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The Currents



Official Newsletter of LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club

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is here!

Spring Changes and Tidy-up

The club has come alive as members take advantage of the early spring mild weather to get the jump on boat commissioning chores getting their boat ready to launch.

There are other activities and one that is most noticeable is the pile of soil next to the clubhouse waiting to be spread on the property. There have already been considerable changes in the front yard as the leveling of the property is progressing. Other areas have been cleared and cleaned, looking tidy.

Save The Date

Blessing of the Fleet

Saturday, June 5 at 1:00 PM

The, "Blessing of the Fleet event has been an event that has been held annually at LaSalle Mariners almost since its inception. This right of spring for boaters has both a civil and naval background. Last year's event at our club was a modified offering. This year we hope for better but who knows?

Harbour Wake-up

The two photos above show the harbour at LaSalle Mariners only weeks apart. The winter activities were restricted but a bit of ice fishing in the fresh air has always been popular among the angler types among us. The day that this picture was taken was a sunny one and people were eager to bust out of house quarantine for an outdoors stretch.

The photo on the right shows two boats already in the harbour by March 21. First boat launched, "Rubber Duck", Award goes to Phil Bergeron yet again this year.

Congrats for Flip !!!!

Harbourmaster's Spring Tips



It's that time, again, and hopefully we stay open to launch at our regular time. Make sure tire pressure is up and the tongue is unlocked, on trailers. I will be making out a sheet of lift times from Thursday to Sunday. You can email or call me what day you want to launch and I will give you a time. I will only have a minimum crew so please be on time. Masks must be worn. I can be reached at bcasey10@cogeco.ca or 519-978-0155. Launch has already started, so feel free to call me when you are ready. For those of you who call for a well, I have dock request forms in the club or you can fill one out on the website and email it. Brian

Here's the description from Derek on how the rudder problem reared its ugly head:

It was a cool, sunny day on Sept. 19 and the fleet was maneuvering at the start line for the John Murphy Short Handed Race. I heard a bang and felt Alacrity shudder. The tiller jumped out of my hand with such force it twisted my wrist. Looking back, I saw the rudder floating on the water. It took some doing to haul that 12-foot rudder up, into the boat.

There was good help available with Flip Bergeron towing me back to the club and Bob Reaume and Brian Casey ready to haul the boat out. An inspection of the situation led us to conclude that the lower pindle had fallen out. As we were in motion the force for the current caused the rudder to snap. Dave Evans stepped forward to do the repair. This experience is a perfect example of the benefit of belonging to a community of sailors.

Contessa Renewed

One of our newer members, Derek Debono sails a Contessa, a boat renowned for its durability and long-distance sea ability. Last season Derek noticed that serious cracks had developed in his rudder, a problem not unknown to other members experiences.



Above is the photo of the rudder of the Contessa removed from the stern of the boat and sitting in the cockpit for inspection. A large transverse crack was evident. This rudder was very close to breaking completely into two parts. Below shows the bracket in place ready to be glassed in and make the rudder strong for many seasons yet.



Here's handy Dave Evans just finishing up the repair to the rudder. Better than new!

Old Haunt Gone



LaSalle Mariners has enjoyed visiting a number of banquet type restaurants over the many years in our existence. Members themselves had found that the local Sunnyside Tavern was the meeting spot of choice. Located behind Sir Cedric's Fish and Chips at 99 Wahneta Street it is in the local neighbourhood of a number of our members residences.

The Sunnyside has a long and checkered history as a site for rumrunner activities in the, "Roaring Twenties". It featured a large dance floor of slated wood and a channel that ran in from the Detroit River. LaSalle Mariners have enjoyed many a party. The Keprans (the only couple that hold the distinction of both man and wife being Past Commodores) wedding reception for daughter ,Heather, was memorable when the bride and groom arrived by boat. The Smith Anniversary party was well attended by many of Phil's Mariner buddies. When the clubhouse had a fire the Commodore moved the venue for our membership meeting to the basement of the Sunnyside. Of course members were known to gather there for food and drink.

Our resident spinner of yarns, Ralph Allen, recalls the incident in the early 1970's when we launched boats in the spring using a crane. One of the members had purchased a brand new Matilda and after it was plunked in the water the crew decided to retire to the Sunnyside for refreshments. Ralph Allen stayed behind, good thing, as he was witness to the boat taking on water. The crew rushed back to save her.

Race Director's Report

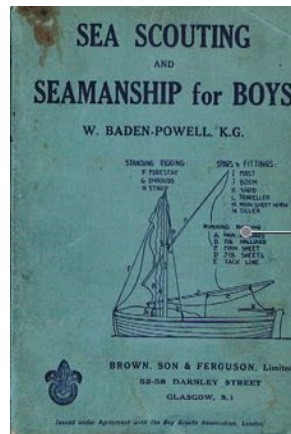
Our race Director, Walter Argent reports that the oft-changing rules regarding the pandemic has made it prudent to put definite plans for racing this season on hold for the time being.



Here's Walt patiently waiting for government guidance while we all patiently (?) wait for Walt to plan this 2021 racing schedule.

Read Any Good Books Lately?

LaSalle Mariners has a number of avid readers in our club. When at sea on a long passage it is a regular pastime for many a sailor. If you have something that you could recommend to fellow Mariners just send a description into the Currents editor.



Here's a copy of a tomb from deep inside my archives. This book was published in Glasgow in 1939. The Preface tells us, "The safety of the whole British Empire depends on every man being more or less a sailor". (Women too!)

🇺🇸 LMYC Members 🇺🇸

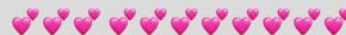
💕💕💕 Sunday, February 14th , 7 Pm .💕💕💕💕

We Invite everyone to join us on Zoom ,and say Hello to our fellow members

have a chat ,and a beverage 🍷🍷🍷 share your storied since we last met

spread the cheer , let us know how you feel and what you think

💜 Joy 💜 😄 Laughter 😄💙 Happiness 💙



👉 Your Social Director , Mary Nantais 👉

Social Director Mary deserves a special kudos for coming up with this cute email and the novel design for a virus free gathering of the members.



Buzzard Flag Pride



One of our long-time active members, Bob Reaume sends in the story of a cherished LaSalle Mariners memento hanging proudly in his family room.

“The Buzzard Flag represents the person who looks out for the spirit of the club. Someone who has a voice of reason and uses that ability to listen and problem solve. Jurgen Hendel was just such a person. Jurgen navigated the club’s affairs on an even keel from the beginning until he passed away in 2004.

I always had a love for the club and a long friendship with Jurgen. After he passed, the flag was given to me to continue maintaining peace and harmony; also, to try and preserve the traditions of the club. It was an honour to be presented with this flag. Also, a heartfelt responsibility to keep the club moving forward.”

LMYC Membership Meeting

No announcement has been made as yet regarding a spring clean-up and general membership meeting.

This is the annual spring clean-up meeting where we set down plans for putting the grounds back in a neat order after the winter.

If you have anything to add to the agenda, please inform Commodore Chris Wysynski.



Here’s a blast from the past with, left to right, Jurgen Hendel, Andy Kozieradzki, Jim Ouellette and Bob Reaume enjoying an Abbott salute.

Share Your Sailing Pride

Bob Reaume has sent in this item and supporting narrative on an item that reminds him of his connection with LaSalle Mariners. He is pleased to share his affection for Mariners showing us his treasured memento.

The *Currents* would like to feature other members telling their fellow club members about something that they have that brings them pleasant memories about their sailing experiences while at LaSalle Mariners. We look forward to hearing you story sharing that special something that brings a warm feeling to your sailing heart.