



Soundings

Newsletter of the *South Port Sailing Club*

Jan.-Feb 2005

New Life for the Majors on Bella Via

On January 15, Paul and Mary Major left for Australia to begin thrilling adventures aboard their new catamaran, Bella Via -- their home, they say, for the rest of their lives. The story below is taken from their interviews with CBC Radio (10 January 2005) and The Windsor Star (28 December 2004).



Paul and Mary Major

Getting ready

"We've been saying goodbye to people, been preparing family for 10 years, that this is what we're going to do. It's been in the budget that we will fly home once a year for a visit. I'm telling people to think of this as one-year increments," said Paul.

Mary spent a long time scanning over 33 years of photographs into the computer and gave away all the pictures.

Going through all their possessions was another great challenge. They had to sell the house, the cars — just about everything but the clothes on their backs to live this dream.

"I gave away all the treasures that didn't get sold to people I knew would appreciate them. I felt better about doing that; I wish I hadn't even put them up for sale. It was more difficult for Paul because he's a pack rat," said Mary.

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General Members Meeting SPSC

**22 February 2005
7:00 pm**

Come to this important meeting and:

- meet the Board of Directors
- provide your input for planning 2005 as well the future.
- hear about the plans for the very big regatta the Club is hosting this summer, THE SHARK WORLDS, with parties and good fun for competitors, our members and area sailors.
- hear about a number of projects planned by the Board for this year, the big one being a walkway around the basin. What do you think about it and will you help to save on costs.

**Come and participate --
the Board wants to hear from you!**

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Shark World Cup Update, from Lynn Baker

Just five months until the Shark World Cup regatta!!! Boats and crews from at least five countries will start arriving at South Port on July 2.

Just to bring everyone up to date on what will be happening over the race week:

- The Race Committee...chaired by Bill Stridiron is ready to go! Committee boats, race officials, judges have all been lined up.
- The Food Committee, chaired by Margaret Entwistle is gearing up to serve continental breakfasts to the racers each morning, and a couple of evening meals over the course of the week.
- There will be help from the Mainstays and Windsor's Dragon Boat Team.
- Volunteers are always needed . Please call Ian Dawson if you can help. Remember...it all counts as work hours..and you can have fun too!!
- The Entertainment Committee...chaired by Manjit Shaw is planning an Opening Ceremony for July 3 – at the Club, an evening of fun and entertainment during the week, and an Awards Banquet and closing ceremony.
- Mike O'Brien and Gary Wolfe are working out the property logistics. Where to put the tent , the porta-potties... all the things that need to be done when 40 or more extra boats are coming onto the property.
- Tom Rindlesbacher is working on awards and boat numbers.
- Graham and Pat Andrews are taking care of registration and measurement.
- Brenda Petro is keeping everyone organized.

What we need:

- The Committee is still looking for financial sponsorships. Contact Ian Dawson or Mo Regnier if you know of any person or company that would be willing to lend their name to the Regatta in return for a financial or in kind donation.
- Some sailors may be coming with RV.s If you have space in your driveway, perhaps you might contribute that space to one of our visitors.
- If you have room to billet any visitors...contact Bob Linton.

Finally...thanks to St. Mark's by the Lake Anglican Church...which has kindly allowed us to store trailers and cars on their property for the week. Don't forget those dates July 3 – 10. Come on out...and be a part of what's sure to be an exciting week of sailing and fun

**Loaner boats needed
for**

2005 Shark Worlds

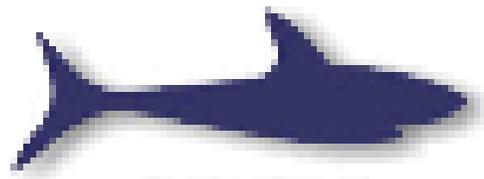
**If you are willing to loan
your Shark, or know of
someone**

contact:

**MO REGNIER
REGATTA CHAIR**

or

**IAN DAWSON
RACE MANAGEMENT**



Potluck Dinner Cruising Evening

Saturday February 19th, 6.30 pm

All members are invited to SPSC's First Annual Cruising Section Potluck Supper! Bring a dish, enjoy a meal with other members (and family and friends are welcome), and then let's start to plan for those lazy hazy crazy days of summer.

Where would you like to cruise next season? Short cruises or longer ones? What activities would you and your crew enjoy as part of a cruise?

