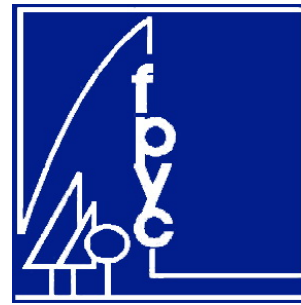


# *Scuttlebutt*



March 2017

Fifty Point Yacht Club [www.fpyc.ca](http://www.fpyc.ca)

2017 Issue #3



*Mist Approach*



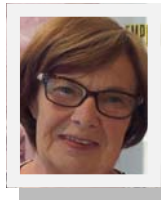
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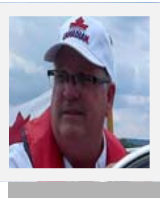
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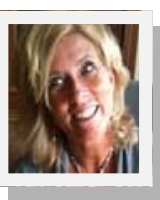
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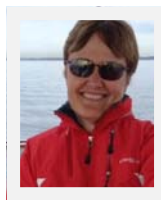
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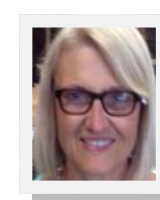
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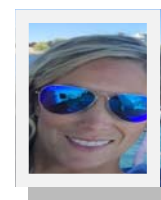
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# From the Bridge...

Stephen Middleton, Commodore

March



The first launch dates are a little over a month away and things are hopping on the yacht club front. In this issue I will be talking about plans for the 2017 season, the question of a fee increase and a very interesting evening with GAMRU. So read on.

## Membership Fees and the Plan for 2017

As you might guess, at this point the board members are busy getting things lined up for membership renewal, reciprocal cruises and our social events. In tandem with this work, we have also been finalizing our budget plans, including a review of membership fees. On this last item, as many of you are well aware, we have asked for and received your input through an on-line survey. The case for the increase was presented in the email accompanying the survey notice sent out on February 17.

The survey was not a vote to approve or deny the fee increase proposal. As per our by-laws, the membership fee is determined annually by the Board of Directors. However, given the size of the proposed change, we felt that it was essential to gauge the overall support and the potential impact on membership level. I think the survey approach worked well and expect that we will use it again in the future. **The survey ran from February 17 to March 5. My thanks to all who provided their input.**

Here is what you told us:

<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>72</b>		<b>Represents 65% of the membership</b>
			<b>We received 41 comments, here is an extract:</b>
<b>Agreed</b>	52	72%	It is still a bargain. Great value. This is a reasonable amount, not a large increase. Best value on the lake. Thanks to the Board and volunteers for all the hard work. We support it, but it is a large increase. If we are going this far add the Commodores Ball into the fees. The two most important events for every yacht club are SailPast and the Ball!
<b>Opposed</b>	19	26%	We object to increasing the fee to cover events or activities in which a number of members may not be able to participate. Make major events "user pay" to limit necessary increase. Increase seems excessive. Perhaps it would be more palatable if it was staged over 2 or 3 years.
<b>Other</b>	1		Would approve an increase with different split: Recommend increasing Full membership more and reducing the proposed Social fee to \$65 maximum since reciprocals are the main benefit. (This comment came from a full member.)

As you can see, the range of opinion covers the complete spectrum. As I noted above, this was not a vote. Support was strong, but not enough to ensure that we could retain 85% of our membership - the minimum needed for the new fee structure to work. The potential risk is of greater concern given that we have no insight into where 35% of the membership stands. As a result, **we will not be implementing the proposed increase this year.** Again, thanks to all of you for your input.

## Now let's move on to what we will do.

Last year the Full Membership Fee was \$190 but the early payment discount meant that most people actually paid \$165. This year we are eliminating the discount, all full members will pay \$190 and we will use other incentives, related to event sign-up and attendance, to encourage on time payment.

New members will pay \$190 plus \$15 to cover the cost of the burgee. The idea of a onetime initiation fee was discussed, but it is not really compatible with our goal to attract as many new members as possible.

The Social Membership fee will increase from \$45 to \$55.

...continued

# From the Bridge...

## So, in addition to the normal club operations, what will this cover?

1. Pre-Launch BBQ - we don't have funds in the budget, but we will be able to continue the event this year thanks to a generous offer from a member to provide the food.
2. Sail Past - will continue with the same format as the past 2 years. That means we will be able to fund the Colour Guard and Reverend's donations, and provide the main course for the dinner. Attendees will be asked to bring a pot luck app, side or dessert. This is our most popular event, being attended by over 80% of members.
3. New Member Welcome - pot luck appetizers.
4. Summer BBQ (Christmas in July) dinner - the club will provide the live music and have the charcoal hot and ready to go. Members will be asked to bring their own choice of meat or fish for the BBQ and a side dish to share.
5. Long Weekend Club Cruises - pot luck.

