



## The Currents

**LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club**  
2640 1/2 Front Road  
LaSalle Ontario, N9J 2N1

Aerial photo – a view of LMYC – courtesy of the ERCA web-site mapping tool

### April 2012 Issue

#### From the Commodore...

##### Members

At our last general meeting, the club was in turmoil. I would like to report now, that the club is moving in a positive direction.

Members, are starting to work together. Our galley is almost done. Our cupboards are beautiful due to the hard work of Frank and Gus. We are currently waiting for the counter tops to finish the job. Our past commodores are reworking and rewriting the bylaws. I understand it is going quite well.

In February we were worried about losing more members, losing more income and having more empty docks. That did not happen! With the support of all the members, we have moved the club in a most favorable way.

We now have two new members, with boats. Next week we will have another new member, with a boat. All three of these members expressed an interest in racing either Monday, Wednesday or both.

We have boats in the harbor a month early. We have already started working on projects to better the club. Our club is coming together.

We are doing great, and we are in great shape.

Bob Reaume



Commodore – Bob Reaume  
Secretary – Tony Berends  
House Director – Mike Tyler  
Race Director – Tim McWilliams  
Harbour Master – John Amyot Jr.  
Regalia –

Vice Commodore – Dave Nantais  
Treasurer – Tom Smith  
Social Director – Barb Pare  
Cruising Director – John Murphy  
Road and Grounds – Rob Ferguson  
Newsletter Editor – Roger Renaud

## Upcoming Events



**Past Commodore's Evening - Sat. April 28** - Andy will be honoured as the Past Commodore. A delicious dinner of your favourite dishes will be served with wine. An email was sent to members inviting you to attend this potluck dinner. It's a pot-luck so please email a response back to Barb Pare to what food you will bring.

**Blessing of The Fleet - Sat. June 2** - Arrangements have been made with Rev. Stan Fraser and also the Legion to take part again.



## Spring refresher racing videos – Sail faster – Sail safer

The British magazine *Yachting World* is doing a 12 part series on Advanced Sailing Techniques both in print and in short videos. Although you have to obtain the magazine to read the articles, the videos are available on their website (see link).

First published in February, professional sailor and coach Pip Hare guides you through various maneuvers on how to deal with such things as gybing, broaching etc. To view these videos, see the following link:

<http://www.yachtingworld.com/video/events/530957/1/video-sail-faster-sail-safer>

## Racing Update

Welcome to Spring LMYC Racers! Get the bottoms polished up and ready for another year of club racing and regattas! The 2012 Race dates have been confirmed and are posted in the clubhouse, outside on the bulletin board (on both sides) and on the website. They also include dates from CIYC, SPSC & TRYC. Watch all these places for information regarding racing. All paper copies of forms for all events will be hanging in a file folder pinned to the racing bulletin board in the clubhouse. Fill them out and drop them off in the Race Director mail slot that's hanging on the side of the fridge in the galley. Electronic applications for most events will be made available on-line too. Less muss, no fuss, do it from home in your pajamas! Just check the Race Form section of the site.

One past event was the Annual Racer Meeting and Breakfast. The highlights are everything remains status quo from last year except that the start sequence will change to the following. Spring & Summer series will start A, B then C. Fall series will reverse it C, B then A.

continue...

## Racing update continued...

Looking for some service hours for 2012? How does floating around the start & finish line sipping a rum and coke, enjoying some good fresh air and the beautiful view sound? The LMYC racing program is looking for some volunteers to help organize and run some of the races. All your time counts toward valid service hours. As an example, Monday night racers captains and crew alike, can benefit from a RC perspective to see exactly how the start sequence works and to see how each fleet develops their start strategy and tactics to benefit them. Vice-versa PHRF racers not participating in a JOG race could do a great benefit to JOG racers by reviewing their start strategy and tactic to help better their racing efforts. So it's a very good situation, the LMYC program benefits by developing good racers who know how starts work, you pick up service hours...it's win-win all around. Others might like to partner with me to work behind the scenes and organize some of our regattas.

Right now I'm looking for a crew to finish and a separate crew to start our 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Shakedown Regatta over to PIB. If you're interested in helping out in any capacity, please contact me at any time.

Our first 'fun' event is going to be the Cinco de Mayo event. It's on May 5<sup>th</sup>, actual Cinco de Mayo! It's an early season just for fun event where we'll be racing around Grassy Island. We'll start at the Widow's Walk and depending on the weather race clockwise or counter around the island. The fun thing about this event is that I'm encouraging you guys to race whatever you have that floats. So if you have a canoe, windsurfer, kayak, dingy or keelboat bring it! Don't have something to race? Find someone who does and crew! \$4 gets you in on a delicious beef fajita and margarita. Participate...just go around the island! See the flyer!

The next event is a big one! The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Shakedown Regatta over to PIB is going to take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Notice of Regatta will be posted very soon. Check all the usual places previously mentioned to pick up the info.

