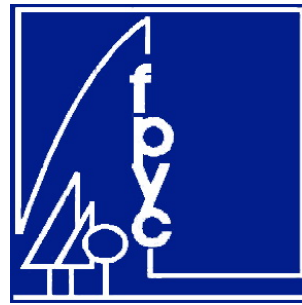


Scuttlebutt



April 2017

Fifty Point Yacht Club www.fpyc.ca

2017 Issue #4

It's that time of year again....



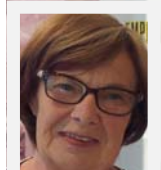
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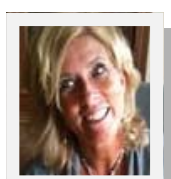
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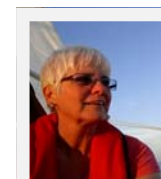
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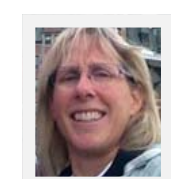
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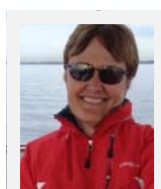
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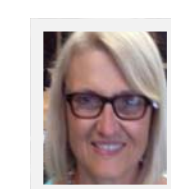
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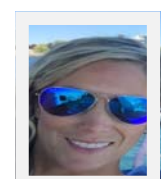
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From the Bridge...

Stephen Middleton, Commodore

April



“April showers bring May flowers”, or so the old verse goes, but just at this moment I am looking out of the window and puzzling over what might rhyme with “April monsoons”. It has been an exceptionally wet period featuring back to back rainfall warnings. There are, however, some distinct upsides to the downpour. First off, ITS NOT SNOW! Although we are not out of the woods on that score yet. I took the boat cover off last weekend, so I am expecting at least one last winter blast. [PS - 24 hours later, the “blast” has been and gone.]

Secondly, the harbour water levels are looking better every day. There is a fine balance between (a) bouncing the keel off the bottom of the harbour entrance channel by mid August and (b) having to find a creative way to get the boat to sit lower in the water (I leave that to you collective imagination) so that the crane can get the base of the mast high enough to clear the lifelines. This sailing business is just one darned thing after another isn't it? Seriously though, whenever you see a group of boaters, especially at the beginning of their season, you are looking at some of the luckiest people on the planet. As the Kenneth Grahame quote on our website home page says, “...there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”

A close second, of course, is messing about around the harbour and we will begin that in earnest with our Pre-Splash BBQ on April 27. Join us for a free lunch - something to keep your energy up for dealing with the rigours of boat launching and yes, that is a sailboat pun in case you were wondering. This year the pre-splash event is made possible by the generosity of Wayne and Teresa Bryant (La Vie II) who will be providing the food for the BBQ. On behalf of all of us who are going to enjoy it, thank you!

The other thing you will be able to take care of at the BBQ is renewing your FPYC membership. Along with everything else that you have going on, it is important to get this done by the end of April. While we are no longer offering the discount, you will need to show your new membership card to attend the free SailPast dinner and you will need your membership number to sign-up for cruises. You can get it done at the April 27 BBQ or you can do it anytime online.

One thing I have learned from my time in project and change management is that important things need to be communicated more than once. So bear with me while I recap the main points I covered in the last Scuttlebutt with respect to membership renewal, timing and club events:

- We will have a membership table at the pre-launch BBQ on April 29. For returning members, your new cards will be ready for you to pick up.
- Memberships can also be renewed online; the revised web-form is now available on the FPYC website, just click on the “Join Our Club” button on the home page. (<http://www.fpyc.ca/>) Open, download, complete and save the form. You can then email it to pogo26@cogeco.ca. You will find the instructions for e-transfer payment under the Frequent Questions section at the bottom of the same page.
- If you don't get your membership card at the Pre-Launch event, you can pick it up at SailPast on May 27.
- On-line sign-up for the SailPast dinner (similar to the cruise sign-up sheet) will be available May 1 and close May 21 to allow time for provisioning.

...continued

From the Bridge...

- You will need show your new membership card to get your food at the Sail Past dinner. Be sure to bring it with you!
- Each membership covers dinner for two plus immediate dependent family.
- Guest tickets for extended family and friends will be available at a cost of \$15 per person.
- On-line sign-up for Cruising will be available starting May 1.
- You will need your 2017 membership number to sign up for cruises.

