



# Soundings

Newsletter of the South Port Sailing Club

Jan.-Feb. 2006

## Members' Meeting

**SOUTH PORT SAILING CLUB**  
**Friday February 24**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Short meeting to discuss what's going on at SPSC followed by deserts and snacks**

**BYOB**

## Looking for dedicated R.C. chair and boat

The 2006 executive is looking for someone to serve as a permanent Race Committee chair and to provide an R.C. boat. If no SPSC member shows any interest by March 14, then we will look outside of the club.

This person would be responsible for placement, maintenance and removal of all the South Port marks as well as starting and finishing all 20 of the races scheduled for the 2006 year.

The reward is lots of fun with SPSC racers, a free well for the R.C. boat (sailboat or powerboat), and all gas expenses. For more information, please contact:

Chris Eagen, Race Chair  
251-8067  
ckeagen@tanzer75.net

## Majors drop in from Australia



**Tuna for dinner**

On 19 January Mary and Paul Major celebrated their 35th year as SPSC members by dropping in to give a glimpse of their lives aboard *Bella Via*, a Seawind 1200 catamaran, cruising the waters around Australia. Their prepared slide presentation, to the music of two of their favourite songs -- *I Can See Clearly Now*, and *Bella Via* -- left the audience wanting to see and hear more.

"It's been an amazing year," said Paul, of their last 10 months. They plan

to spend the next 10 years on their well-equipped catamaran. The Major's photos showed their first sail in Sydney Harbour, which happened to be together with the hundreds of boats participating in the Australia Day sail parade; the wide variety of fish Paul catches (including the one that half got away --

*(see Bella Via, page 9)*

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## The year in review, compiled by Jackie Timothy

- Jan. 15:** Paul and Mary Major left for their adventure aboard Bella Via
- April 30:** Launch Day
- May 18:** First of the Wednesday Sailors Night Out series
- May 21:** Shakedown weekend, Put n Bay
- May 26:** Mainstays annual wine cruise
- June 5:** Sail-a-bration
- June 18:** 31<sup>st</sup> SPSC C Course regatta
- June 25:** SPSC Invitational
- July 1:** Shark Worlds Cup
- July 11:** Sailing School opens
- July 17:** Sunday casual racing starts
- July 23:** Cruising to the Thames
- Aug. 13:** Great Lakes Y.C. Cruise
- Sept. 10:** Sail for Hospice
- Sept. 25:** Harvest Moon
- Oct. 29:** Haulout
- Nov. 12:** Final Furl banquet
- Dec. 5:** Christmas dinner celebrations



In good spirits (photos by Irene East) at the Mainstay's Christmas dinner. 30 ladies enjoyed a delicious meal at Fong's Villa on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Santa (Lorraine McLean) and his helper, Rudolph (Judy Finch), distributed gifts (some surprising, some funny!). Donations were collected totalling \$145, which has been sent to the Canadian Red Cross to help the earthquake victims. Many thanks to Judy Finch for making this year's favours.

## Remembering those who have left us in recent years

Your memories remain in the wind of  
SPSC's sails:

**Flora Asselstine**  
**Doug Buckner**  
**Bill Davidson**  
**Ray East**  
**Hank Soutar**  
**Mary Jane Miernecki**  
**Bill Mogyorody**



**Bill Davidson**, 78 years of Belle River, passed away on January 19, 2006. Predeceased by his wife Jeanne (Ferrand; 2004). Dear father of Wayne (Claire) of Belle River, Joseph and Brenda of Maidstone. Dear papa of Leslie, Leanne, Jesse and Jaden. Bill has been retired 20 years from G.M. Trim. He was a member of the Belle River Lions Club for 42 years as well as a past president. He was also a member of the South Port Sail Club. Donations may be made to the Belle River Lions Club or the Society for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP). A tree will be planted in memory of Bill Davidson in the Melady Heritage Forest. A dedication will be held on September 24, 2006. All are welcome.

