

# Scuttlebutt



January 2015

Fifty Point Yacht Club www.fpyc.ca

2015 Issue # 1



Happy New Year and

all the best for

2015



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# From the Bridge...

## Stephen Middleton, Commodore



I am writing this article a few days before Christmas, although by the time you read it we will have already welcomed 2015. Back here in 2014 the holiday weather forecast is covering all the bases, from a Christmas Eve that is significantly warmer than our average pre-Splash BBQ, to all known forms of precipitation on the day itself. To summarize, I would have to say there is a high probability of weather.

This can be a busy, even hectic period. We get to be guests and hosts and then there is the preparation for the family gatherings. All of it wonderful with an underlying theme of chaos. Looking back, I hope you have had lots of joy, some time out to rest, and a great start to the New Year.

Our Annual general Meeting was held on November 23 and there are a number decisions to communicate for the 2015 season as outlined below:

### Membership Fee:

Over the past five years, thanks to the generous support from Joe Lindo and the Hollis Wealth team, we have enjoyed top-notch Sail Past celebrations, including great food and music. Last year, in addition to the sponsorship, we set the fee for renewing members at \$165 specifically to provided additional funds for our 30 year anniversary festivities.

This year marked the end of the multi-year sponsorship commitment from Hollis Wealth - many thanks to Joe and team for the great parties! Rather than return to the 'hamburger and hotdog' menu of the past, members have told the executive that they wish to continue with the enhanced level of event. At the AGM it was decided to maintain the membership fee at \$165 and once again to provide breakfast, dinner and music for the Sail Past. This decision will be reviewed at next year's AGM.

### **Membership Deadline:**

Up to this year our deadline for membership has been May 31st. As a result, your volunteer membership director(s) have had to deal with the heaviest demand on their time from late April through early June - the time when we are all focused on getting our boats in the water and ready for the season. To rectify this, the membership deadline is now set to March 31, 2015. Cards will be printed for mailing at the start of May. Along with this change, the late renewal fee has been reduced from \$225 to \$190, but please note, if you do miss the deadline and the print run, it will take a minimum of three weeks to process your membership and deliver your card.

#### **Social Membership:**

The cost for the Social Membership has historically been a nominal amount (most recently \$30). Last year we found ourselves in the position of having to recoup event costs by charging social members for entry to events that were included in the full membership fee. At the AGM it was decided that social members should participate in club events on the same basis as full members. The social membership fee has been changed to \$45 to bring it on a par with the event cost included in the full membership.

#### **Membership List:**

This year we will preparing a printed (hard copy only) membership list showing Name, Boat Name, Dock # and Contact Information. The list will be distributed with the membership cards and is strictly for individual member communications (e.g. "Your boat appears to be sinking, please come quick!" or, "The wine is almost gone, please come quick, again!"). This list will not be posted online or distributed by email. If you do not want to be included on the list, please check the box provided on your membership application.

#### Club Cruises:

Last season on a trial basis, the club provided the main dish for the group meal on three cruises. This has proven to be a hit and as a result, this year we will extend the program to all cruises. However, in order to make this work we will need a volunteer "Cruise Captain" for each cruise. This role includes setting the menu, picking up the food, and coordinating transportation and preparation.

...continued

#### Scuttlebutt

Ann and I did this last year and it certainly takes some planning and effort, but it is also great fun and you will find lots of willing help, especially with the transport and preparation. Keep this one in mind when you think about areas where you might volunteer some time and look for an article on "A Day in the Life of the Cruise Captain" in a future Scuttlebutt.

#### **FPYC Website:**

You have probably noted the new Website Director position on the board for this year. Dave Goede is hard at work redesigning the club website. Check out Dave's article below. The executive has had an overview of the work in progress and we are excited about the upcoming launch.

#### **Outdoor Day:**

This popular winter social event is scheduled for February 8, 2015. Mark it in your calendars and think SNOW! There is more information later in this issue.

#### What's Next:

Be sure to check the upcoming issues of Scuttlebutt for information about other initiatives and recommendations from the AGM, plans for social events, cruise destinations, racing activities and the launch of our new website. Ideas for improving our club, enriching the membership experience and attracting new members are most welcome. Don't hesitate to contact any of the Board members with your ideas.