There you have it. Two options - one comes with free food, while the other can be done in less than 10 minutes from your favourite armchair and may or may not include your favourite cocktail. I know mine did.

There is one other topic I want to cover before you get back your boat launch preparations, a personal favourite; the topic of reciprocal relationships between yacht clubs. I have written about the reciprocal system in the past. For many of us this is the most valued benefit of club membership. It is a unique and quite amazing arrangement between yacht clubs around the lake that allows members to sail to other harbours, enjoy free mooring (at least for part of the stay) and take advantage of the facilities. And contrary to what you might expect of such an informal agreement, involving so many clubs and individuals, it works, and what's more, most of the time it works really well. I don't know of any other pastime, hobby or passion that offers anything comparable. Maybe there are and I just don't know of it. I do understand that if you are an RV owner you can spend the night in any Walmart parking lot free of charge but somehow this just doesn't measure up or, for that matter, ring my bell in any way at all. (Apologies to RV owners everywhere.)

That is not to say that there aren't issues between clubs from time to time. Yacht clubs set and manage their reciprocal policy in the way that meets their particular needs. As a result, there are differences in policy from club to club and occasionally this can cause friction. I personally see the job of minimizing sources of friction and maintaining good relationships with other clubs is an important part of the Commodore's role.

Keeping our reciprocal policy as open and inclusive as possible is a key factor in the relationship. As you know, FPYC has an agreement with the marina under which we pay a fixed rate per night for reciprocal visitors. Approximate 65% of your membership fee is used to cover these fees. In the past, the club aimed to control this expense by limiting the number of reciprocal visitors allowed. In the early days the limit was set at 3 slips on weekends and 5 slips during the week. This restriction was published in the Ports book up to and including the 2008 edition. The 3 slip number was still being (incorrectly) quoted in some yacht club publications as recently as 2015. The low number of available slips became a major source of aggravation and complaint from other clubs. During his term as Commodore, Brian Weber worked to repair and improve our relationships. The policy was relaxed, removing all restrictions during the week and increasing the available weekend slips to ten. As a result of Brian's work, when I took on the Commodore's role for the 2015 season, our reciprocal relationships with other clubs were much improved.

...continued

From the Bridge

Over the past two seasons we have continued to make our policy more open and inclusive. Last year we removed all restrictions on the number of visitors and the outcome? The number of slips provided (and our resulting cost) remained comparable to previous years. We have effectively removed sources of friction with other clubs without increasing our annual cost, win-win.

There is another source of complaint that we will address this year. That is the issue of visitors reserving reciprocal slips. When our reciprocals were strictly limited, it made some sense to keep them on a first come basis, but this is no longer the case. Also, over the years, as you have probably noticed, there has been a trend towards larger vessels. I don't have the statistics but I think it is safe to say that the average size of visiting boats has increased. Many of the larger visiting vessels come from clubs that are favourite destinations for FPYC members. Mooring space for larger boats is limited and they are not going to set out across the lake without knowing that the marina can accommodate them on arrival. As a result, to this point, they have been forced to reserve a slip and forego their reciprocal night. This year, in agreement with Rob and Nancy, we have removed the restrictions and will accept reservations for reciprocal visits.

Below you will find the newly revised FPYC reciprocal policy - this is now posted on our website:

FPYC has an open and perpetual reciprocal policy:

We provide first night free mooring and reciprocal privileges to current members of all yacht clubs
Visitors are required to show both a club burgee and a current membership card

FPYC is located within the 200 acre Fifty Point Conservation Area. The Fifty Point Marina is owned and operated by the Hamilton Conservation Authority. FPYC rents slips from the Authority. **There are over 300 slips in the marina.** Not all boats are members of the yacht club; however, **reciprocal visitors may be assigned any available slip.**

Slip assignments are managed by the marina gas dock staff. Fifty Point Marina is a popular boating destination, especially on holiday weekends, even so, it is very rare that slips are fully occupied and every effort is made to accommodate all visitors.

