

KITSILANO YACHT CLUB



The Hailer January 2017

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Message from the Commodore

KYC the permanent home for the Stuart Sinclair Memorial Trophy

In December, the Kitsilano Yacht Club in Vancouver, BC was fortunate to receive a visit from Seattle sailor Tony Devita, a long-time 505 sailor in the PNW 505 fleet, and a fast friend of the late 505 sailor Stuart Sinclair, whom many of us knew well.

Stuart was a member of the Astoria Yacht Club in Oregon (the burgee on the Starboard side of the trophy transom) and the Holy Loch Yacht Club in Scotland (the burgee on the Port side of the transom).

He sailed his 505 all over the Pacific Northwest and BC for about 10 years, including at KYC events, such as the Kits Invitational and the 2005 International 505 Pacific Coast Championships held at KYC.

However, there was no active 505 fleet in Astoria, and eventually Stuart got tired of being the only local guy sailing “one design” in his 505.

Stuart eventually sold his 505 to KYC member Terry Thomas, and she still races it from KYC.

Stuart then went on to buy an Olson 30, because there was an active fleet in Astoria.

However, he still actively supported the 505 fleet in the Pacific Northwest, and he volunteered for race committee duty at a number of events, especially for events held by the Port Townsend 505 fleet, including the 2010 Pacific Coast Championships held there.

Tragically he suffered an aneurism and died on his Olson 30 during a race start sequence in May 2012.

After that, the Port Townsend 505 fleet inaugurated the “Stuart Sinclair Memorial Regatta”, which has usually been sailed there in late May. I believe one year it was held in Oak Harbor, WA, but never at KYC yet. There is no specific plan to have KYC designated as host in future yet, but anything is possible, and now that the trophy is here, perhaps even likely!



Tony Devita installing the Stuart Sinclair trophy he built

As you are probably aware, Tony constructed a beautiful trophy for this event to commemorate Stuart’s active role in the 505 community. Stuart’s widow wanted the trophy to be somewhere with a physical clubhouse capable of prominently displaying it, and also an active 505 fleet sailing from that club.

I am very proud to say that Tony requested the Kitsilano Yacht Club to be the permanent host of this trophy.

KYC has been home to Fleet #1 of the Canadian 505 Class Association since 1962 and, over the past 55 years, KYC has had the privilege of hosting many events for 505 sailors from around Western Canada, the Pacific Northwest of the USA, and points beyond.

The club is very honoured to be named as the permanent host for this trophy.

I hope you all will take the opportunity to compete in the Stuart Sinclair Memorial Regatta in the years to come, and that you will take the time to view the trophy, located on the ceiling beam in the KYC main hall, east of the collection of 505 photos, very near the bar, and to remember Stuart when you attend your next 505 event at the Kitsilano Yacht Club.

Fleet News – Pacific Reach

Have you seen? The Pacific Reach paddlers of KYC are very active members all year around. They are out there rain or shine every week in the Hawaiian 6-man Outrigger Canoes parked near the KYC gate. This Polynesian Sport requires 6 paddlers in the boat with the 6th seat being the steersperson. The boats are designed for travelling in open ocean waves. Fall to winter is the low season for the paddlers to come out for fitness and maintenance so now is the best time for new people to try outrigger at a slower pace whether you are a novice, recreational or experienced. If you have paddled a kayak, canoe, SUP or done rowing, you will enjoy outrigger. Equipment and Coaching are included in this program. March onwards is when the Outrigger race season ramps up to longer distances on the water training towards local race series as well as races across Canada, USA, or ultra races in Hawaii. Rob and Carmen Varnel have coached/managed the Pacific Reach paddlers since 2001. If you would like to drop in for a complimentary paddling session as a KYC guest to find out more information on this program, please email pacificreachadmin@shaw.ca



Pacific Reach Men's crew racing from Molokai to Waikiki Beach, Hawaii



Christmas paddle session at KYC



Pacific Reach Mixed Masters Team at Penticton race on Skaha Lake

Know your Club

The Club bylaws stipulate the Club shall have two ranks of officers, Flag Officers and Honourary Officers. Flag officers are elected, for a one year term, at the KYC Annual General Meeting, held each October. The Flag Officers are Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Fleet Captain, and Staff Captain.

As per our bylaws, our Commodore, Brian Trainor, presides at all Club meetings, commands the squadron, enforces the Bylaws and supervises the affairs of the Club. He may assign additional duties to officers as required.