Very best wishes to you and yours. Cheers! Stephen

# Coming Soon—A New Fifty Point Yacht Club Website! By Dave Goede

This year, the executive has created a new position on the Board for a Web Administrator. While not specifically my occupation, I do work within the Information Technology industry and often assist in various aspects of web-related networking issues.

The club website is currently undergoing a complete re-design with a focus on showcasing the people and activities that enhance our enjoyment of Fifty Point Marina. In working with the rest of the executive, we hope to identify and deliver functions and features that assist and enhance all of those activities that go on within the club.

Changes could include a more streamlined approach to signing up for club cruises, renewing your membership or accessing racing and social calendars, the goal of this re-write is to improve how our members interact with the club, and hopefully, find it easier to keep up and participate in the various activities planned every summer.

In thinking about all the things that make the club special, it keeps coming back to the people. To that end, the new website should feature the people, therefore I am requesting pictures from events and around the marina that can be used on the website in order to keep it current, topical and interesting. The new site should be on-line in late January with gradual revisions and features being added over the next few months, stay tuned.

In the meantime, if you have pictures to share, or would like to offer some suggestions regarding the new website, please contact me at dgoede@goede.ca

## Race Report - January 2015

By Garry Cooke

As I mentioned last month, we will be looking to run a couple different formats of racing that will suit beginners, cruisers or casual racing. So please sign up on the 2015 membership forms, or on the new website, which should be up and running hopefully in February.

We plan to race in two different formats this year to cater for all people:

The first is a cruiser style 'pursuit' race. We will try and run these at least one Saturday a month and have a BBQ afterwards. The pursuit race is organized so that every boat has its own start time, in this way there will only be one type of boat crossing the start line at any one time, thus making it less congested at the start, without other boats being near.

The other format will be regular format racing on Tuesday evening with Newport YC.

We will also be doing some races during the club cruises for those that wish to participate, and the format for those will be discussed later in the new year.

## Pub Nights 2015, starting on January 20th

We have a great presentation arranged for January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Judge & Jester pub in Grimsby *(in the back room)*. Ron Ouwehand will be presenting some slides and information on his 1,800 nautical mile trip from Fifty Point to the St.Lawrence and back, sailing as far as Labrador.

Come out for a social evening of food, conversation, and discussion. (*Please contact me to confirm so I can let the pub know how many people to expect*). We would like to run more pub nights, so we are looking for members to share their knowledge, interests, experiences, pictures etc. Please contact either me or one of the executive if you would like to share something with the club members.

## Sir Robin Knox-Johnston

The man who became the first to sail solo around the world non-stop in 1969 has again started racing solo, at the age of 75, in a transatlantic race this past November. He came in third place in an open 60 foot yacht. I wish I had the time and financial resources to do the same! It goes to show that age should not prevent you from doing things on your 'bucket list'!



Sir Robin finishing in third place



Sir Robin's 60 foot boat 'Grey Power'

# Rocks do not Move! By Garry Cooke

## **World Sailing Events**

As I mentioned in the last issue, the Volvo Ocean (around the world) race is underway, and they have currently finished Leg 2, and stopped in Abu Dhabi. As many of you may have heard in the news, one of the yachts plowed into a reef at 19 knots while sailing in the Indian Ocean during this last leg. The official investigation and report is due to be released in late January/early February, but one thing is quite clear, it was a monumental navigation error! The team were very fortunate there was no loss of life nor serious injury. The 'Team Vestas Wind' are now without a boat to finish the race, and I would presume the Navigator will be without the possibility of employment again on a Volvo racing boat. The Volvo Ocean Race group are attempting to have a new boat built, so that 'Team Vestas Wind' can at least do a couple of legs near the end of the race.

Some interesting facts have emerged from what has been revealed at the moment. All these vessels use modern electronic charting systems and GPS receivers, radar, satellite communication as well as more conventional navigation tools. What has been shown is basically a lack of understanding of the software by the crew navigating the boat. Apparently the software being used has multiple 'zoom' levels. And when the course of the boat is being plotted at the lowest zoom (ie: you can view a larger area of ocean on the screen), certain details like rocks do not show, so the navigator can plot a course right over a reef/island without the system providing a warning! (this looks to me like something the software companies selling this equipment could easily incorporate as an alarm, that would appear at any degree of zoom). This apparently was a known deficiency so it is not strictly an excuse for crashing a very expensive boat on the rocks.