## 2006 Proposed race dates, from Chris Eagen

May - Sept.	Wednesday racing
May 27-28	505 regatta
June-Aug.	Sunday racing
June 4	Sail-A-Bratton
June 17	SPSC C Course
June 24	SPSC Women's Challenge
July 8-9	Shark regatta
Aug. 12-13	SPSC Invitational
Sept. 9	Hospice race
Sept. 30	Harvest Moon regatta

## Proposed policy on use of clubhouse

The SPSC executive is drafting a policy for use of the clubhouse by members for non-SPSC events. These would include family occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, showers, etc. A nominal fee and a security deposit is being considered.

For any comments, contact Bill Noakes.

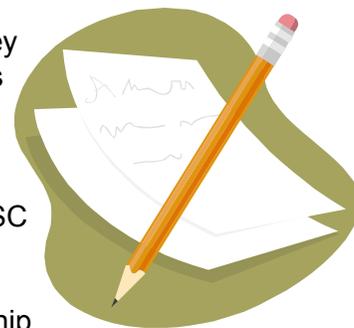
## Games Night Thanks

A big thank you to Loretta Buckner for hosting Games night at her home on Saturday, December 17th, when the SPSC parking lot was impassable.

*Lorne & Rita Mann*

## Watch for survey

There will be a survey regarding Soundings (e.g. Do you want electronic or paper copies) and other items regarding SPSC communication included with the mailing of membership fees. Please take a few minutes to fill it out, or send your comments by email to [renka@cogeco.ca](mailto:renka@cogeco.ca)



## Cruising Potluck Supper Friday March 24th., 7:00 pm

Save the date, and come out to help plan the new season's activities. Everyone is welcome for this social evening. We want to meet new people interested in cruising. Bring a favourite dish (entree, salad, or dessert) and get into cruising for 2006!

*John Bufton, Cruising Chair*

## Sailing School

Registration is now open. Classes start in early July, and run to the end of August. Youth programs run during the day, and Adult programs run two evenings a week. Information and registration forms for all courses can be found on the SPSC Web site or give Lynn Baker a call.

## *Soundings*

is the newsletter of the  
**South Port Sailing Club**

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20th of each month to Renka  
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## A year-end review from past commodore Phil Peck

As a club, we're happiest when there's a lot of water. This past year the bottom was too close to the surface, and we weren't too happy. We wouldn't be much of a sail club if boats can't sail, so dredging is necessary when lake levels are low, as they have been for a number of years.

We raised membership fees this year in hopes we could build up a reserve fund for future years. We don't have much left and it looks like we'll need to dredge again next year. The new executive has to wrestle with the same question – how will we pay for it and how can we position ourselves for the future.

The high point of the year was the Shark Worlds. The reviews were fantastic. It was a great regatta, by all accounts, mainly because so many people pitched in: from the very dedicated organizing committee to the dozens of people who helped out during the week, to the numerous volunteers from outside the club. Then there were the sponsors – what would we have done without them. Financially, as major sponsor Steelback breweries made a huge difference to the event. Outside the club, there was a good feeling about this event. Tecumseh and Lakeshore town councils both generously helped us with support services and additional dockage.

I learned an important lesson this year. This club runs on its own. I mean it runs because of a large number of dedicated members who don't need the executive to ask them to do things. A tip of the hat to all those who keep the place running.

I must say thanks to those on the executive who made my year so rewarding:

- Past Commodore Al Finch – he had been there before and was in a position to share his valuable experience. I'm glad he was there.
- Vice Commodore John Shaw occupied that special place on the executive – between membership responsibilities and Commodore. He flew some trial balloons. The good ones will be put into action during the next year.
- Rear Commodore Lyn Domney is one of those thoughtful but quiet guys that can amaze you. He

has a mind for the details that can drive you crazy. I came to appreciate his dedication to detail and his dedication to South Port.

