



The Lighthouse

The Official Newsletter of the Bras d'Or Yacht Club

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Slow, Slow, Slow Poker Run



Judging from the turnout the annual slow poker run was high stakes family fun. More than 300 people and 52 boats took to the sparkling Bras d'Or the day before Hurricane Bill was supposed to blow through. Boaters puttered their way to Washabuck, then eventually came back through the harbour for a memorial sail past in honour of the late Marvin Harvey, one of the event's founders a dozen or so years ago. Then it was down Baddeck Bay for a treasure hunt for the kids, and finally back to the club for more games, as well as a BBQ and prizes.



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2009 REGATTA REVIEW

Historically, yacht clubs are formed on a racing platform and BYC is no exception. The long history of the Bras d'Or Yacht club stems from that first enthusiastic group of yachtsmen who came together in 1904 to form the first yacht club on the Bras d'Or Lakes, specifically to promote sailing and to organize racing events. Over the 105 years since its inception, racing and learning to sail have remained the heart blood of BYC. The many other events that revolve around these two primary concerns come from a desire for fellowship, for community involvement, and the need to sustain this wonderful yacht club that has become an integral part of the Village of Baddeck.

The Learn to Sail program celebrates another successful year with 39 young people registered over the 6 weeks of summer classes. And many of these young people went on to win significant honours during BYC's annual Regatta Week.

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To Race or Not To Race – Good Question

Editorial

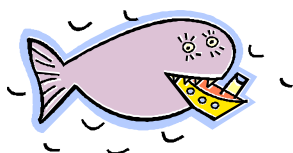
There are lots of reasons why some sailors don't race. Some will tell you it's because they're not competitive by nature, or because their boat is too slow, or because it just takes too long to pack up the coffee maker and biscuits. Besides, there are all those rules to learn and all that shouting. And it's dangerous isn't it? I mean a collision at sea can just ruin your whole day.

Our cruising friend prefers to head out on a fine morning with a carefree song in his heart letting the direction of the wind decide his destination. He sets his vessel on the most comfortable point of sail, gets out the snacks and settles in for a comfortable ride. Ahhh... the cruising life.

But what happens when the weather blows up? What will he do in a crowded anchorage, or a harbour he has never visited before? What if his engine breaks down, or someone on board needs urgent medical attention?

Well there it is. Once again we are learning lessons the hard way - under duress. Truth is our friend could learn a lot more about handling his boat on a racecourse he has prepared for than he can on the remains of a Saturday that has turned into the cruise from hell.

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The shortest distance
between two jokes is a
straight line.

2009 REGATTA REVIEW...continued from Page 1

The two home regattas for BYC, the McCurdy Cup Regatta, and BYC Regatta Week, hosted 23 yachts in all. An enormous amount of work goes into running a successful regatta - organizing sponsors, the race management team, race committee boats, registration for the sailors, score keeping, and entertainment for everyone. BYC sends special thanks to the terrific team who put this program together for the third year in a row. Headed by Dr. Tim Woodford, Rear Commodore, the team includes Kathy Anne Woodford, Peter (Woody) Woodford, Cory Cox, Matt Stokes, Alan MacDonald, Rachael Harvey and Heather Harvey. BYC also sends a hearty thank you to the volunteers who gave so generously of their time during regatta week organizing the BBQs, lunches for the junior sailors, registration, prize draws, the awards event and so many other day-to-day issues. Thank you to Donna Campbell, Jackie Hendricksen, Beverley Dunlop and Sue Phelan. Included in this issue is a special section with all the results from this year's racing program. SEE INSIDE.

6 New Moorings at BYC

Thanks to Director **Willie Reid** and **Mulgrave Machinery**, BYC has 6 new moorings in front of the club wharf. With special permission from the Baddeck Mooring Authority, the harbour grid has been extended to allow for 6 new spaces dedicated for the yacht club's use. Initially requested to host boats from the premier fleet during regatta week, these new oversized moorings are capable of safely holding big yachts on the scale of Augusta Wind, and the White Mist. Willie Reid ably assisted by Gordon MacRae set the 6 new moorings in place. All the ground tackle was fabricated by Willie and his crew at his shop in Mulgrave and donated to Bras d'Or Yacht Club. Because of our not-for-profit status, we can't rent the moorings out to visiting boats, but we hope visiting sailors will make a donation to our Junior Sailing Program.

Thanks Willie!