There are basically two types of electronic chart, the 'Raster' type and the 'Vector' type. The raster type is simply a scanned image of the paper chart, whereas the vector type can be programmed with zoom levels and provide various types of information on different layers.

One source that I read states "a learning curve is needed to use vector chart accurately at the appropriate zoom level". So to those of you who use software to navigate on Lake Ontario, particularly in the rocky areas at the East end of the Lake Ontario, make sure you understand the limitations of your software. I am a bit old -fashioned in that I always use paper charts. I do not particularly trust electronics near water, particularly if it is salt water!

When I sailed the Atlantic with Derek Hatfield, the computer went down as we approached La Rochelle in France at midnight, and guess what, Derek had left the paper charts in Halifax! Lessons to be learnt from the mistakes of others perhaps!

In the case of Vestas, they had paper charts but they did not use them, and they put their trust in the computer system (or perhaps more correctly, its operator) entirely.

If you would like to view a video of the grounding taking place: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?">https://www.youtube.com/watch?</a>
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?">v=1gmnWEZCEiw</a>

More info can also be found at the following website: <u>www.volvooceanrace.com</u>.

## Scuttlebutt



Stern and rudders ripped off



Stranding here could have been so much worse with large braking surf.



Team 'Vestas Wind' aground

## Windy Days!

High winds on Christmas Eve have knocked a boat over at the south compound. The compound is currently locked for safety reasons, but I presume the Hamilton Conservation Authority will deal with this shortly.



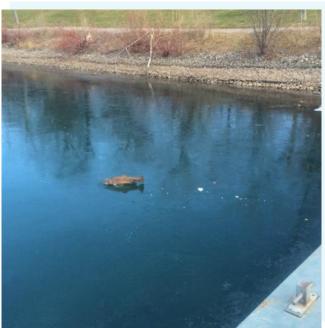


Photo: Garry Cooke

## Fish on Ice...

Any ideas on how this fish ended up on the ice at the marina?





# Meet your New Executive! Dave Goede



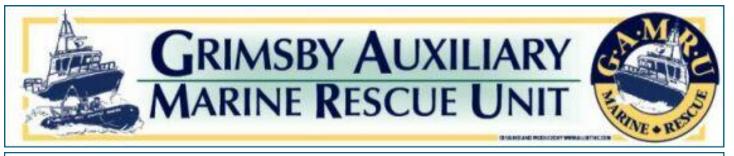
Dave Goede –Web Administrator

They say you can tell a lot about a person by the way they introduce themselves. So I suppose, I had better make this good!

I caught the sailing bug around 20 years ago when I couldn't help but notice the sailboats on the lake while driving to and from work. It appeared that the people out on the water where having a better day than I was. Oddly enough around that time, I had a customer who was amicable to trading a small sailboat for some network equipment that they needed and that was it, a sailor was born.

Moving from that Sirius 21 to a Catalina 27 we bought and sailed in Florida and finally moved to our present Beneteau 32s5 –Pardon Moi, and there have been no regrets of that day.

Whether cruising or racing, sailing has been a hobby that we can enjoy as a family. My wife Dorota who has sailed since childhood back in Poland, along with our son David, we try and get out for a few weeks every summer to explore the various interesting destinations all around Lake Ontario with a few races thrown in to improve our sailing.

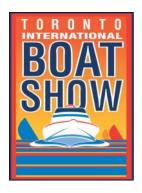


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## Are you going to the Boat Show?



## Click the link below for website

**Toronto Boat Show** 

## **Click link for Seminar Schedule**

**Seminar Schedule** 

**Boat Show Dates and Hours** 

Hope to see you there!





## **OUTDOOR DAY**

## **CELEBRATE WINTER!**

Come out and bring your family to Outdoor Day at Fifty Point.

**When**? Sunday, February 8, 2015, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

**Where**? Fifty Point Conservation Area, register for activities at

Ingledale House

Come outside in the brisk, fresh winter air at Fifty Point to enjoy outdoor activities with your boating friends and family...

