

A U T U M N 2 0 2 0

The Currents

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LASALLE MARINERS YACHT CLUB

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First Ever !

LaSalle Mariners Dinghy Regatta



Photo Walt Argent

The 1st, “Annual”, Dinghy Regatta was held under good weather and breeze conditions. Thirteen racing dinghies competing in four 1.75 nautical miles courses, all in two and a half hours. A demanding schedule, as dinghy racing is a rigorous sport. It is a one-person challenge versus keelboat team efforts.

Hot off the News Line

With the recent changes in the COVID-19 rules, we have to cancel our awards celebrations after the River Rat, but that race is proceeding. Per Race Director

Jobs Well Done



This year has seen extensive landscaping renovations to the property. Above, Commodore Dave and co-worker Jen dig in to the gravel pile for the parking lot. Below Chantelle cleans up the phragmites along the laneway that Vice-Commodore Chris has mowed down.



Regatta Goes, No Matter the Foes!



Photos by Walter Argent



The 57th annual Fighting Island Regatta was the jewel of the sailing season's events. This year has brought serious challenges to our club but, undaunted, the Race Director and organizing committee carried off another successful, fun sailing day. Although our American friends were unfortunately absent there were still representatives from Thames River, Southport and Cedar Island clubs; 28 entries for the day on a modified course that kept clearly to Canadian waters.

Thanks goes out to Betty and Carl Durham, Ralph and Molly Allen, LaSalle Fire and Rescue and LaSalle Police for making sure that all were safe on and off the water.

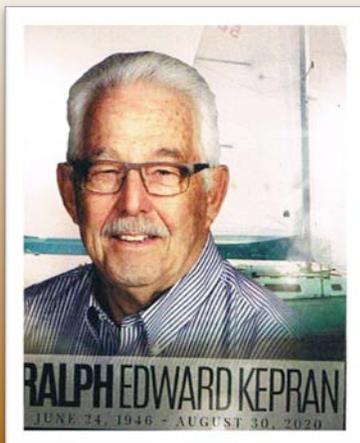


Wednesday COVID Series

The Race Director and committee managed to put together an 8 races series for club racing this season. There were a number of unusual requirements that skippers and crews had to face but there was interest and participation. Above are the boats on the course while below we see the group gathering before the racing.



Crossing the Bar



Past Commodore, Ralph Kepran, has, “crossed the sandbar”, of the famous Lord Tennyson poem.

Even under these restraining times his funeral was well attended by Mariners offering their condolences to the family.

Ralph was a very active and supportive member of LaSalle Mariners and always worked for the betterment of the club. Ralph and wife, Doris, hold the unique distinction of being the only couple that have both served as Commodores of LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club.

Social Director Report



This spring and summer was certainly one for the books! No organized social events and lots of restrictions. Thank you to all our members for being socially responsible in maintaining appropriate distance from each other. The gathering after the Fighting Island Regatta was great. Thank you to all who attended. As we look forward, it is unfortunate that we needed to cancel our Awards Banquet due to the restrictions Ambassador Golf Club is required to maintain. The club has rented a tent for the River Rat Regatta on October 17. After the flags are given for that regatta, flags for this fall’s COVID Race Series will be awarded (updated, see page 1). Even if you are not sailing in the regatta, but are sailing in the COVID series, please join us for the presentation of flags. I know we are all looking forward to a more social season next year.

Social Director, Mary Chesnik

From the Editor – Photo Tip

Suggest you look at the water and waves in the photos to judge what the sailors were experiencing.

Race Director Reflections



LASALLE CURRENTS

A Newsletter For Members Of LaSalle Mariners

February 1975

Above is a graphic for the masthead for the very first edition of the LaSalle Mariners Currents. As you can see the date was February 1975. The venerable Gord Freeman with wife Joan were our first editors. The newsletter was initiated with the mission to, “better communicate with **all** members”. We continue with that objective today.

The origin of the name was explained, “Well, last year at the annual Cedar Island Regatta there was at the banquet a sign on the wall that stated, *LaSalle Mariners eat currents*”, (likely not a reference to the berries).

[Thanks to Yvonne McRobbie for this information”]

Southport Responds

With the restrictions hampering club activities your Editor inquired how it was affecting our friends at the upstream sailing club. Commodore, Paul Ramsey kindly sends this:

“We ran our invitational Regatta with a few participants. On Sept. 12 we had our Sailabration party that is normally held at the beginning of June, and we ran our Hospice Regatta on the 13th. We raised over \$8K. Saturday, Sept. 26, we are hosting the Harvest Moon Regatta and have about 30 boats entered. It has been a difficult season but we have managed to prevail.”

Shorthanded Race Results

The John Murphy Shorthanded Race, held on Saturday, Sept. 16 saw some old hands bring in the awards. John and David Amyot in B32 took the shorthanded honours while that famous single-hander Dave, the Ratso man, Evans claimed the singlehanded 1st prize.



With the cooler breezes starting to blow in, we are reminded that the end of 2020’s season is near. We salvaged what we could with the Fighting Island Regatta and 28 boats in attendance. Club racing

was kicked off with the COVID series, eight races in all. We had our first annual dinghy Regatta with 13 boats competing in the 4 x 1.75nm races in two and a half hours. Competitors were tired but any times on the water are fun times. We are looking forward to next year’s regatta.

I’d like to thank the members for putting up with me this year of learning. Our Annual River Rat Race is October 17th followed by our awards presentation. Please join us for a fun day to close out the year (NORSI to follow). A special thank you to Val, Bill and Sue (photographer) for helping with the Race Committee, always appreciated. Stay safe, stay healthy and may the winds take you always in your desired direction.

Cheers Walt.

Maintenance is Important

Here’s a shot of long serving member, Bernie Walters, applying a new coat of yellow paint to the L.M.Y.C. tractor affectionately know as Yvonne.



Painting is just one of the many tasks that members can choose from when looking to fill their work hours quota before the year-end.