If you are planning a weekend visit, you are welcome to contact the marina to inquire about expected availability of slips. **Reservations are not normally required but can be arranged, if necessary, with the marina staff.** Checking ahead with the marina is recommended for larger vessels, especially when planning to visit on a long weekend. If a reservation is required, **FPYC will pay for the first night for your reserved slip.**

...continued

From the Bridge

Our cruising members greatly appreciate the hospitality extended by other yacht clubs around the Lake. FPYC is happy to welcome you to Fifty Point Marina. We wish you a safe and happy boating season and hope you consider Fifty Point in your summer travel plans.

FPYC Visitors to your club:

Not every boat in Fifty Point Marina is a FPYC club member. When a boat from "Fifty Point" visits your club, please be sure to ask to see their current membership card and a burgee to ensure they are a yacht club member.

When planning your summer ports of call, the most accurate and up-to-date source for visitor information will always be the destination club's website. Another source you may want to check is the Lake Ontario Cruising Club Association website. The LOCCA site (<http://locca.org/>) has established a "reciprocal repository" which at last check listed 56 clubs with more than 80% providing basic information about their reciprocal policy (e.g. number of free nights, maximum number of nights per stay, cost for extra nights) and a link to their website.

Further exploration of the LOCCA site will take you to their proposed definition of a yacht club and standardized reciprocal policy. These proposals are based on premises about which I am currently very skeptical, (i) that marinas are an existential threat to yacht clubs and (ii) that the current variation in club policies is damaging the reciprocal tradition - more about this topic in a future edition.

As you cruise this summer, or meet visitors to our club, please pass on the up to date information about our reciprocal policy. The "old knowledge" tends to hang around for a long time as a source of irritation. The more we communicate and promote FPYC and our current policy, the sooner we will be able to correct the inaccurate perceptions.

Thanks for your help and here's to a great season.

Cheers!
Stephen

Hamilton to Host 11 Tall Ships from June 30 to July 2, 2017

The city of Hamilton will be hosting 11 magnificent Tall Ships in the Hamilton Waterfront during the RENDEZ-VOUS (RDV) Tall Ships Regatta at Pier 8.

Interested? Click here for some [more information](#)

Do you know of any local July 1st events that FPYC members might like to attend this year? Let me know and we will publish the info in our June issue of Scuttlebutt.

2017 Fifty Point Yacht Club Social Events

Launch Day is getting closer & closer....time to start making plans, marking calendars and looking forward to life at the boat for the season! So we've cooked up some fun events again this year, that we're sure you're going to want to take part in! Here we go.....

Saturday April 29th – Pre Launch BBQ (info below)

Saturday May 27th – Sailpast and Blessing of the Boats (**free for 2017 paid members**)

Saturday June 10th – New FPYC Members Potluck

Saturday July 22nd – Pot-Luck BBQ & Dance

Saturday November 4th – Commodores Ball

We'll get these events up on the website calendar and each month in Scuttlebutt, we'll give details of the next upcoming event(s).

Pre-Launch BBQ

Date : Saturday April 29th
Location : D Dock Shelter area
Time : 11:00am – 1:00pm

What is it?..... A little nourishment for all of us that have already launched and for those that haven't yet launched, and are still busy working on your boats to get them ready! There will be BBQ'd hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, (and maybe some healthy snacks too)...coffee, tea, pop & water.....all **FREE OF CHARGE!** Come and re-acquaint yourself with everyone and introduce yourself to new members, etc!

Membership Renewal & FPYC Clothing will be for sale during the BBQ

www.fpyc.ca

FPYC Club Cruises

Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Fifty Point Yacht Club boaters at some of the finest clubs on Western Lake Ontario. Each cruise will feature a potluck dinner and/or appetizer event organized by a volunteer Cruise Captain.

The cruise captain hosts a pre-cruise coffee meeting, usually scheduled on Saturday morning of the cruise weekend. At the meeting, the captain shares any instructions or other information from the host club (calling-in instructions and/or dock assignments), distributes the cruise list, assigns a radio channel for boaters and gets agreement on a fleet departure time for those planning to travel together.

On arrival the captain checks with the Dock Master or Officer of the Day at the host club to make sure everything has gone according to plan with slip assignments and to determine where the group can get together for the potluck dinner/appetizer event.

Cruise captains who wish to organize other activities, especially on long weekends, are encouraged to do so!