I'm looking forward to seeing everybody out there this year...the regulars and hopefully some new faces too! The LMYC race program is very good, participation wise, when compared to some of our sister clubs, so thank you for coming out. To continue to build on this, I would like to encourage all of you to continue on racing, helping out with planning a race, or by participating on RC. It all benefits our great club.

Tim - timothy.mcwilliams@sympatico.ca or 519-982-5335



**See  
Pages 10 - 11**

A reminder to those who have not submitted pictures of their boats to the album to be kept at the club. Al Buliga is collecting the photos of your boat, current and previous to be put in a binder at the club. Please include the name, type of boat and the years you had it. There is an envelop hanging in the club.

We are still looking for pictures and newspaper clippings to add to our archives. Please identify anyone in the pictures and the date taken. From the Historian

## Welcome new members...

A warm welcome goes out to our two newest members

- Chris Edwards sailing a C&C 24 named Madge 2
- Scott Pillon sailing a Kirby 25 named Azzura

## The safe boating guide

<http://www.waterwaysontario.com/safe-boating/safety-equipment/>



### It's springtime

Here's a great picture of a happy but dirty Bob O'Brien – he just finished sanding the bottom of his boat.



Don't forget to get an I-68 or a Nexus card

## From the Social Director...

### Children's Easter Party - Sunday, April 1

A happy group of children played pin the nose on the bunny and egg toss before searching for Easter eggs and dinosaur pictures. Brad created animal shapes and swords from balloons while Joanne painted their faces like rabbits. The highlight of the day was a visit from the Easter Bunny. The 10 children and 15 parents and grandparents munched on hot dogs, chicken nuggets, veggies, potato salad, cupcakes and ice cream, and drank hot chocolate and juice. The children ranged in age from 19 months to 10 years but everyone shared the candy and played together. Many laughs were had and squeals of delight as they departed with a treat bag. A special thank you to Joanne and Brad for the face painting and balloon creations. Thanks to Carol Ferguson for providing the bunny costume and my daughter Bonnie for playing the Easter Bunny. Thank you to Dennis for all his assistance with promotion, decorations, and cleanup.

Everyone is welcome to participate in our social events. If you are interested in assisting with the parties, organizing one of the upcoming events or cooking one of the breakfasts please contact me. The phone tree still has a few openings. This is a good way to get your work hours while meeting other club members.

Barb Pare

# Easter time at LaSalle Mariners - a great family day -



## The Easter Egg Hunt A good time was had by all



A good time was had by all



## - Take Notice -

In 2011 John Murphy completion of the Lake Erie solo to become a member of the Great Lakes Single Handed Society (GLSHS).



According to legend, the GLSHS all began innocently enough when a group of sailors were having a few beers on a cold windy night back in the autumn of 1978. The place was "Brownies on the Lake" and as the rounds of brew piled up, so did the enthusiasm for a Solo Challenge to Mackinac from Port Huron. Meetings were held throughout the following winter, until the details were finally worked out for the inaugural Mackinac Solo Challenge held on June 9, 1979.

The Lake Erie Solo Challenge became the newest addition to the membership granting challenges sanctioned by the Society when the membership voted to amend the Constitution accordingly at the 2007 Annual General Membership Meeting in Chicago. The inaugural Challenge took place on August 25, 2007, with a start off of North Cape Yacht Club near Monroe, Michigan, proceeding the length of Lake Erie to a rounding of the Seneca Shoal light near Buffalo, New York, and thence to a finish off of Presque Isle Harbor at Erie, Pennsylvania. All but one of the fifteen skippers completed the initial challenge, in which they saw gale force winds in a squall, and significant periods of no wind at all. Of the fourteen finishers, three were first timers, and as a result, they have been awarded lifetime membership in the Society. In terms of length, the LESC ranks third behind the Sault Ste. Marie - Duluth, and Chicago - Mackinac Island Challenges.

There is a very strong bond of admiration and respect among the Society members. Their friendship is strong and has overcome the barriers of time and distance to be together for the Society's social events. Starting with those 17 skippers that finished the first solo to Mackinac, the Society has grown into a strong vibrant organization that strives to provide encouragement to all sailors who often find that their boats must be handled shorthanded.

**Congratulations goes out to John Murphy.**





Photo by STAR STAFF  
LaSalle Mariners executive in the new lounge. From the left: Commodore Bob Clarke;  
Gord Freeman, director; Art Letts, vice- commodore and Dennis Hendel, director

## We needed a better porch!

The scene was awards time at our annual regatta, 1978. There was a small porch where the current middle bar is today - a door led out to a very small platform - a couple of steps and room for two people. When race winners came up to get flags and trophies –up one-step and back. The Commodore of note tried to be gracious until the rotten step gave

way dumping the Skipper on his backside along with his flag. Open the bar to recover!

During the afterglow - the Flag officer stated that we should have a new porch - maybe even screened for casual use. He launched a request into the air asking, “how much would that cost”? I offered a finite estimate of \$376 dollars. Could that be done—I said “of course” and smiled.

