



Soundings



**Newsletter of
South Port Sailing Club
December 2015**



Message from Incoming Commodore Mark Dolsen

First, thank you to the members of South Port Sailing Club for the privilege to serve as Commodore for the upcoming year. I guess that this is proof that to become Commodore, "size doesn't matter" (of course I'm referring to boats)

Second, thank you to Doris Hellenbart and Kemal Tepe for their service on the executive for the past 2 years, and welcome to Rear Commodore Ryan Masse and Cruising Chair Denise Aseltine as they join the returning members of the executive for the upcoming season.

My introduction to South Port Sailing Club happened when Margo and I attended a club open house a couple of years after moving to this area from Chatham in 1999. Determined that proper training was a prerequisite for sailing, Margo enrolled me in the adult classes at the South Port Sailing School in the summer of 2004, where two of the young instructors at that time were Darcy Fuller and John Baker. The following summer I joined the club and began racing with the Halpins, father and son, on Windsong and Skylark. The whole family has enjoyed what South Port membership has offered us. Our daughter Amelia, an avid racer, participated in sailing school since the age of 9 and last year was honored to serve as head sailing school instructor. Our son Graham prefers the occasional cruise but really enjoys the social functions, especially playing guitar on the porch with Bill Steel.

South Port has a lot going for it. We have great facilities in a beautiful location on a fantastic sailing lake in one of the nicest corners of Ontario. But by far the most attractive asset is the sailing community created by our members. Each of us contributes to that community through organizing and participating in club functions and activities, both formal and informal, sharing our experience and knowledge in the continuous promotion of sailing. Positive activity is an attractive force, and this is essential for the growth of our club.

A few opportunities for fellowship that will be taking place before Christmas are the December Happy Hour on Friday the 4th and the Men's and Ladies' Christmas Dinners on Monday the 7th. Also, the annual SPSC vs. WYC hockey game is slated for Saturday December 12th. After the New Year, an activity that I would like to resurrect is the South Port Curling Bonspiel. I know there are some members who curl in the winter months (and probably several who have curled in the past) and there is a curling trophy in the South Port case that has not been awarded in recent years.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Fair winds and good curling!

Mark



**Friday December 4th
4:30 - 7:00**

Members Appreciation Happy Hour

**BBQ will be provided
free of charge & liquid door prizes
will be handed out !**



**This is the final issue of Soundings for
2015. The newsletter is not printed in
January. Thank you to everyone who
contributed to the content this year.**

**Wishing everyone a safe and
happy holiday season
All the best in 2016 !**

From your editor

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Mainstays Christmas Dinner
At Lilly Kazilly's on December 7th 2015
Meet 6:30 pm Dinner at 7.00 pm

Cards Nights

**No cards in
December**

January 16th & 30th

7:00 pm



Men's Christmas Dinner
At the club on December 7th 2015
6:00 pm
\$20.00 Per person



Men's Lunch

2nd Wednesday of the month

DATE CHANGE

**SPSC vs WYC 9th Annual
Championship Hockey Game**

**Saturday Dec 12th
6:00 - 7:00 pm WFCU Bowl**

Tickets going fast - FREE !!

Come out and cheer on the team !



Thank you From the Harbourmaster, Peter Soles



**This years haul out was a smooth,
uneventful day despite the poor weather.
The boats were all out around 2:00 pm.**

**Thank you to all members who came out
to support it, especially Andy Hellenbart
for supervising and Wayne Bellemore
and Rob Malone for directing the crane.**

**A special thanks to Ed Hickey for organiz-
ing the food, the ladies in the kitchen who worked hard
serving it up, and Bill Baker who barbequed the smokies !**

**Last but not least a thank you to the Sailing School
instructors who worked all day, and did an excellent job
power washing the boat bottoms.**

**My apologies for not mentioning everyone by name, but
we had good support as always !**

2016 ROSTER

**We are working on updating the SPSC
Roster for 2016. If you have moved,
changed your phone number or email
address, would like your cell # added,
adult children no longer permanently
reside at your residence, or you have
a new vessel please email**

robtim@cogeco.ca at your earliest.