New members and members new to cruising are particularly welcome at this evening. Cruising in company is a great way to enjoy our lakes, with less stress and more fun! Help us plan what activities you'd like.

As we're going to be close to Valentine's Day, the suggested theme for dishes is that they should feature something "Red or Chocolate!" BYOB.

Sign up sheet at the clubhouse or call Sue/John Bufton (979-1718) email: Bufton@mnsi.net

Contact info. for the Webbs

"Getting settled in. House is actually livable now. Even have a few pictures hanging. Just a few boxes left in the garage. "

Tel: (813) 634-1314

New emails:

Dave: manava37@verizon.net

Francine: manava14@verizon.net

Another passing: Jeanne Davidson

Davidson, Jeanne (Ferrand) of Belle River, 74 yrs., on Thurs., Dec.16, 2004 at Iler Lodge, Essex. Beloved wife of 48 yrs., to Wm. (Bill). Dear mother of Wayne of Belle River, Joseph and wife Brenda of Maidstone. Dear Grandma to Leslie, Leanne, Jesse and Jaden. Predeceased by her parents Joseph (1977) and Belle (2000). Dear sister of Richard of Windsor Forks, Nova Scotia.

Jeanne will be missed by her friends at South Port Sail Club and Anglers Cove West Lakeland, Florida.

Donations may be made to Alzheimers Society. A tree will be planted in the Melady Heritage Forest. A dedication will be held Sept., 2005. All are welcome.

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Soundings

is the newsletter of the
South Port Sailing Club
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We attempt to go to press by the 20th of each month. Please get your contributions to:

Renka Gesing
254.5015
renka@gesingconsultants.com

Property Chair Report, from Bob Linton

Clubhouse Cleaning

The Cleaning Roster is published on the board in the kitchen and in Soundings. As a means of improving the clubhouse cleaning, a member will be calling to remind the next week's assigned cleaners that it is their turn.

If you are unable to clean during your assigned week, it is your responsibility to switch with another member. The caller will not do any switching, but is calling as a courtesy to remind you.

In the kitchen there is a book which gives a breakdown of the expected duties, which should be ticked off and signed. This provides a history of issues and allows the next club member to review any areas which may need special attention.

We also encourage the cleaning to be done during the week with a quick check up before the weekend. All supplies are kept in the storage room

Any time spent cleaning the club house is chargeable against club hours.

Waste oil

Please remember it is the responsibility of the owner to dispose of waste oil. Would the owners of the oil left by the waste container please remove the oil and, depending on where you live, either leave out with your recycle collection (clearly mark the container "Used Motor Oil") or take to the recycle centre.

For residents this is a free service. If I have to do dispose of the oil on behalf of the Club we pay industrial rates, and I would prefer to put the funds to better uses. Thanks

Walkway

At the last executive meeting Tuesday Dec. 14, the walkway improvement was highlighted as a thing we should really try and do. If this does make it into the budget, we would plan to do it immediately after launch and request as many members to help as possible.

I may already have an overseer for the project, but have specific need for the following:

- Are there any members who are comfortable driving a Bob Cat?
- Any members who can help with the base preparation?

If you can help please let me know so that we can look at our options.

Please come out to the General Members Meeting February 22 AT 7:00 PM. We need your ideas and input

Harbour Master Report, from Jamie Halpin

Projections are for water levels for this year's sailing season to be about the same as last year's. With this in mind, the harbour committee has started to get estimates for the cost of dredging F-dock. Dredging is planned for the end of the summer or in the fall to avoid messing up the property before the Shark Worlds. A survey will be taken in the spring to determine if any other dredging will be necessary.

Dock rule number eight has been amended to read:

Unattended boats shall not be connected to shore services (electricity and water) overnight except under special circumstances as approved by the Harbourmaster.

This includes vessels stored on dry land.

Many insurance policies contain a clause that voids the insurance if the vessel is left plugged into electricity while stored on the hard. The reason is that in the unlikely event of a fire aboard one of our stored boats it would probably spread and destroy all of the boats stored at the club. So please, if you are working on your boat over the winter, unplug before you leave.

From the Treasurer, Bill Noakes

No one likes to get mail from me but the Club can't run without money. As you know we have three billings a year, November for winter storage, annual dues in February and dockage in June. It spreads the load a little bit and I appreciate that the majority of members pay promptly which make my life easier. Thank you.