## Other things you need to know:

- We will have a membership table at the pre-launch BBQ on April 29. The new cards will be ready for you.
- Memberships can also be renewed on-line, the revised web-form will be available by March 20 along with an e-transfer payment option.
- 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) will be available May 1 and close May 21 to allow time for provisioning.
- You will need show your new membership card to get your food at the Sail Past dinner.
- 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.
- More information on Sail Past to follow.
- 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 the plan for 2017. We will, of course, be checking with you in the fall to see how we did and what the club should be offering for 2018. We are going to have a great season! To quote another of the survey comments, FPYC is "Awesome Value."

## An Evening with GAMRU - Help Needed

When you read the words "help needed" in association with GAMRU, you would typically think of boater in need of rescue. That is what they do and we are all extremely grateful that they are there to do it. In February we spent a very interesting evening with GAMRU at the pub and learned a lot more about the world of marine rescue and how the multiple services work together to help keep us safe. In this case, it is GAMRU that is in need of help, in the form of time and expertise from the boating community. Here are the key points provided by Doug Mephram, GAMRU Secretary:

- GAMRU is facing one of its biggest financial challenges in 25+ years: Raising funds to acquire a new boat.
- The need is urgent. We have to replace the 20+ year old "fast response" boat that has been the workhorse of the fleet.
- The current boat suffered a catastrophic failure last summer and while it may get patched up enough for another season, it's critical to get a new boat to replace it.
- While GAMRU volunteers are excellent at saving lives on the water, that doesn't make us good fund-raisers. So we're asking members from the communities we serve to help us.
- Our first step is to form a committee of respected, capable and responsible people from ALL of the communities we serve. The committee will help spread the word of what we're doing, open doors for us to donors and guide our fundraising efforts.

.....continued



### An Evening with GAMRU - Help Needed—continued

- It's important to have a good cross-section of people on our committee. Because we serve the entire south shore, we need representatives from these communities on our committee.
- Ideally, we'd have people who have fundraising experience but also backgrounds in business or industry or government. We think we can benefit from many points of view.
- Our target is to raise \$300,000. We expect it will take two to three years to reach our target.

A big challenge and a very worthy goal. If you are in need of assistance on the water, time is of the essence and GAMRU's fast response boat can make the difference between life and death.

Do you have skills and experience and the time and desire to help? You can contact me or get in touch with Doug directly at [dougmeopham@me.com](mailto:dougmeopham@me.com) / 905 325 3431.

See you all at the marina.

Stephen



# The Final Mist Approach

By Brian Weber

As we walk around the marina, many of us know the boat names but not necessarily the people who own the boat. But Sunday, February 26, 2017 at about 6:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Hospital with his family at his side, Captain Douglas Anthony Nixon made his final Mist Approach. Doug leaves behind the love of his life Christine his wife (Christine's Galley in Scuttlebutt). He also leaves his children Jenn (Pete), Candice (Andre), Rob (Enrica), Jason and grandchildren. You might even know his 'Brother John', (Crew Cut) and Barbara.

Ruby Weber, Where's Teddy and I first came to Fifty Point in 2005 and Doug and Chris were one of the first couples to welcome us to the marina. They were always willing to lend a helping hand. But Doug always seemed to be around. Did he work? We found out that he was a Captain with Air Canada Jazz and bid his schedule to take advantage of the summer boating season. The name of their boat Mist Approach came from Doug's boating (Mist) and flying (Approach). Their last boat Mist Approach II was a Silverton 34C, which they bought in 2006 and moved to F19. They lived on the boat that summer until they bought a home in Puslinch.

Since we retired soon after arriving at Fifty, we got to travel Lake Ontario and the Thousand Islands every summer with Doug and Chris until they sold Mist Approach in the spring of 2015. We have many wonderful memories from trips on the water. Two of Doug's favourite spots were Camelot and Georgina in the Thousand Islands. He loved to anchor and enjoy the peace and quiet. He would break the silence though and sing as he strummed on his guitar.

Doug enjoyed playing a game of cards. When he won, he would double 'high 5' and say 'who hoo'. Funny thing though, it appeared he never knew what was trump and even asked what was lead when there was only one card on the table. We can see the look that Chris always used to give him. But he had that gentle smile back. I can hear him saying "Stop it", which he often muttered when he was being teased. But he loved to laugh and always had a joke or two.

Doug loved music just as much as flying. He was comfortable strumming a guitar and singing many songs during the evening with a small group. But on occasion he would break out with a song or two with Glenn Russell. A particular favorite was Hotel California.

Doug along with Chris (because you always get your partner), was Membership Director for FPYC for the 2011 and 2012 seasons. They donated a lot of time for many FPYC social events. Doug also ran a series on clouds and weather to help educate members for boating safety in Scuttlebutt. Doug was our DJ for many social events for the yacht club.

Doug retired from Jazz in 2014. He wanted to enjoy his time with his other loves, music, family and travel. Only this time the travel was for recreation.

After selling the boat, Doug seemed to be in a second childhood. They bought a motorcycle, Sea Doo and remote controlled planes. After getting your wings to fly big planes, Doug had to earn his wings all over again to fly these small aircraft. It was hard to imagine after flying for 45 years 26 with Jazz.

...continued

# The Final Mist Approach

The love of water brought Doug and Chris back to Fifty every summer with the Sea Doo. They would visit regularly dropping by to see Brother John and their many friends. Yes John is his real brother. But Doug had another good friend they called Big John so as to differentiate between the two.