**Thank you to those who sent in
changes last month !**

Hard Copy SPSC monthly newsletter

**If you read Soundings on line and do not require a hard of
the monthly issues, please let us know, and you will be
removed from the mailing list. Thank you**

robtim@cogeco.ca

Ice during Winter months

**The outside ice machine will be emptied and disconnected
the week of December 7th and bags transferred to the
chest freezer in the hall along with the clipboard if you
need ice for any event. The pop machine in the sunroom
will remain operational during the winter months.**



The calendar is also displayed on our Web site. For details on each entry, please click on the calendar on our site at www.southportsailingclub.com (the links are not active in Soundings but details are included in the newsletter)

Calendar of Events December 2015 - January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2015						
Nov 30 Norton A & J		1	2	3	4 HAPPY HOUR	5
6 White D & L	7 Christmas Dinners	8 Executive Meeting	9	10	11	12 Private Event
13 open	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Baker, A	21	22	23	24 Private Event pm	25 Merry Christmas	26 Private Event
27 Bhattacharjee S	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	Notes: Clubhouse rented Dec. 12th. Christmas Eve & Boxing Day Evening	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2016					1 Happy New Year	2
3 Property Committee	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Cards nite
17 Property Committee	18	19	20	21	22	23 Private Event
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Cards nite
31 Hind W & N	Notes: Clubhouse rented January 23					

Clubhouse Duties



Clubhouse duties for December and January are listed on this issues Calendars. 2016 will be posted in the February issue.

Please complete the sheet in the binder located on the kitchen counter and note your total actual work hours on the lower right.

To new members
All supplies are in the stock room. The key is marked and hanging on the wall in the kitchen. If you have any questions please email robtim@cogeco.ca

If u see a repair or supplies are needed sheets are available at the back of the binder. Please slip it into the office mail slot. Thank you !

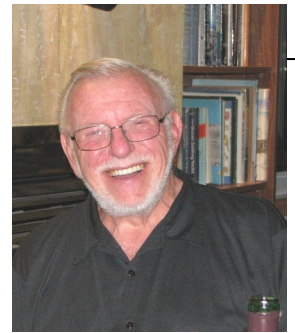
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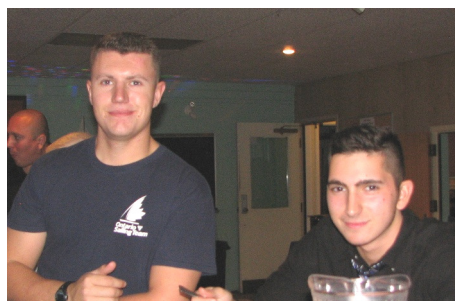
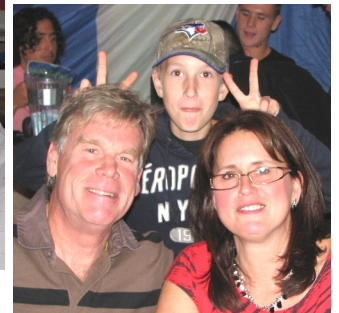
Please send your contributions for the February issue by January 25th to Jackie at

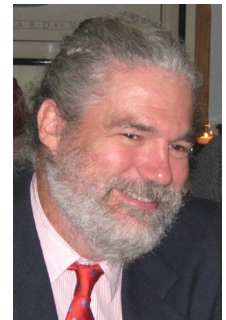
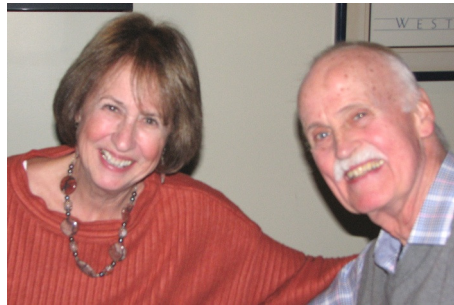
robtim@cogeco.ca
or call 519-971-9699



Fall Furl November 7th.2015

Over 60 members and guests attended this year. Thank you to Commodore Ann Ramey and Paul for arranging the event, to Gary Gavin and his volunteers for decorating, and to Jesse Davidson and friends for the live music !





Racing Awards !

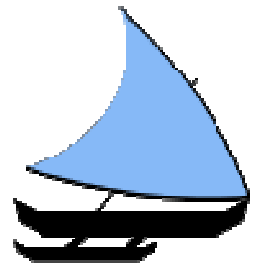


Spring Series





Open Series



Monday Series





Fall Series



Junior Sailor of the Year

Katie Butler

**Fauvette Award presented
by Amelia Dolsen**



Executive and Committee Chairs 2016



Commodore	Mark Dolsen
Vice Commodore	Kelly Johnson
Rear Commodore/Membership	Ryan Masse
Race Chair	Darcy Fuller
Cruise Chair	Denise Aseltine
Social Committee Chair	Edward Hickey
Property Chair	David Robichaud
Harbourmaster	Peter Soles
Sailing School Chair	Bob Fuller
Secretary	Dan Moorhouse
Treasurer	John Shaw
Past Commodore	Ann Ramey
Communications	Paul Ramey
Mainstays Chair	Sue Bufton
Roster	Brenda Petro & Jackie Timothy
DRYA Delegate	Andy Hellenbart
Archives	Brenda Petro
Webmaster	Ryan Masse
Soundings Editor	Jackie Timothy