Weather conditions will dictate many of the activities. Bring your ice skates, snow-shoes and cross-country skis. As well, bring your GPS, cell phones and iPads and creativity for some of the following:

- \* Geocaching experience not necessary, instructions will be provided, although a GPS or cell phone will be needed
- \* Scavenger hunt bring your camera, cell phone or iPad
- \* Snow sculptures if no snow make a sculpture or work of art from materials from the forest, or make a forest sculpture instead
- \* Wagon rides will be available for everyone and also to shuttle Geocachers to the designated park area.

Register for the activities at Ingledale House as some events are only during specific times. Also, remember to bring your 2014 FPYC registration form.

Light refreshments will be available at Ingledale House.





Contact: D.J. Doug Nixon (905) 537-9426



Ask to join FPYC - Fifty Point Yacht Club





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# Christine's Galley

Here are 2 very easy appetizers

## Tomato, Feta & Black Olive Bruschetta

2 cups tomatoes, seeded and diced

1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled

1/4 cup oil packed black olives, drained, pitted and chopped

2 tbsp finely chopped chives

2 tbsp olive oil

24 slices baguette, 1/2 inch thick, toasted

olive oil for the bread

Salt & Pepper

Combine tomatoes, feta, olives, chives and oil in a bowl Season with salt and pepper

Brush toasted bread slices with olive oil and top with tomato mixture.

### Shrimp on cucumber

1/2 lb shrimp finely

1/2 cup carrots, grated and finely chopped

3 tbsp mayonnaise

2 tbsp 35% cream

1 tbsp whole grain mustard

1 tsp hot chilli sauce (optional)

Salt and Pepper

2 English cucumbers, cut into 1/4 inch slices

1 tbsp finely chopped flat leaf parsley

1 tbsp finely chopped fresh chives

Combine shrimp, carrots, mayonnaise, cream mustard and chili sauce in a bowl.

Season with salt and pepper.







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## Wind, Weather and Waves

## By Doug Nixon

## Here are some interesting weather facts...

### **Hot and Cold weather facts:**

Al'Aziziyah in Libya has the highest recorded temperature on earth at a sweltering 58°C on the 13th Sept, 1922.

The lowest ever recorded world temperature was at Vostok Station, Antarctica on the 21 July 1983 at a bitter -89.6°C

## Wet and Dry facts about weather:

Mawsynram in India is noted as being the wettest place on earth is with over 11 meters of rain falling every year.

In contrast, Antofagasta in Chile is the driest place on the planet getting less than 0.1mm per year, and with many years having no rainfall whatsoever.

### **Sunny facts:**

Yuma in the state of Arizona has over 4,000 hours of sunshine per year - making it the sunniest place on the planet!

The South Pole is the least sunny place - only 182 days a year get sunshine.

### Windy Facts:

The windiest place on earth is Commonwealth Bay, Antarctica where winds of 200mph have been recorded.

The strongest ever recorded wind was on Mt Washington, New Hampshire, USA at an amazing 231mph.

#### **Stormy Weather facts:**

Nearly 2,000 thunderstorm cells are estimated over the planet at any given time.

The U.S. has over 100,000 thunderstorms every year, with over 16 million taking place across the world in a year.

9 out of 10 lightning bolts strike land rather than oceans.

A storm named John was the Longest-lasting Pacific tropical storm continuing for 31 days. As it crossed the dateline twice, it changed status from a hurricane to a typhoon and back to a hurricane. "Ginger", was the longest-lasting Atlantic tropical storm, which spun around the open ocean for 28 days in 1971.

#### **Snowy Weather Facts:**

The world's largest snowflake was recorded in the Guinness Book of Records, at 38 cm wide and 20 cm thick. The snow flake fell at Fort Keogh, Montana, USA on 28 January 1887.

With tires for his mouth and trees for arms, 'Angus' - the tallest snowman, was made by residents of Bethel, Maine, USA, measuring a whopping 34.63 metres. 'Angus' took 2 weeks to build, and was completed on 17 February 1999.

The greatest snowfall recorded was on Mt Rainier, Washington State, USA - Over 30metres fell during the winter of 1972.

Now aren't you glad you live in Canada!





# Pub Nights 2015

We would like to run pub nights again starting in the new year, so we are looking for members to share their knowledge, interests, experiences, pictures etc.

The group are getting tired of listening to me, so please contact one of the executive if you would like to share something with the club members.

If you are interested in sharing your expertise, or would like more information, please contact Garry Cooke









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