At the last Board meeting it was decided to change from the \$ 25.00 flat overdue charge to an interest on amounts owing over 30 days. And so, beginning with the annual dues billing in February, amounts billed will be due in 30 days otherwise interest will be added.

Any problems with your bills, call me.

Memo from Irene East, the Roster/Archivist Person

It's that time of year again where I ask the members of South Port Sailing Club to send me any changes that have occurred since March of 2004 such as addresses, telephone numbers, emails, boat, boat name, sailnumber, children born the past year, etc. So, look at the old blue 2004 roster carefully and email me anything that doesn't gybe at i.east@sympatico.ca or call me at 519-979-8318.

The deadline will be Sunday March 13, 2005 - I will compile the information that week and send it to the printer. That will have to be checked and rechecked again to be out before the end of March. Thank you for your co-operation and have a happy and healthy new year and Happy Sailing 2005.

Thanks from A Breast or Knott

Dear Commodore Phil Peck

The team members of A Breast Or Knot wish to thank you and the members of South Port Sailing Club for sponsoring us again this year by allowing us to keep our boat "Maggie's Wings" at the club. We very much appreciate being able to practice from the club and whenever other teams ask us where we keep our boat, we are happy to mention South Port.

The committee organizing the Shark Worlds in July 2005, have asked us to paddle in the Opening Ceremony, we are delighted to participate.



Sincerely
Lyn Turner, Secretary
A Breast Or Knot



Customs & U.S. Border Crossing,

Information session held at WYC re: I-68, Nexus

As interpreted by Alan Henderson

Fear not if you sail into U.S. waters and you do not have an I-68 or a NEXUS card, but do fear the green-uniformed U.S. Border Patrol whose members are eager to grill even their grandmothers if they suspect they are ferrying nonresidents or drugs from Canada to the U.S.

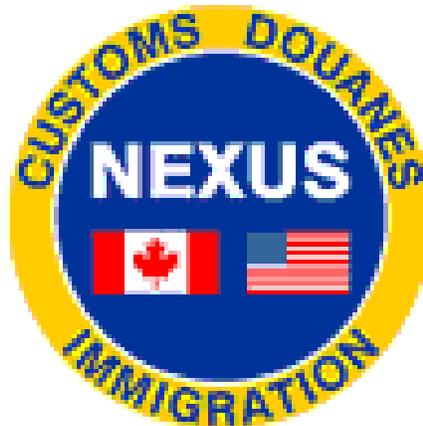
That was the message recently at the Windsor Yacht Club which hosted a seminar attended by Canadian and U.S. customs and immigration officials. Both the U.S. and Canadian officials agreed that if you boat in U.S. waters and YOU DO NOT set foot on U.S. soil, you are not required to have pre-clearance documentation like the I-68 or NEXUS card. Even if you have documentation YOU ARE NOW required to check in with U.S. authorities if you do touch soil, such as a visit to Sinbad's or Metro Beach. Forget whatever you believed to be the practice in the past. And if you and your significant other have pre-clearance documentation and other guests on your boat don't, the non-card carriers must remain on the boat until cleared by U.S. authorities. And you can only imagine how long that might take on a sunny summer Sunday.

While I-68s are still available, authorities are emphasizing the NEXUS program which carries more authority. After you apply, it takes up to 10 weeks until you actually get a NEXUS card, which is good for five years and costs \$80 Cdn. You also will be subjected to an interview by officials. Cards also will carry your photograph and fingerprints. The cards only help to indicate that you have been pre-cleared by immigration authorities. It does NOT give you access to the U.S. without checking in. Even if you have a card, you could still be questioned by U.S. authorities who may want to know the purpose of your visit.

An I-68, for example, is not recognized if there is an Orange Alert in the U.S. The purpose of the Nexus

program is to aid crossing the border either by car or boat. But don't expect it to shield you from intense questioning from overzealous border officials. The marine component of NEXUS card is part of a trial program and only applies to the Detroit River. If successful, the program will be extended across the entire U.S.-Canadian border.

Your passport is still of value - even if it has expired. And that courtesy is only extended to Canada, a U.S. official said. So, don't feel compelled to rush out and replace your passport if you are only using it to get into the U.S., unless of course it still has your baby picture.