**‘An Incredible Experience’
from Member Gord Richardson**



Little did Jan and I realize at the time, that winning an auction item with two other couples at the Windsor Symphony's annual gala this year would lead to one of the most memorable days of our lives. Using his clout, Robert Franz (conductor of the WSO and the assistant conductor of the Houston Symphony, had arranged behind the scenes, once in a lifetime tour of NASA's Johnson Space Center. The tour would be given by our two active Canadian Astronauts, Dr. David Saint-Jacques and Lt. Col. Jeremy Hansen. (Please look these guys up on the web under "active Canadian astronauts" – their resumes are astounding and, yes, they are both sailors!) The tour started at 730am on a gorgeous, warm day outside Rocket Park where a shuttle (bus) was waiting for us.

(Actually, the tour started several weeks before with the vetting by the FBI to allow our access to the restricted areas.) We started at the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory Operations Control Center. Everything at this site focuses

on the 30-foot deep tank that holds an entire submerged mock-up of the exterior of the International Space Station. Astronauts, submerged in their space suits, use this facility to simulate walks in space – all the handholds are bright yellow! Each astronaut, when submerged, is assisted by a team of 10 divers. The facility even has helicopter mock-ups used to train for emergency crashes in water. Part of the facility houses specialists providing the care and repair of the space suits. (The suits are re-used since each suit is worth over \$1 million) We tried on gloves and helmets with sun visors up and down – very cool for all of us, including Jan's grandson Alexander. We loaded into the shuttle again and headed for Ellington Field, to visit NASA's Flight Operations and the jet planes used by the astronauts several times a week to hone their flying skills (David had never flown before being elected as an astronaut. Now he's a qualified fighter pilot on jets including the CF18! Jeremy is one of the Canadian Forces' top guns with over 5,000 hours as a fighter pilot) David walked us through the cockpit of a two-seater T38, then took us through the drill of donning the life vest, helmet and oxygen mask then strapping into the ejection seat, using Alexander as a willing volunteer.

Back into the bus and over to SVMF. (When it comes to on-the-job training at NASA's Johnson Space Center for astronauts and cosmonauts, there is one place that serves as the largest real-life classroom—Building 9's Space Vehicle Mockup Facility. Jeremy and David each took a team of us around the facility, describing what and how for all of the simulators, including both the Soyuz launch and re-entry capsule currently used, the former shuttle command module, and the new Orion space craft. Off in the bus again, this time to the famous Mission Control Center. David took us through the historical control center of the Apollo flight era (now a national historic site normally not available to the public except from the viewing gallery), then we toured the new control center where a welcoming slide just for us was on the right-most giant screen, the orbit and current location of the International Space Station on the middle screen, and the live feed from the ISS on the left screen. Unbelievable!

On our way out, we stopped in to say hi to the Russian operations control managers (the American tours aren't allowed this treat! David spoke Russian while there – another skill required by astronauts (he learned his fluent Russian during the two-year training period). On the bus again and we returned to the Rocket Park and David gave us an inspiring talk on the history of the space program as we walked alongside a huge Saturn V rocket laying on its side, all stages separated and just jaw-dropping (it remains the tallest, heaviest, and most powerful rocket ever brought to operational status, 363 ft long and costing \$6.5 billion back then, \$41.5 billion today!). Our day was at an end. Alexander's class had prepared a list of questions and David answered them all in one take on an Ipad. I gave Jeremy and David some SPSC regalia and a letter from the commodore inviting them over for a fresh water sail if ever they are in the area (thanks for that, Ann!). We hopped into our limo, and David hopped into his red convertible (top was down at 730 when he drove in – he says he hardly ever puts it up!) and we all waved goodbye... If anyone wants a link to some photos, drop me an email...



Commodore Mark Dolsen

Passing of the Flags AGM 2015

2016 Flag Officers



Vice Commodore Kelly Johnson



Rear Commodore/Membership Ryan Masse



Past Commodore Ann Ramey



The Jacques Merian Award is given to a member who has contributed 'over and above' to the club. It was presented this year to Brenda Petro a member since 1981, for her on going dedication to South Port. Brenda was club secretary for 13 years, Committee chair for funding the Harbour Reconfiguration and holder of the Promissory Notes. She has taken on the task of assisting the Treasurer with Member Invoicing, maintains the club archives and participates in the Roster upkeep and changes.

Thank you Brenda !