- Cruising Chairman John Bufton not only knows how to organize an outing. He has a wide range of experiences in the club and offers valuable suggestions and help with anything that needs doing.

- Harbourmaster Jamie Halpin must have an amazing committee. He managed to finish launch in record time. He ensured the dredging was done to maximum advantage to the club. And, he dealt with numerous complaints and concerns, but only lost his cool once when a certain neighbour complained.

- Social Chair Jeff Labonte stepped in when his brother Rick had to give up the post. Thanks, Jeff, for the food, for organizing Final Furl and other events.

- Property Chair Robert Linton has the never-ending job of keeping this place ship shape. The club is looking good, thanks to Bob and crew.

- Race Chair Kevin Mogyorody had the thankless job of finding people to be Race Committee. We hadn't given Kevin a big enough stick to deal with the people who promised to be RC and then backed out. I know it was difficult Kevin, but you pulled it off.

- Junior Sailing chair Renée Dawson managed to juggle responsibilities this year – between ensuring the junior sailors had a terrific experience and increasing club membership by giving birth to a baby girl. Congratulations Renée on both.

- Treasurer Bill Noakes is the guy we really all resent. He asks us for money. And if we don't give it up easily, he persists. And we're happy he does. Bill knows how to balance the reality of what we can afford with the dreams of what we'd like to be, all the time suggesting ways we can be better.

- And then there's Brenda Petro. The executive wouldn't function without Brenda. And that means the club wouldn't. Brenda is the heart and conscience of the executive. She kept me on track.

- Thanks to Renka Gesing for overseeing the creation and editing of Soundings.

- Also I must acknowledge the important role played by the Mainstays. They're not only a social group, but make significant contributions to the success of the club.

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## from Commodore John Shaw

South Port Sailing Club, our club, enters the New Year having completed a very successful 2005 season.

As a result of the vision of the club founders, careful stewardship by subsequent executives and the continued enthusiasm of our members we have a sailing club of which we can be truly proud.

The major challenge for the year will be the old chestnut of providing adequate water levels. We won't know the precise situation until soundings can be taken, but we expect a similar volume will need to be dredged as last year. Despite this, we are aiming to maintain fees at the same level as 2005.

Our executive for 2006 is keen, full of ideas and will have reports for you at the general membership meeting on 24 February; I'll look forward to seeing you all there.

## from Social Committee Chair, Derek White

I would like to start off by saying thank you to Jeff Labonte for his hard work as social chair the last couple of years. I look forward to working with our new executive. When asked to be social chair, I was a little reluctant at first to take on this tough job. So much to plan, so much to do. Nonetheless, I am excited. You all should be excited too: big plans, big parties, fun for all ages, all boat types, all welcome. All I will need is full participation. If you have any ideas, please feel free to let me know, any and all suggestions are welcome. If any groups use the club for meetings, card night etc.....please let me know to avoid conflicts in scheduling.

I am planning to put together a committee in the New Year. Please let me know if you are interested in giving me a hand, whether you want to be more involved or you are looking just to do small odd jobs. I know I cannot pull this off by myself. I can be reached any time at 818.2442 or by email at dawhitey1@cogeco.ca

First on the agenda is the members meeting on 24 February. We're planning to serve some dessert and snack items after a short meeting.

## from the Harbourmaster, Jamie Halpin

Sorry I am so late in sending out my thankyou's for cradle moving and haul out but I missed the deadline for the last issue of Soundings. Thank you to everyone who came out for cradle moving and especially to Allyson Hornby for providing us with coffee and doughnuts.

