

THE CURRENTS



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LASALLE MARINERS YACHT CLUB

Editor, Dennis Paré

Fighting Island Regatta A Fine Day!



John Amyot and Al Buliga's team Blitz were unstoppable this year taking first in A Fleet along with two other trophy awards!



The 53rd edition of the Fighting Island Regatta, which was held on Saturday, August 27, enjoyed a sunny and breezy day. What more could racing sailors want? There were five classes to choose from for competition including the new Short Handed Class (which appealed to three of the fleet skippers). If you haven't participated in this race before...what is holding you back? The fleet started from above Fighting Island across from the salt mine, then on down to the buoys above the Livingston Channel. This event has it all with boats coming from across Essex County and along the American shore. It's a good opportunity to test skills with boats other than your own club members. Give yourself and your crew a great day on the water next year; sign up. And don't forget the good food and fellowship that follows this event every year. Music and dancing at no additional cost. Put that last Saturday in August, (the 26th), aside right now. That's a plan!

Save the Date

River Rat Race
Oct. 15, Noon Start

Last club race of the year. Time to make waves on the river. (Good party too!)

Darts Night
Nov. 2, @ 7:00 PM

The Dart night is a low competition evening geared to appeal to all skill levels.

Fall Club Races
Oct. 3, 5, 11 and 12

Dates are tentative as needed to complete the season's number of events. **Starts 6:15 PM**

L.M.Y.C. Awards Banquet

Nov. 19 at Ambassador Golf Club on Sprucewood Ave.

Many Other Awards for Fighting Island Regatta - Come Next Year and Compete for Yours



Craig Morrison's Team *Kyrre*



Chris Wysynski's big crew for *Per Diem*



Dave Evans, *Ratso*, celebrates while Tom Boyce enjoys



Sometimes it's so pleasant to just sit and chat.

Welcome New Member



LaSalle Mariners is pleased to have a regular stream of new members joining in to enjoy the sport of sailing and the amenities of our club. William Belton has lived in Windsor for two years and brings his C&C 32, *Pierot la Lume*. William says, "I cannot find a better club. LaSalle Mariners has so many good people".

Storm Generates Twisters



LaSalle Mariners was spared damage but it sure came close. The regular Wednesday evening club racing went off on August 24 under overcast skies. Little did we know what Mother Nature had in store for us. The wind was building strong with heavy weather sailors holding on for a wild ride. Part way down the course the thunder and lighting foretold of threatening events to come. The race was called. Thanks Committee Boat team for your vigilance. Then twisters were visible in the sky. Fortunately, all club racers returned safely to port and luck held for our property. Down the road, at Island View Marina and along Victory Street the damage from tornados drew such a crowd of the curious that the LaSalle Police had to close the road to traffic. Other areas farther east in the city and county were also hard hit. First to report was the Weather Channel's Mark Robinson who gave a weather seminar at LaSalle Mariners a few years ago. Yvonne McRobbie noted the swath that the tornado cut through Grass Island. Dave, on the foredeck of *Mananan*, counted six different water spout/tornados from his position on the boat. Landlubbers thought we were crazy but actually it was an exciting ride.



Bob Reaume and Flip Bergeron build while kids have fun.



Junior Sailing Fun at the Club

For the seventh year the Junior Sailing program ran in the beautiful August summer weather. Instructors Michael Smith from Barrie and Aden Marr from Port Dover guided the 16 children from 8 to 14 years of age in basic sailing techniques e.g. tacking jibing, and capsizing. Personal items such as PFD's and proper clothing were demonstrated. Of course, there was also time for games, hijinks, and yummy food. Eight RSQuba dinghies were used. CAN SAIL certificates were awarded for proficiency.

From the Detroit River to ??!?

Proud parents Jim and Jennifer Beaudion sent in an article from Yachting Australia. It featured Nick Beaudion their son (below) on one of his adventure sailing races down under. Nick is a trimmer on *Wild Oats*. Mark Richards skippered the super-maxi that finished in Keppel Bay on Aug. 6 with a time of 16 hr. 56 minutes and 30 seconds. This smashed the Keppel Tropical Race record by almost 8 hours. The boat saw speeds of 35 knots. On one big ease of the spinnaker, as the sheet reloaded Nick was dragged across the cockpit into a winch.

Skipper Richards said, "We finished a lot quicker than we thought we would and it's a great record and I think one that will be sticking around for quite a while.

A 38 seconds video of the race underway was taken by the bowman. I will email it to people as requested or it is also on the L.M.Y.C. website.

Reminder from the Harbourmaster

It's nearing the end of the sailing season and haul out is at hand. I would like members to inspect their cradles and make sure they are identified with their name and the bow end of the cradle. Members with trailers are asked to check the air pressure in the tires and remove any locks on the hitch. (Brian Casey)



Photo by Yachting Australia



Photo by Yachting Australia

Here we see Instructor Tracy reassuring a participant as they are being lowered for their ride afloat.



Below is a shot of the Martin 16 in action with both the chase boat, Brad Blackton, and the Pontoon boat carrying family photographers.



This photo shows Patrick Holland with crew Chris Drouillard heading out with passengers who asked to experience a ride in a keel boat.



Adaptive Sailing Special

The Adaptive Sailing program was held on Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th of September. The weather was most cooperative with the afternoon breeze of 10 knots blowing from the north. The parking lot filled up early with eager people from ages 12 to 60 something. One of the eager sailors, Sandra Havens was coming back for her fourth time. She has been living with MS for 50 years but that hasn't deterred her from her sailing adventures with her friends at LaSalle Mariners. "We go out for one hour each... not long enough", was one of her enthusiastic remarks.

The adaptive sailors are rounded up and shepherded each year by Chris Easterbrook. Don't get in front of her; this lady is in constant motion. Chris tells us that half the participants are new this year. Genna Norton liked sailing the Martin. She was not fazed by the heeling motion. "I like it because you get to use the boat's controls yourself. I've never gotten wet" she said with gusto.

Two boats with controls for our adaptive sailors were trucked in from Toronto. The Martin 16 even has a power button to raise and lower the keel as needed. Instructor, Tracy Schmitt, lets each person skipper the boat. Patience and understanding are her tools of the trade along with the normal sailing type of guidance. For these people sailing is an experience that they might never have opportunity to try except for the caring volunteers and donors. People such as Scott Pillion, on the lift, Yvonne McRobbie on registration, Dave Nantais skippering the pontoon boat and many others.

All the participants expressed their sincere thanks to sponsors Roseland Rotary Club, Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), for funding and volunteers, and of course the generous people at LaSalle Mariners who donate food and run the program so well.