He and Chris got a chance of a lifetime in May and June of 2016. They toured the Grand Canyon on motorcycles with Big John Brunskill and his wife Fran. They returned via British Columbia with a stop off in Calgary to visit with Chris's family.

Shortly after returning home, Doug was diagnosed with lung cancer and pulmonary fibrosis. His radiation treatments ended in December and all appeared good. Big John, Fran, Chris and Doug celebrated Doug and Chris's 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Niagara Falls January 4, 2017.

Doug and Chris were more than just our summer friends. They were family. We enjoyed many hours of cards, dinners, wine tours, darts, jokes and laughter. We celebrated the births of our grandchildren. He coached our son about bidding flight pairings as a pilot. But most of all we taught Doug to drink and like Amaretto after a one of Chris's hearty meals.

This was a life cut way too short for a man who truly loved his wife and their life together with family. You will never be forgotten as you have left a legacy of memories for us all to think back on. Then you will see us smile just as you always did for us.

A celebration of Doug's life will take place at Brother John's 399 Head St. Strathroy, on Sunday, April 9, 2017, from 13:00 to 16:00 that is how Doug would have said it but for us lay people it is 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. You can also go to [aftercare.org](http://aftercare.org) to leave a message of condolence.



### **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 1<sup>st</sup>** 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.

#### **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.

...continued



*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.

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](mailto: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 their way to Marsh Harbour, Bahamas

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

[BLOG](#)

Most recently in Bullocks Harbour, Bahamas

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

[BLOG](#)

Most recently in English Harbour, Antigua

## **World Sailing Events:**

### ***Solo Around the World Race: Vendee Globe 2016-2017.***

The solo around the world race has almost finished with only two remaining competitors still in the North Atlantic returning to France at the time of my writing this paragraph.

One remarkable achievement by the New Zealand sailor Conrad Colman was his successful completion of the race after being dismasted a fortnight ago, some 750 miles away from the finish. He fashioned a mast from his broken boom, and then re-cut the sails, and was able to sail at about 6 knots of boat speed for some of the time.



Another remarkable achievement was the American Rich Wilson finishing the race in 13<sup>th</sup> place, and is the oldest competitor in the history of the race at 66 years young. I keep telling my wife 'see there is time for me yet!'. I just need to raise a couple million(\$)!

Check it out at: <http://www.vendeeglobe.org/>



## **Fifty Point Racing Events:**

FPYC will not be remaining in PHRF handicapping this year, so if any member wishes to race locally or interclub events you must apply on line directly with PHRF-LO. I am still a handicapper, so if you want help with sail measurements please contact me. I am in the Marina frequently, and my boat is docked on D dock (name 'Eclipse'), or you can contact me at my office (see business card in the back of the Scuttlebutt).

Tuesday night racing will continue, but will be run by the Newport YC next door, and unfortunately there are no deals this year; you will have to pay their full membership if you want to race with them.

Garry Cooke

# 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 29<sup>th</sup> – Pre Launch BBQ

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

Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> – New FPYC Members Potluck

Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Pot-Luck BBQ & Dance

Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> – 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 29<sup>th</sup>  
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](http://www.fpyc.ca)**



# Christine's Galley



## *Editors Note:*

*Christine has provided 'Christine's Galley' for Scuttlebutt for some time, at least since I started in 2012, and I know we have all enjoyed her wonderful easy-to-follow recipes. As you may be aware, Christine's husband Doug recently passed away and Christine has indicated that she is not planning to continue with this column.*

*I would personally like to thank Christine for her friendship and her efforts on behalf of the club. We are sending her our thoughts, prayers, love and support.*

*Jayne*





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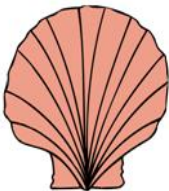
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- 26' Nonsuch-1981- good condition, Happy Pac,.....\$28,900

## 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.



Dodgers ~ Biminis ~ Sails  
Custom Canvas ~ Upholstery

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## *Meet your New Executive!*

### *Jason Kirk*

My name is Jay Kirk and I am proud to be the new Vice Commodore. My wife Heidi and I have been with the club for 5 years. We spent the first few years on B dock, and our new spot is on F dock slip 2 on the wall. Our first boat was a 27ft Doral Cruiser, but as the love for boating grew, as did our family, we needed our boat to follow suit. Last summer we upgraded to a 36ft Doral Cruiser.

I grew up in Toronto dreaming of life on the water. Now, living in Stoney Creek and boating on the weekends, the water is a big part of my life. In 2004 I was fortunate enough to meet my wife, Heidi and since then we have had 3 beautiful children, Sierra (6), Jessie (3) and Ryan (2). My wife grew up on the water and has been boating her whole life. Now the whole family can't wait to get out in the boat each weekend.

Heidi is in real estate and I work in the film industry in Toronto. The commute keeps me on the highway for so many hours per week that a cottage out of town never seemed as appealing as Lake Ontario waiting at our back door.

I look forward to meeting all of you and learning more about the history of the yacht club.