I found this explanation on the Neuse Sailing Association site (<http://www.neusesailingassociation.org/sailing-traditions>): The commodore of a yacht club is addressed in formal and also most informal situations as “Commodore.” The title “Commodore” is also used for all past commodores. This form of address for both current and past commodores is in recognition of the time and effort it takes to become commodore of a yacht club: “Once a commodore, always a commodore.” The word “commodore” comes from the Dutch word komadeur. It was adopted by the British Navy to denote the officer temporarily in command of a squadron or fleet. At one time, the United States Navy used the term to denote a one-star officer above the rank of captain but below the rank of rear admiral. But the Navy abolished that rank. Today, the word is used to designate the chief officer of a yacht club. The commodore commands the fleet but does not necessarily lead it because leading the fleet is only one part of the operation of a yacht club.

Historical Vignettes

Commodores

Kitsilano Yacht Club has had only 42 Commodores over the past 82 years. In many Yacht Clubs, the Commodore serves for one year and then is succeeded by the Vice Commodore. This has not always been the practice at KYC where many men have served 2 or more terms as Commodore.

Three individuals have been granted the distinction Honorary Life Commodore. George Martin was the first in 1947. George was a “flattie” sailor and an original member of the club. The current Honorary Life Commodore, Matt Henley, was honoured in 2012. While Matt is still extremely active in the Club, and thus familiar to current Club members, only a few older members remember Al Cleaver.

Al joined the yacht club in 1944 and was an active member of the Cruising Fleet until his death in 1999. He served as Commodore for 6 years and was named as Honorary Life Commodore in 1964. He was described as “one of its hardest workers” who had “been at hand for meetings, work parties, regattas and all club functions at all times”. He had “taken the time to stop in at the Club during unexpected storms to check on the building, club wharves and equipment”.

In 1984, Al contributed a congratulatory letter for the 50th anniversary year book and also recorded some of his memories of the 50's and 60's when "the Club did not have an electric hoist , "the dock was much shorter" and "the water seemed to come a lot further up the beach". It was still possible to "launch Stars at almost any time, but by hand". In those days "the general principle was that the boats went in the water in the Spring, and they stayed out on moorings and sailed from there". Al allowed that this had some obvious disadvantages but "developed a great deal of skill in boat handling".

At this time the Club had two floats and they were towed into the inner harbor in the winter. Al described the process. If there was a tug going that way "he would usually do it for some nominal fee like \$10. "But when the Club towed them in themselves, it was quite a performance. We used to have a bit of a party going and it must have been quite a sight to see the little radio going and the dance in progress with maybe 10 or 12 couples dancing like mad on the float as they were towed under the bridge'. This generally occurred quite late at night and "The fellow on the bridge usually helped the situation by following it in with a searchlight". I don't think this would happen today.

Contributed by Barbara Dill

Derek Gilmore

Brain Trainor received the following email notification from Derek Gilmore's son-in-law in Belfast:

Please forgive the email out of the blue but I am writing to share with you the sad news of the death, after a brief illness, of Derek Gilmore who was a former member of Kitsilano Yacht Club during the 1960s. Derek, my father in law, was a member from 1966 to 1968. He always spoke very fondly of his time in Vancouver in particular his time sailing in the Flying Dutchman class at Kitsilano. He kept a detailed scrap book of his sailing days at your club which he has shared with me. One of the many stories which Derek regaled us with was the time he and George Kirkwood (another former member who now lives in Comox) became lost at sea, in fog, in their Flying Dutchman for 2 nights on the way to the Maple Bay Regatta. I understand that their (mis)adventure was humorously marked in the club's annual prize giving that year.

On his return to Ireland Derek went on to have a very successful sailing career in the Scorpion and Flying Fifteen classes out of Kircubbin Sailing Club our small local club on Strangford Lough. He also spent a lot of time racing offshore in large cruisers completing a number of Fastnet and Round Ireland circuits as well as countless nearer shore events. Derek's pride and joy was his 1973 Contessa 35, Gumdrop which we sailed hard to much success during the last 16/17 years.

Derek was actively involved in sailing right up to the end and only resigned his position of Commodore of KSC just 10 days before he passed away. He is survived by his wife Liz, two daughters and his 5 grandchildren. He will be missed by us all and I have no doubt that some of your senior members will remember Derek as well.