Both the U.S. Customs and Immigration departments have been combined. The new department is attempting to streamline the reporting process, which all agree has been less than stellar in the past. But out on the water don't expect to just deal with U.S. immigration officials. There also are the Detroit

Police, the various county police departments and the dreaded Gestapo-like Border Patrol. The U.S. officials admitted that some border patrol officers have ugly dispositions as a result of assignments at U.S.-Mexico border points. Thus, until they become conditioned to dealing with kinder and gentler Canadians, expect them to be surly and rude, while they rest their right hands on their guns. They also admitted that Border Patrol officers generally couldn't care less if you have an I-68 or a NEXUS card.

If stopped in U.S. waters by some of the more aggressive officials, expect to be treated like a criminal - until you can prove otherwise. Even though we don't see it, the officials said there is considerable alien and drug-smuggling between the two countries so don't expect any easing of vigilance soon.

For more information, check out:
<http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel/nexus/menu-e.html>

Major Retirement, continued from page 1

Most of the items going to Australia are “safety equipment and the clothes – we don’t wear much clothes I don’t think in the South Pacific,” said Paul. Another important aspect was developing the skills needed. Mary worked on the medical kit; Paul took all the Power Squadron courses available. “Mary has piloting, we recently finished weather, we have our ham radio licensing – and I read constantly different publications,” he said. They have taken medical precautions from getting private health and emergency medical travel insurance to doctor’s checkups -- and learning about poisonous fish.



Bella Via -- the new home

“We love living on the boat, and we’re very good friends. When we need space, we go find our space,” said Mary. Bella Via has three bedrooms and two bathrooms. They’ll also have a powered dingy which they call the “family car.” Paul pointed out that the new boat, which cost about \$500,000 Cdn, is three times the living space of their

previous boat, the 25-foot Catalina, and more space than their house. Bella Via has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, three double beds. “Our old home was 22 ft by 22 ft on the main floor, on a lot that was 30 feet wide. This boat is 40 ft long and 21 feet wide, so by comparison this is going to be luxury for us.”

Plans

“We’ll probably spend several years in the South Pacific islands, and as our experience builds and our adventurousness builds, we’ll see where we go from there,” said Paul. The Majors plan to start in

Sydney, Australia, and sail to New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Zealand. But they won’t be sailing around the world — just travelling and making port wherever and whenever they want.

Keeping in Touch

“We’ll be emailing from the boat to home, and will be sending pictures and comments to the web site, www.enoreo.on.ca/~bellavia as time permits. And they’ll be back once a year to visit, in particular, Jennifer and Jeremy.

I-LYA Fall meeting, from Margaret Entwistle

On December 4th 2004 Margaret and Jack Entwistle attended the I-LYA Fall meeting in Sandusky, Ohio. 60 Clubs were in attendance. There will be no increase in dues for 2005. There is a new red & white rule book for U.S. Sailing. Throw away the old book immediately, as there are numerous changes. Rounding the Marks being one of them. Any appeals regarding PHRF ratings must be done before April 1st for this sailing season. Most of the other business is about Lake Erie and Bay week, but if anyone needs the name of any Chairperson for any committee, I do keep a copy. Some names are in the Inter-Lake Yachting Association 2004 year book.

Mainstays, from Sue Bufton

On Monday December 6th, the Mainstays enjoyed a delicious meal at Piccolo’s Pasta House on Tecumseh Road. Thank you to Judy Finch for organizing the event. Thanks, also, to Karen De Vries for making the favours, we all received an attractive ornament for our Christmas trees. We exchanged small gifts and also made a donation to buy school supplies for children in Grenada. Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 7th, at 7.30pm.

February 2005 SPSC Calendar

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>Club House Duties (Jan 30-Feb 5) Robichaud, D&J</p> 	1	2	3	4	<p>Games Night 7:30 pm</p> <p>Info: Lorne & Rita Mann</p> 	6 (Feb 6-12) Salter, M&B
7 7:00 pm Mainstays Meeting	8 7:15 pm Executive Meeting	<p>Men's Lunch</p>  	10 7:00 pm Shark Worlds Organizing Committee Meeting	11	<p>Games Night 7:30 pm</p> 	13 (Feb 13-19) Schlosser, G&F
14	15	16	17	18	<p>6:30 pm Potluck Dinner Cruising Evening</p>	20 (Feb 20-26) Smith, R&P
21	22 7:00 pm General Members Meeting	23	24	25	26	27 (Feb 27-Mar 5) Soles, P&D
28	<p>March 2005 Club House Duties</p> 					<p>March 6-12 Souliere, D&I</p> <p>March 13-19 Staley, J&B</p> <p>March 20-26 Steel, B&G</p>