

S U M M E R 2 0 1 8

The Currents

Official Newsletter of the LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club



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Spring Series

LaSalle Mariners has a history of competitive club racing and this year is running true to course. Taking snap shots while racing is a tricky business. The 3 photos below taken by Lothar Bauer from the deck of Mananan give the sense of action that takes place every Monday and Wednesday evening. While the spring series has ended there is room for more participants in the summer series.

Lothar Bauer - 3 photos



Ratso shows power



After the racing comes socializing



Swing into Summer Sailing!

Here's Opus, left, skippered by Frank Marmara, always a game competitor, out for another Wednesday evening romp.



Left, Per Diem from the deck of Mananan

Don't Miss Events!

Many don't miss activities are offered at LaSalle Mariners over this summer season. They include:

Pelee Island Regatta – July 7

Fighting Island Regatta - Aug 25

Blessing of the Fleet and Dressing of the Fleet



The Blessing of the Fleet has been a premiere social event for 32 years at LaSalle Mariners. It has evolved over the time from a motor run up in the boats on the river to be blessed in a long parade on the water at Fighting Island. This year's edition found a number of boats in the parade along with LaSalle and Windsor Police Services. Sea Cadets also turn out for their blessing as Fr. Stan Fraser bestowed a blessing for each and Commodore Larry took the salute. Above is a photo of the memorial wreath laid on the water in memory of those members that have passed away in the last year. There were four white roses of commemoration beautifully woven into the wreath by Lindy O'Brien.

In the Dressing of the Fleet competition Gringo, the Ferguson's Shark garnered first with the stylish pontoon boat of Ralph and Molly Allen awarded second.



Rob and Katie made a special effort to make Gringo shipshape in memory of their father and long time Mariner, Bob. Carol Ferguson beamed with delight.

Commodore's Corner

Happy Summer to all Mariners!

After a very challenging and wet spring everyone seemed to persevere to get their boats in the water and sailing in a timely manner. It is great to see the club in full swing with the Monday and Wednesday races, the Ladies Challenge, and many great and well-attended social events.

Now that things are rolling along and everyone has a little breathing room, please take some time to look around the club and try to make improvements where you are able. Remember this is our home away from home. Let's keep it neat/clean and a place that we can continue to be proud of. Please call the Vice Commodore if you need some ideas for items that need to be done

Brief Clubhouse Addition Update. – We had a bit of a setback with the possibility that we might have to get a Site Plan Control Agreement. After some great footwork from our Planning Committee, and some help from the town of LaSalle, we were able to get an exemption on this Site Plan from Town Council. Next we need to get our ERCA Permits. Barring any other holdups we should be able to start construction in September.

I hope you all continue to have a safe and enjoyable sailing season and I look forward to seeing you around the Club.

Larry Laing, Commodore

Social Director, Mary, Sends...

The Social Director, Mary Chesnik, reminds everyone of the 50th Anniversary party on July 21 with Red (Yvonne) McRobbie organizing. August bring the Fighting Island Regatta excitement with Val Gujban and Walt Argent. Popular paint nights are promised to return but Mary is trying to work around the clubhouse renovation plans. Mary sends her thanks to Flip Bergeron and Bob Reaume for hosting a great fun race – margarita party.

Darts Hits the Spot !



Wednesday night Dart league enjoyed another season of low-key competition, beverages and yummy snacking. April 25 marked the wind-up pizza party and awards. Many a happy player went home with a cash award fattening their wallet. The pizza was most tasty and the Bull's Eye box was also apropos for use in the festivities. There were new faces joining in this season along with a number of, "old", stalwarts. The darts convener, Vicky Boyce did another great job and everyone in the league wants to give her many thanks for her efforts again this season.

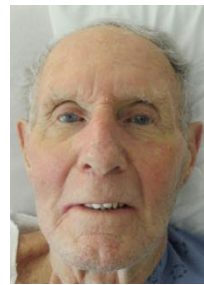
Unique Evening



Mary Chesnik, Social Director, offered a never before event. There was a Paint and Sip evening, April 12. A little bit of wine and a lot of colours and voilà the paintings were rendered from the model provided. Now look carefully at the photo.

Did you find it? In one picture the boat is sailing off to the East and in the other the boat is set moving off to the west. This can be attributed to artistic license...and perhaps a little of the fruit of the vine as well. It proved to be a well-attended, fun evening.

Burning the Clubhouse Down!



As told to Dennis Paré by Past Commodore, Phil Smith.

Phil Smith has been stuck in hospital for some time now but is a true LaSalle Mariner, for sure. For many years Phil contributed his time and talents to the club in abundance. Even now he is supporting by relating this story, below, when the clubhouse caught fire.