Haul out went smoothly thanks to all of our volunteers. Thank you to:

- Andy Hellenbart for his usual fantastic job of yelling at people when it was their turn to come out
- Former Harbourmaster Doug Watson who did a great job of directing the small crane
- Jeff Labonte and Bob Young for directing the large crane
- Jim Halpin and Scott Turner for recording
- Wes Arthur and Graham Cowan for slinging slings and guiding boats
- Junior Sailing instructors for taking on the not entirely pleasant job of cleaning bottoms
- Lynn Baker and her crew for running the kitchen
- ... anyone I missed, I really do appreciate all of your help

Projects for the winter included painting the posts in the harbour and replacing the carpet on the posts. If anyone is planning to replace the carpet in their house this winter, please let me know so that you can donate your old one to redecorate our posts. The old carpets with the plants growing out of them are looking a little tired.

The ice conditions in the harbour have been poor so far this winter. Hopefully things will cool down to create some good solid ice so that we can get out there to paint and replace the carpets.

**Do you have any carpet to get rid of? SPSC needs to redecorate the dock -posts. Contact Jamie Halpin: [jhalpin@wincom.net](mailto:jhalpin@wincom.net), or 948.9234**

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# ILYA News, from Margaret Entwistle

## 2005 I-LYA fall meeting

Margaret and Jack attended the 2005 ILYA (Inland Lake Yachting Association) Fall Meeting in Sandusky, Ohio on December 3rd 2005. Representation of the 140 voting clubs was good. Items discussed:

- A member of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Watercraft Division announced that 24 of their officers went down to New Orleans to help after the Katrina hurricane.
- On Lake Erie there are now two Homeland Security boats in the area for the all the boating season. These are as well as the regular Customs and Police boats.
- The ILYA Web site ([www.ilya.org](http://www.ilya.org)) is updated regularly with any changes in regulations or news of seminars, racing and cruising.
- The title sponsor for 2005 was West Marine. The title sponsor for 2006 was not announced, although La-Z-Boy continues to be a major sponsor.
- ILYA will participate in the upcoming Cleveland Boat Show. It will be an ILYA and West Marine Rest Stop inside the show. They always need helpers.



member clubs vary in clubhouse size, dockage availability, restaurant and bar services, and other amenities such as swimming pools and tennis courts. While we would like all member yachting, boating and sailing clubs to be fully available and open to all ILYA affiliated clubs' members, that is not always the case. Each club sets the limits of reciprocity to meet the needs of their own organization.

In the larger metropolitan areas, the large prestigious full-service clubs have been inundated with requests of dockage, dining and service from members of smaller non-service clubs to the point of reducing service to their own members. This problem has occurred at the Cleveland Yachting Club, Detroit Yacht Club, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and outside the area at the New York Yacht Club and Chicago Yacht Club. These clubs have placed restrictions on reciprocity ranging from member-only use, to members of affiliated clubs located outside the area, and to guests being accompanied or recommended by a member. The ILYA cannot control or dictate reciprocity standards by member clubs.

## Reciprocity among ILYA clubs

A letter to Commodore Heidi Riddle prompted the following reply last April from John Thompson, Vice President, ILYA Trustees:

Reciprocity among ILYA clubs covers the gamut of clubs within the vast area covered by ILYA, from Alpena, Michigan to Buffalo, New York. The ILYA

In planning travel by boat, our suggestion is to always contact the club you wish to visit ahead of time and make reservations. This will confirm your ability to stay at that club and it will allow that club to reserve accommodations for you. This will save embarrassment for both parties and will assure a more pleasant experience for you. It will be helpful to carry the ILYA yearbook with you. We suggest that member clubs have the ILYA club listings available for the management and dock staff for reference.

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## from the Property Chair, Rene Brown

If you have any ideas or would like to help out with maintenance or improvement projects around our club, please feel free to call, 979-7303 or email [rb20@dcx.com](mailto:rb20@dcx.com). We all have work hours to get in and there is plenty of work to go around. Repair of the gobi mats and a new walkway around the harbour are among the many projects being planned to help our club look its best.