My plan included a footprint of 8x20 ft. roofed and enclosed. I am a first class scrounger. Conklin Lumber was where Reaume Motors is now. Bruce B. was the boss. The materials were in the open shed where we could see the wood. I would drag him out and show him the weather worn, scruffy stuff that I could use for our project. I said- “we want to make screens”, he said “WHY” – look here are windows with screens -old inventory - make me an offer - done. Prices were great from zip to low. I bought a new radial arm saw - accurate. My boys and I went to work. When the fleet came back on Labour Day - the outside was done.

To finish the interior was fun-insulate-drywall-cut the old wall open and paint and stuff. Tenny Mason said we need a fireplace and donated the insert and stack-we built a chase around it. Rino Masotti said ,“ gotta be bricked”. We do not know how lay bricks “I said”. I will show you-he said. With beer and Scotch it came to pass in one day. The beam supporting the old roof and post became the cornerstone of the current mid room bar with pine planks that became the theme of the clubhouse. Nobody used beams like that in those days - therefore one of the bargains.

To this day the cost of that screened in porch remains at \$376 dollars and a lot of “work hours”.

Bob Clark

The outside structure was built in the fall of 1978, and the project finished in 1979. – Ed.

## From Roads and Grounds...

Well a new year has started and many projects around the club are underway. Pot holes have been filled on the road thanks to a crew who on a late winter's day that came out and invented some innovative ways of moving gravel around the club. As well, some new gravel has been added to level off the area alongside the laneway to accommodate more cradle storage. This was done without filling in more of the natural area in which the club is maintaining. Lothar & Anne Bauer and Jim and Jennefer Beaudoin are just a few that have agreed again to adopt flower beds around the club. There are still a couple of areas around the club that can be adopted. Soon work we will start improving the pump out area. This includes incorporating the ice machine, staining the walls, addition of fill around on the waters edge and a new garden with mulch near the sea cadet dock. Don't forget April 21st (Saturday) there will be a yard cleanup during the morning and early afternoon.

Well beavers are back in the area. Beavers have been back around our club for around three years now and the population is growing. Beavers are another great addition to the amazing wildlife such as mink, swans, muskrats, ducks, turtles and herons you can see hanging out around our club. Beavers do have there drawback though. The main one is that they can chop down some big size trees. Many trees have already been knocked down on Grassy Island and this year the Blacktons found that a beaver took down a good size tree just south of our clubhouse in the recently acquired wetland. So during the work party on April 21st we hope to put some simple caging (4ft high) around the bases of most of the big tees that provide the south harbour with shade and protection from the wind.

Some info about beavers - Beavers have very strong and sharp teeth which are paired with powerful jaw muscles. A single beaver can cause a medium sized tree to fall in a single night! Beaver teeth never stop growing, so it is believed that beavers need to constantly chew wood to prevent their teeth from growing too long! Amazingly, due to a hard orange enamel on the front side of their incisors and a softer white dentin on the backside of these teeth, their teeth are self-sharpening as they chew on wood. As beavers chew the softer backsides of the incisors wear faster, creating teeth with chisel-like cutting surfaces. They also have molars which they use for grinding their food. As well as sharpening there teeth a beaver cuts down a tree it wants to eat the inner, growing (cambium) layer of the tree bark. That is why they will nibble all the bark off the branch, leaving a debarked stick. They will also eat the fine twigs and leaves. However, they do not eat the inner woody part of the branches and tree trunk as they are unable to digest the wood. Once the bark is all eaten from a branch, they reuse the stick to build their lodges and dams. A beaver's diet consists solely of vegetation. They do not eat fish or any non-plant materials. The reason they topple trees is to gain access to all the bark on the tree as well as the smaller twigs and leaves. Branches will be chewed off in sections that are small enough to drag into the water for safe and leisurely eating. The bark of large tree trunks will be chewed where it lies if the beaver can reach it. Beavers prefer to cut down smaller diameter trees because the bark is thinner and easier to digest, but they can topple any size tree.



Rob Ferguson



## Cruising Update

A 'Cruise Evening' will be announced depending on the level of interest. Please contact the Cruise Director should you have an interest in a Cruise Program.

The current itinerary is:

- 1) Weekend Cruise - City Marina to Thames River Yacht Club
- 2) Weekend Cruise - LMYC to Leamington
- 3) Long Distance Cruise to Cleveland, which would be a natural continuation from the Pelee Isle. Race

Cruise Director: John Murphy 519-566-4644

## From the Editor



The aerial photo on the first page is from the ERCA aerial mapping system found at their website. The zoom-in capabilities are better and closer than Google Earth. You can zoom-in to the scale you want. This picture on page 1 is 1:2500. It's a geography system, easy to use, and you can overlay things like property lines, flood plains etc. I think the picture is candidate to become the permanent newsletter cover picture.



Looking for a new target...



The Detroit River at Amherstburg.