Left Willie Reid, Right Gordon MacRae

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

The way a club works best is through the participation of it's members. Members who want to see their club thrive and grow must get involved. Come down to the club more often and see what's going on. And if there's something you would like to see going on, maybe you can help get it going!

To Race or Not To Race – Good Question

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If you look at auto racing as a comparison, beyond pure entertainment value, the racecourse is the primary venue for equipment research and development. What auto and tire manufacturers know this afternoon they learned at the track this morning.

Oddly enough, racing is not so much about speed as it is about skill and strategy, as any racer will confirm. If you can't get your boat going in the right direction it doesn't really matter how fast you are. Having your vessel under control is a must for cruiser and racer alike.

At the very heart of sailboat racing is the ability to get your vessel from point A to point B in the most efficient manner possible. That means the shortest course with the best sail trim, while anticipating, or countering, your competitor's moves, within the rules that apply. With practice, our sailor learns how much room he needs to turn his boat, how quickly he can stop, or accelerate, who has right of way, and how to judge the distance and speed of other boats. He will also learn to manoeuvre in close quarters on the start line and at mark roundings, which can really come in handy in a crowded anchorage or a busy, unfamiliar harbour. The racer learns how to sail his boat efficiently and with confidence. Can you sail your boat backwards?

Even if you've been sailing for years and know everything there is to know about your boat, a regular foray around the cans will sharpen your skills. It will also keep you informed of your boat's condition – what equipment is working and what is in need of attention. Plus, there is a wealth of information and stories to share with other racers after the flags have been handed out.



Hijack...

The harlot's call to the sailor "Hi, Jack!" acquired its more sinister meaning when, after the first embrace, she hit him with a lead filled handbag and he was dragged off to be sold to a ship in need of crew.



James MacDonald Wins Kingfisher World Championship – 2009

Maybe you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but this old seadog knows them all and pulls out a few new ones every time there is a Pram race.

Congratulations James



BYC JUNIOR SAILING TEAM CANADA DAY 2009



Canada Day was chilly and damp but the intrepid sailors of the BYC Junior Yacht Club were not to be denied. They bundled up against the damp wind, blew up balloons until they were dizzy and then piled into the back of Ron MacIntyre's pick up truck to join in the birthday celebration.

Aboard the BYC Junior Sailing float, (in no particular order) are Sailors Maddie Campbell, Keely Dixon & Brandon MacInnis, and Instructors Laura MacKillop, Jordon MacDonald, and Kevin MacIntyre (driver). Good Job guys!

Slow, Slow, Slow Poker Run

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First prize, and a full house, went to Richard, Gisenta, Dawn and Liz of "The Relic" (no last names required to register for what the organizers call an informal event). Prizes included coolers, lanterns and nautical towels.

Part of the money raised every year goes toward yacht club projects, which in the past have included sails for prams as well as the port and starboard lights on the deck. This year some of the funds will go toward the eventual replacement of the wooden deck railing with a new, view-enhancing glass railing.

Whether it's funds raised or just plain fun – It's a safe bet the slow poker run will have an enduring future. So here's a "formal" thank you- last names and all – to the organizers of this very successful "informal" event – Arthur McNeil, Brenda Cook, Barbie Cook, Darren MacAulay, Laurie MacAulay, Charles MacLeod, Melanie Garland, Patti Garland and Peter Meisner.



Photos Courtesy of Barbie Cook



BYC CALENDAR Fall 2009

Open Stage at the Bras d'Or Yacht Club In Association with Celtic Colours

Friday, October 9th, 2009
to Saturday, October 17th, 2009

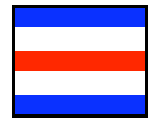
Daily from 2pm to 5pm

ADMISSION FREE

Singers, player and listeners are invited to relax in a pub atmosphere and enjoy an informal afternoon of entertainment hosted by local musician Michael Cavanaugh. Bring your instruments, and share your tunes and stories.

Rose's Exercise Class – Every Tuesday night in the downstairs hall at BYC. Contact Rose Pino @ 295-2576 (The Outdoor Store) to find out how you can get in shape for this winter.

There's always stuff going on at the club. Watch the Bulletin Board to see what's coming up this fall.



KNOT - A measure of speed equal to one nautical mile (6076 feet) per hour.

Got Something To Say?

Write an article, or a Letter to the Editor. Have your say in **THE LIGHTHOUSE**.

The Editor reserves the right to select material appropriate for publication.