## Windsor Yacht Club Wednesday night seminars

WYC invites SPSC members to attend its seminar series. They take place at WYC, starting 7:00 pm, as follows:

- **Jan. 25:** Spirit of Canada Ocean Challenge. Come hear about Derek Hatfield and his experiences racing solo around the world.
- **Feb. 1:** Learn about props, pitch and everything else that makes a powerboat move from the experts at Michigan Wheel.
- **Feb. 8:** Electronics: What's new for the techy brought to you by Sea & Ski.
- **Feb. 15:** General Maintenance of the boats and how to keep costs down and Cordage and splicing for boaters.
- **Feb. 22:** International Paints discusses marine finishes, antifouling and all the material that makes your boat look good.
- **March 1:** Peter Garapick from Transport Canada (Coast Guard) discusses cold water safety and emergency signalling.
- **March 8:** A representative from Gill Marine

## Letter from Friends of Pike Creek

Dear Members of South Port Sailing Club,

The Friends of Pike Creek organization was formed five years ago when the Federal Government decided to privatize some of the waterways including Pike Creek. The Club became aware that someone had already made an offer to purchase the opening of Pike Creek where it flows into Lake St. Clair. This meant that the owner could decide depth and use of this opening. With the potential threat of losing our public access to the lake, a group of concerned citizens formed the Friends of Pike Creek to politically lobby the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments to keep the waterway open. Needless to say, the municipalities of Tecumseh and Lakeshore agreed to purchase the waterway. SPSC felt that it was in our best interest to maintain a strong allegiance with the Friends of Pike Creek.

This year we have removed approximately 50 tonnes of refuse including parts of trucks, tires, stoves, fridges, etc. Over the last five years we have removed close to 200 tonnes. The purpose of these "cleanups" is to restore the water quality in order to stock fish and restore the natural beauty of our watershed. This year we plan to plant trees as well as flora and fauna.

To date we have had sightings of a beaver or muskrat family and some night herons. As the creek nears the 401 highway there are deer, fox, coyote and a mean-looking badger.

There are three high schools involved in cleanups and planting: Belle River, St. Anne and Holy Names. Our own harbour master, Jamie Halpin, a teacher at Holy Names, has been very active on the executive of The Friends of Pike Creek. We usually meet on the third Monday of the month at SPSC. Our meetings are open to all.

This year The Friends of Pike Creek received two awards. We were among the 17 outstanding organizations in 2005 to receive the Provincial Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism as well as the Windsor/Essex Volunteer Award.

*John E. Staley  
President*

## Stay and Sail -- Great sailing holiday, by Jackie Timothy



### The bay of boats

On January 8<sup>th</sup>. Dave Robichaud and Jackie Timothy headed to the Columna Sailing Resort in Antigua. It is located in Hodges Bay, on the northern tip of the island. Sun Sail vacations offers not only bareboat charters and flotillas, but "Stay and Sail" resorts in Antigua, Greece and Turkey.

Unlike the large overstated all inclusive resorts we are accustomed to, this smaller, well groomed property was a treat. There was a pool, beach area and of course a small bay housing the boats. They offer rooms, one bedroom apartments and villas. We had a room overlooking the pool, with an ocean view. It was ground level with a veranda where we enjoyed our morning coffee. The meal plan can be half board, or full board which includes buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cost includes use of the boats as well as your transfer to and from the airport, which is less than 15 minutes away. The beach employees were made up of locals and younger sailors both male and female, who obviously enjoy their jobs. They were encouraging and helpful to everyone and great fun.

The island has a British influence and we noted the majority of the guests were from England. There were families with young children cared for by nannies at Sunsails Kid's club. This allowed the parents free time of their own. The English traditions in-

cluded tea at 4:30 every afternoon, and driving on the wrong (?) side of the road.

The over 40 boats available included Hobie Cats, Lazars, Topaz, Xenons, Taz and Sport 16s -- all for use by the guests. Sailboards were also very popular. Motor boats were available to travel to Prickly Pear Island a short distance away, which offers a bar and snorkelling for a change of pace.