Inventor of the Elvstrøm bailer and boom vang

Paul Elvstrøm died December 7, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Elvstr%C3%B8m

Elvstrøm was an enormous figure in small-boat racing, and as sailors we all owe him a debt of gratitude every time we use a boom vang to tune our mainsails, or our “Elvstrom Bailers” to drain the cockpit water.

He competed in 8 Olympic games from 1948 to 1988, winning four consecutive gold medals 1948-1960.

In relation to currently active KYC fleets, he was the 1957 International 505 World Champion, and the 1966, 1967, and 1969 International Star World Champion.

He was voted “Danish Sportsman of the Century” in 1996.

Perhaps his greatest legacy is a quote of his that I have often heard repeated by racing sailors: “You haven't won the race, if in winning the race you have lost the respect of your competitors.”

Words we should all live by as active racers at KYC, no matter what the fleet, paddle or sail.

Contributed by Brain Trainor



Mark Your Calendar – Saturday, March 4

On Saturday, March 4, Kitsilano Yacht Club is pleased to host Geoff Moore as he presents the North U Rules & Tactics Seminar. Check-in is at 8:30am and the seminar runs from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

You can't play the game if you don't know the rules. The North U Rules & Tactics Seminar covers the racing rules, (new & old), and related tactics with a case-based curriculum so you'll understand your rights, obligations and tactical options whenever boats meet. Dave Perry's North U Racing Rules & Tactics Workbook is included with the course.

Price* includes lunch

Member CN\$115

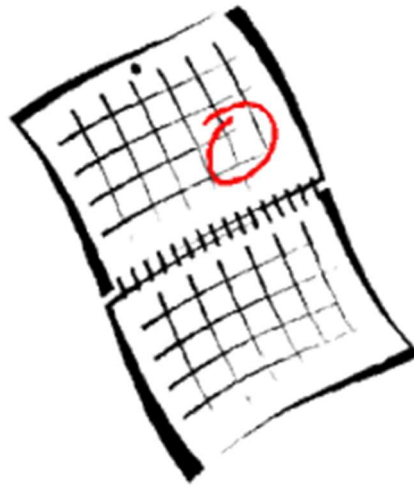
Skipper CN\$135

Crew CN\$115

Jr/ Student CN\$70

* Plus GST & PST

REGISTER TODAY AT NorthU.com or call 203 245-0727.



From the Staff Captain

If you are reading and enjoying this newsletter, please pass the word along to other members to take a look. The Hailer has only recently returned and the November newsletter has been viewed 55 times and the December newsletter 22 times. Please pass along, to Colm, any suggestions or comments about what you see, or would like to see in the newsletter and he will pass them along to me.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the January Hailer, Carmen Varnel, Barbara Dill, and Brian Trainor. Barbara also provides proof reading and editing, thank you.

Here comes the Sun!

By the time you read this hopefully, we will be back to a “normal” Vancouver winter. As I sit at my computer, working on the January newsletter, I can see ice floating in the Fraser River; I am wrapped up in two sweaters; have the heat cranked up; a hot cup of tea within reach; the radio is predicting arctic air and minus 5 for tonight. We need a little light and a little warmth.

The great action shot of the Pacific Reach Mixed Masters Team on Skaha Lake offers a lovely image of sun and heat and made me think of balmy weather and what we have to look forward to later this year. May the photo of the paddlers plus these few photos of the 2014 Kits Invitational, give us all a warm moment of anticipation.







Kits Invitational photos were taken by Su Bailey and are available on the KYC website.

P.S. This newsletter is due to be available on January 22, 2017. By then, we will have gained 9 minutes of daylight in the morning and 37 minutes of daylight at the end of the day for a total increase of 46 extra minutes of daylight since the Winter Solstice!



Contact Us

Do you have suggestions or comments you would like to share? Your feedback is welcomed whether we are doing something well or if there is something we could be doing better. Feedback is important as it helps us to make positive changes and, we need to hear from you. Our General Manager, Colm Webb, would like to receive your comments.

Colm can be reached at manager@kitsilanoyachtclub.com or 604-730-1646. Colm can also take your feedback confidentiality if you wish.

The Last, Silly word....

Told a friend that I went on a sailing course in Poole. He said “In Dorset?” I said, “yes, I definitely recommend it.”