Phil was elected Commodore on Nov. 8, 1992. The next morning at 7 AM Ralph Allen phoned Phil with the news that the clubhouse was burning and the Fire Dept. was on site. Apparently a young man had been driving down Front Road about 5 AM and saw the smoke billowing from the building. A new metal insert had just been installed in that wood burner but somehow sparks got behind the firebox and ignited the chimney area.

Actual fire damages were limited but smoke and ash were clinging to all surfaces in the building. Damage was costed out at \$22,000 (in 1992 dollars). Fortunately there was a brick wall that inhibited the spread of the flames. The restoration company recommended that the building be demolished and a new sound structure with proper foundation be erected in its place. This was rejected and they proceeded to clean, install new cupboards, carpet and reupholstered all fabric furniture. The members took the opportunity to put down plywood in the front room and eliminate the small step between the two main rooms.

The December general membership meeting was held at the Sunnyside Tavern and the call went out for members to help in the remodeling. A number of members took up the work and displayed their pride in their club by turning out. Manfred Albrecht was outstanding. There is a LaSalle Mariners plaque in the club that still shows scorching from that 1992 disaster.

Women's Sailing Adventure



This year's Women's Sailing adventure was another smashing success for numbers attending and good times generated. The organizing team of Val, Heather, Andrea, JoJo and Kelly arranged good times to flow on and off the water. The camaraderie is one of the strong features that brings back a return crowd year after year. The photo above shows Dave Nantais and the crew on JZ Dandy, Red Mc'Robbie's boat.

Over 70 women participate every Thursday from mid-May through mid June. The Facebook website used for entries was filled to capacity in just one hour after opening. About 15 boats are involved in the evening sailing festivities.

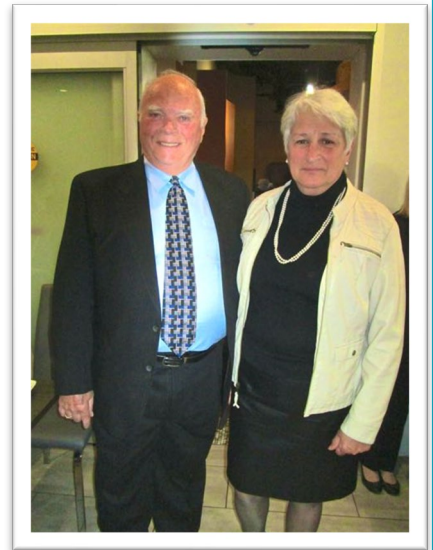
The Sailing Adventure has generated members for LaSalle Mariners and has donated funds to the club for various amenities such as the planned awning to be included in the upcoming expansion of the clubhouse.

From the Editor

Summer sailing has arrived and with that goes some great chances to cruise our Great Lakes. Your story on your favorite port or sailing ground would be most welcome in the *Currents*. To shy to write it up? Just let Dennis know and an interview will suffice.

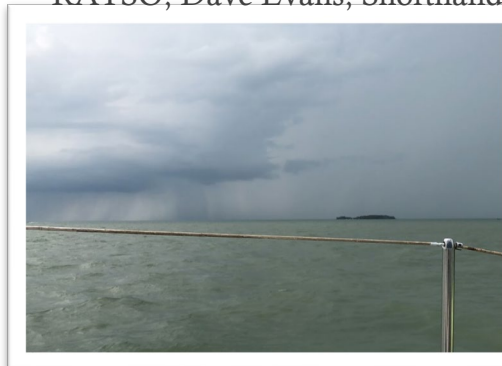
Past Commodore's

Saturday evening, April 21, Past Commodore Val Gujban, escorted by our own Zane Handsides was honoured with a dinner at the LaSalle Town Grill. There were many Mariners in attendance. Stories rather than formal speeches were the mode for the presentation. Past Commodore, Val mingled with everyone enjoying the cordial atmosphere.



Shakedown Regatta

The 45th annual Shakedown Regatta, May 19, had over 20 entries. Light and storm conditions challenged the fleet with the first boat crossing the finish at 15:30 Hrs. Ist place honours went to Ten Forward, Will Lightfoot, CIYC PHRF A; August West, Wesley Arthur, SPSC, PHRF B; Silverheels II JOG, Jennifer Pullen, LMYC and to be sure, RATSO, Dave Evans, Shorthanded, LMYC.



Race Director, Maciej, took these two shots. To the left we see the storm over Lake Erie but the water is unusually

approaches the finish line but if you notice, the wave action is still slight.