2017 Cruise Schedule

We are happy to announce our club cruise schedule for 2017. The form to sign up for cruises will be posted **on the FPYC website on May 1st** and we will start taking requests at that time. Cruises are limited to 20 boats....first come, first served!

Oakville Club

June 17/18

The traditional start to the cruising season. The club offers a pool, tennis, squash and badminton, dining room and bar. Downtown Oakville is a short walk away for shopping and dining out.

Mimico Cruising Club

July 1, 2 & 3

Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in style. Wear your red and white and decorate your boat for the occasion. There promises to be lots of local fireworks displays for viewing. ****Please read the following important info recently received from Mimco Cruising Club**

****“Since we agreed to your reciprocal on the July 1st long weekend in November, we have recently learned of a celebration on the Humber Bay Point on the same weekend which is expected to draw about a hundred thousand people right beside our club. This won't affect your members and they are still welcome to visit MCC if they choose, but we can't guarantee the conditions on the Point. It may be noisy. There could be security problems with so many people. If your members do decide to visit us, we won't be able to accommodate more than ten boats since most of us will be staying put.”**

Royal Hamilton Yacht Club

July 15/16

A short journey with lots of time to enjoy the outdoor pool and the Hamilton Harbour waterfront trail. On Friday July 14, participate in an optional “anchor night” at nearby Carroll's Point.

Port Credit Yacht Club

August 5, 6 & 7

Join us on our family cruise weekend with lots for the kids and adults too – outdoor pool, playground, great restaurant and beautiful trails along the lakeshore. See if you can spot Mike Holmes and his boat!

Oakville Yacht Squadron

August 19/20

Back to Oakville for those who missed the first cruise to the area or just want to return with a view from the other side of the river. This self-help club has a full service kitchen for those so inclined.

Royal Canadian Yacht Club

September 2, 3 & 4

Wrap up the season on the Toronto Islands with tons of activities for all ages. Bring your bike to enjoy all the islands or if you are feeling adventuresome head over to the clothing-optional beach. The club has an outdoor pool and a beautiful verandah to enjoy a hot summer evening.

Sue Millar (G26) & Judie Galvin (G28)
FPYC Cruising Directors

**HELP
WANTED**

I have had the pleasure of providing Fifty Point Club Members with our monthly newsletter known as Scuttlebutt since my first edition in December 2012. While I have enjoyed this volunteer opportunity immensely, I am getting ready to head into retirement and I would like to free up some time to pursue other opportunities so it's time to hand the torch over to someone new with fresh ideas! In short, I am looking for someone to take over Scuttlebutt soon while I am able to help with the transition as November 2017 will be my last issue.

Editing Scuttlebutt is a great way to get to know your fellow FPYC members and would be ideal for someone with a passion for photography or writing.

If you would like some more information on this opportunity, or think you might be interested in volunteering for this task, please email me at jayneherring9@gmail.com.

Jayne





Follow along with our FPYC club members on their travels!

Click on the word [BLOG](#) below to go to each site...

Steve & Lise Denison (Boat—GaYa)
'GaYa on the Move'

[BLOG](#)

On the coast of Florida, getting ready to head home

Al & Laurie Pollard (Boat—Needfull Things)
'Needfull Things'

[BLOG](#)

Boat is on the hard for hurricane season in Florida, flying home out West soon

John, Kathryn, Simon & Wavey Middleton (Boat—Nahanni V)
'Nahanni V At Sea'

[BLOG](#)

In St. Maarten having a wonderful time!

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Local & World Sailing Events by Garry Cooke

For those that would like a challenge, there are a number of races on Lake Ontario for single-handed and short-handed racing.

I have just signed up for a number of single-handed events on the Lake, from 25 nautical miles, 75 nautical miles up to 300 nautical miles. Hopefully my work schedule will allow me to participate in these events, but if you are interested check out the LOSHRS (Lake Ontario Offshore Racing, Lake Ontario Short-Handed Racing Series) website to register. Most races start from Port Credit YC, so you will have to sail there the day before the event; but they do have docking available.

There are a number of equipment and safety requirements that you will need to meet in order to compete, so it is advisable to run through the lists early to make sure your yacht is fully fitted out. Hope to see more FPYC boats represented in the races!

