos" of sailing. Unfortunately he never produced a racer out of me but he did produce a new friend and I will always remember with fondness his smiling, jovial manner. - Zane

REPORT FROM THE COMMODORE (CONTINUATION FROM FRONT COVER)

Congratulations and welcome to our two new families as members of the Club: John and Val Guban & Tom and Cheryl Smith.

Each club member should take time to personally commend John Amyot Vice-commodore, Jim Beaudoin Treasurer, Gus Martin Secretary, Ted Popel Race Director, Mary Nantais Social Director, and Tom Boyce House Director. Each of these people has put in countless hours performing the duties of their assignments as well as accepting management responsibilities in numerous meetings as the LaSalle Mariners Board of Directors. This club has prospered because of this team's leadership.

The assistance that the support officers have given to the board this year must

also be noted. People might not know that Harbourmaster Ralph Allen, Regalia Officer Herb Lajoie, Grounds Officer Frank Marmara, and Equipment Officer Lothar Bauer have also attended monthly Board meetings contributing with their advice and experience. This executive configuration has proven to be a source of reliability and a crucible for action. Of course there is no doubt that many other members have also given fine efforts this year e.g. Lift Team, 40th Committee, many others. This type of participation is the hallmark of a prosperous, vibrant organization.

I am content to step aside for the incoming Board and anticipate 2009 to be another success story for our sailing club. My sincere best wishes and my pledge of support I send to them. It is sometimes easy to forget that, "it is easy to criticize, difficult to create". I ask all members to lend their support to the incoming Directors with their time and talents. Creating a memorable 41st year for LaSalle Mariners is the first order of business on the agenda for 2009.

*40th Anniversary
Members Cookbooks are
still available contact
Cheryl Clark at
cricketcac@hotmail.com*



THE DOLPHIN
(CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE)

"Jim always stepped up to the plate

when everyone else was hesitant"-Red

Jim located and purchased the larger coolers that currently comprise our bar.

Bob Reaume who I believe was Commodore at the time tells of getting a phone call from Jim - the message was "I've found a cooler for the club-bring your cheque-book and we'll pick it up" They did.. and the rest is history even though Bob when he first saw these coolers thought wouldn't fit in our club - turns out Jim was right

Jim was instrumental in Essex County PHRF for years and contributed a lot of energy to making it a very successful rating body- enabling all of us to compete locally and internationally.

Jim had a great and vivid imagination- he envisioned our clubhouse with a second floor- a swing bridge to the property to the south and a cable car

running the full length of the property. why not?

The club is full of Jim stories - here's one of them...Jim and some other club members had the good fortune a few years ago to move a Santa Cruz 70 down to Chicago from Mackinac. On the way down Lake Michigan we stopped in Charlevoix - The boat, was gorgeous all 70' of her, was moored on the side of the canal leading into the inner harbor - Jim and yours truly went for a walk and ended up in a fancy restaurant overlooking the canal and the boat. What a view - over lunch and several scotches Jim decided" wouldn't it be great for our ego if we let on this was our boat- like as in we're the owners"

So with that Jim walks over to the edge of the railing of the restaurant patio and hollers down to

Sam Irwin (the skipper responsible for the boat) "Hey boy- is the boat ready"- Sam to his eternal credit smiled and responded "aye capt'n she's ready to sail."

Jim and I strode out of the restaurant on a high that even scotch couldn't give you.

There are lots of these "Jim" stories around the club if you want to hear more of them just ask the older club members or Jim's crew....

Jim was an avid sailor- a great ambassador for our club- an all around great guy...

Our club and those of us that had the pleasure of knowing him will miss him greatly.....

Sincerely,
George Mooney

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

1. Bookkeeper installed
2. South Harbour walls reinforced
3. North Harbour wall undermining stopped
4. Harbour wall ladders installed
5. Poplar tree trimmed
6. Full year Calendar of Events composed and posted in galley
7. New parties Eg Superbowl, 40th anniversary
8. Special shirts, hats, mugs for 40th anniversary
9. 40th year hard cover memories book published
10. Time Capsule completed
11. Boat lift reconditioned
12. 40th logo contest
13. Junior sailing program planning
14. Long Range Planning Committee mandate passed
15. Locks replaced with re-key locks for increased security
16. Past Commodores photo galley updated
17. Septic tanks pumped
18. Clubhouse roof replaced
19. Cookbook
20. Photo book
21. Weather Seminar
22. Wine Tour