### Dave on a Topaz

There was never a wait to use any of the equipment. The rescue boats were busy all week assisting the guests with the winds at a minimum of 27 knots and gusting. The sailors flipped, righted themselves and just keep on sailing. If you are not a dinghy sailor when you arrive, you will be by the time you leave. It was a beautiful to see as many as 30 boats and sailboards out on the water in front of the resort. A local sports photographer spends time in the look out, busy taking pictures of everyone. They offer CDs of those you choose from his daily takes at a reasonable price. He took some wonderful "action shots" out on the water.

The staff took out the Hobie Cats several times and put on a show we had never seen. Three or four catamarans perfectly lined up side

by side up, 27 knot winds, all up on one pontoon. Synchronized Hobies are a sight to behold!

So, if anyone is interested in relaxing, sailing and touring a beautiful friendly island, information is available at [www.sunsail.com](http://www.sunsail.com). The travel time including a short layover in Atlanta, is approximately nine hours in all out of Detroit, but well worth it. We hope to return next year.



### Synchronized cats

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## Bella Via, cont'd from pg. 1

a tuna head was all that the shark left him); some of the beautiful beaches they visit (including the worlds largest sand island); interesting Australian wildlife, dolphins that visited on their anniversary to swim along with them, playing between the two hulls; a whale breaching close by; drinking coconut milk during an island hike . . .

"The biggest adventure was a mistake on my part," mentioned Paul. After prompting to tell the story, he and Mary gave the exciting details of riding breaking rollers over a sandbar, on the verge of either scraping the bottom or pitch-poling if they slid off the wave.

For more details and photos (new Web address):

**[users.xplornet.com/~bellavia/](http://users.xplornet.com/~bellavia/)**

Click on Journal for their wonderful stories.



Drying out. Photos (incl. pg. 1) from **[users.xplornet.com/~bellavia/](http://users.xplornet.com/~bellavia/)**



The first sail: Mary with Graeme, the Seawind General Manager. Sydney Opera House is in the background.

To contact Mary or Paul

Email:

**[bellavia@xplornet.com](mailto:bellavia@xplornet.com)**

land-based email address that they are able to check when in port, to be used for pictures or attachments

**[VA3BLV@winlink.org](mailto:VA3BLV@winlink.org)**. On board, checked at least three times daily, but to be used ONLY for text-based emails. NO PICTURES, JOKES or ATTACHMENTS PLEASE!

Snail mail:

If you have mail, pictures, CDs or anything like that, forward it to: Paul and Mary Major, c/o Teresa St. Pierre, 3403 Deerbrook Dr., Windsor, ON. N8R 2G1. Teresa will then forward it to the Majors.



Mary and Paul Major at SPSC, 19 Jan. 2006. Photo by John Shaw.

## February 2006 SPSC Calendar

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>March 2006 Club House Duties</b>  Mar 5-11 Soulliere,D&I      Mar 12-18 Staley,J&B  Mar 19-25 Steel,B&G      Mar 26-Apr 1 Stephenson,D&G  		1 7:00 pm <b>WYC seminars</b> every Wed. see pg. 2 for topics	2	3	4 7:30 pm <b>Games night at the club</b>  	5 Club House Duties   (Jan 29-Feb 4) Salter, M&B
		8  <b>Men's Lunch</b>		12   (Feb 5-11) Schlosser, G&F		
13   7:15 pm Executive Meeting				18 7:30 pm <b>Games night at the club</b>  	19   (Feb 12-18) Smith, R&P	
20 <b>Friends of Pike Creek</b> 7:00 pm at SPSC All welcome				25 	26 (Feb 19-25) Szekely, A Allum, P 	
27  (Feb 26-Mar 4) Soles, P&D  	Remembering summer: South Port sunset (Chris Eagen); and under December's snow (Renka Gesing)					