World Sailing Events: Americas Cup (35)

The Americas Cup is scheduled to start in May in Bermuda. The run up to the event has been rather disappointing. It seems that every time the Americas Cup is brought up in the media, it is over some issue regarding Lawyers and Lawsuits.

The boats in this regatta are multi hull catamarans, that will likely achieve speed well over 35 knots (some have quoted speeds unofficially of 46 knots). They all will be 'flying' boats, since they utilize hydrofoils to lift the boat completely above the water surface.

The secret to winning the regatta, will be to keep the boat in the air; even on the tacks and gybes. The speed decreases dramatically if the hull is in the water and not above the water supported by the foils.

If you are planning a trip to watch it, I have seen a number of charter boat rentals advertised in Bermuda where you can rent a catamaran to watch the other 'cats' fly by!



Celebration of Life for Doug Nixon

There will be a second celebration of life for Doug Nixon (Mist Approach) to be held on Saturday, May 27, 2017, (after Sailpast) at the F Dock Shelter from 3:00—4:30 p.m.

As some people were unable to attend the first celebration, club members thought it would be fitting to hold a second celebration at Fifty Point, as the water played a significant part of Doug's life.

Please drop by to say hello and share a memory with Chris Nixon, John and Barb.



Ask to join FPYC - Fifty Point Yacht Club



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SAIL

- 44' Beneteau 44CC- 1996- beautiful 3 stateroom/2 head.....**SOLD**
- 36' Nautilus Pilothouse-1979- nice condition with a long list of extras.....\$59,900
- 30' Eagle Catalina Pilothouse-1977-..SALE PENDING.....\$19,900
- 26' Nonsuch-1981- good condition, Happy Pac,.....\$28,900

POWER

- 45' Silverton 453- 2000- beautiful 3 stateroom yacht.....**SOLD**
- 38' Carver Santego 380- 1999- very spacious one floor layout provides huge living space, large bridge with walkout to fore deck, new canvas, upholstery, well equipped and maintained.....\$95,900
- 35' Chris Craft Catalina 350- 1985-**SOLD**
- 32' Monterey 320 Sport Yacht-2010- beautiful condition and loaded! Low hrs. on twin, Volvos with joystick, Genny, and much more.....\$169,900.
- 32' North Shore NS-32 Trawler-2004-Nova Scotia built, very unique and spacious, low hours on Cummins diesel, genny, complete hardtop.....\$62,900.
- 31' Sea Ray Sundancer 310-2010- less than 100hrs on this boat, factory bowthruster, full canvas with tonneau, built in grill in cockpit.....\$159,900.
- 31' Sea Ray Sundancer 310-1998- beautiful turnkey express.....**SOLD**
- 30' Doral Prestancia-1989- Very nice condition. Only 175 hrs on rebuilt motors. Well equipped and maintained.....\$23,900.



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Meet your New Executive!

*Kim Short
Social Director*

Hola! New members on the FPYC board are asked to write a few words to introduce themselves. So for those of you who don't know me, I am Kim Short, first mate to Don Wood aboard No Rush. No Rush is a Catalina 320 docked at G18. We love our sailing life and the wonderful friends we have made at Fifty Point Yacht Club and Marina. This will be our eighth season at Fifty Point. Many of you will recognize me as the one who is chasing Tucker after he escapes from our boat!! Tucker likes to be known as the one who keeps the docks "geese free"!

I have recently retired from a thirty-year career in education and am looking forward to playing a more active role with our yacht club's social events. The first event is the Pre Splash BBQ on April 29th in the D Dock shelter. Stop by for a burger and a break from your boat work!

You may see me around the marina in my kayak exploring the water or up on the platform overlooking the lake enjoying some yoga with Tucker or with a group of from the marina. My other passion is dragon boating. I am very involved with a crew based out of Macassa Bay in Hamilton. Sunday afternoons you can usually find me enjoying an ice cream cone and watching the boats come and go through the channel. On the home front, Don and I are proud to share five children and six grandchildren. So life is always busy and we are looking forward to many new adventures.

Feel free to stop by No Rush to say hello and introduce yourself and/or to provide any feedback for the board. Looking forward to another great season of sailing, social good times and soaking up the sun!

Best,
Kim

