



# Soundings

Newsletter of the *South Port Sailing Club*

March 2004

## Iceboating on Lake St. Clair

From out of the mists of time the skeleton of an iceboat emerged to once again call upon the ghost fleet that once sailed upon the frozen surface of Lake St. Clair.

Over the last two decades uncertain conditions created by icebreakers, unsafe ice during mild winters, or heavy snow cover, created a hiatus of fright frigid rides. Perhaps a generation has gone by where the snap of the sail and the groan of a block has been replaced with the high-pitched sound of two-stroke engines streaking across open fields and frozen waterways.

But on February 7th, four brave sailors took an iceboat out on the lake once again. Club members Ted Illi, Peter Soles, Kevin Mogyorody met Doug Patillo and his boat at the club for a sail. A good time was had by all, but they could have used a bit more wind.

Thanks to Doug and Kevin for the report.



## General Membership Meeting Summary of Reports

### Harbourmaster, Doug Watson

#### Dredging, estimate for completion - 15 March

More equipment will be mobilized to allow dredging by the shore and for offloading the barge. The dredged material will be dumped onto the parking lot for decanting. We have given away the dredged material as topsoil; based on material sampling and testing it has no high levels of contaminants. A top soil company will load and truck the material off site at no cost to SPSC – a savings that will be deferred into additional dredging. The material will have to drain on our parking lot for a period of time prior to trucking, which may delay launch date by as much as two weeks.

The club is committed to do what it can, within the limits of our financial resources and influence, to

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provide reasonable water depths in the harbour and approaches. The harbour committee will review harbour soundings as the operation progresses to determine if addition dredging is possible and within the current budget. However, it is impossible for the club to ensure that any particular minimum depth of water will be available in any given period. While the

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club has not limited the draught of keelboats that members may sail from the club, note that dredging efforts are geared to accommodating only moderate keel depths, i.e. less than five feet.

**Painting:** We are still looking for someone to help paint the harbour walls before the summer of 2005. Paint is already available.

**Dock Repairs:** We need volunteers to help repair docks on launch day. Get involved and pass the time while waiting for your boat to go into the water.

**Dock Allocations:** We received 45 returns to date. The deadline was March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will not allocate wells until all forms are returned.

**Range Light:** The outer range light is currently being repaired.

I wish to thank Ken Blyth, Gene Boivin, Bill Noakes, Bruce Reid and Scott Turner for their help in lowering the dock on the north wall. This was necessary to prevent the dinghies from slipping underneath. I also want to thank Al Finch, Duncan Hind, Bill Noakes and Scott Turner for their help in moving the boats in preparation for the dredging.

I am enjoying the interaction with others. I am becoming more familiar with names, faces and boats of the members and look forward to the new season. Just one last item – the ice in the harbour although thick, is thinner around the wall posts and under the dock areas. Caution needs to be taken when out on the ice.

## Harbour Reconfiguration,

### Ian Dawson

A retainer has been paid to GW Wolf Design & Engineering. An invoice to cover engineering drawings and bid documents will be coming shortly. Gary Wolf has received all necessary feedback and inputs to complete the drawing set based on feedback from the executive on Jan 26 and answers to basic utilities setup questions. He is to provide SPSC with a list of suggested bidders for us to consider.

The drawing of the general arrangement has been posted inside trophy case for comment from the membership, but no comments have been received to date.

Robert Linton is reviewing the "Stipulated Price Contract" for compliance with SPSC's needs

**Scheduling:** The engineering consultant is available to meet during the week of March 1 with the committee to review the final drawings, discuss concerns with SPSC, agree on prospective bidders, fill out the Instructions to Bidders form, and schedule a bidder's lineup meeting. The feeling of the current SPSC executive is that the start of the project, presuming it proceeds, would be September, 2005. This would need to be communicated during the lineup meeting.

**Next steps:** With a three-week bid closing period, we should be able to open the bids by April 2. Based on the costs, a recommendation needs to be developed for presentation to the membership, including a financing plan.

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## Attention Optimist Sailors

Junior Sailing Seminar for Optimist sailors of all skill levels is being held 20 March at the Bayview Yacht Club. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, with lunch and activities to follow.

Register [www.uksailors.com/detroit](http://www.uksailors.com/detroit) before 17 March, and get a free gift.

## Address Changes

**Phil & Rosalind Peck:** 7005 County Rd. 46, P.O. Box 446; Comber, ON NOR 1J0

**Renée & Ian Dawson:** 519 Talthorpe Pl.; Tecumseh, ON N8N 3C9. 519-979-9652

## Coming up after March:

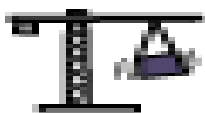
### Cruise Meeting Thursday 15 April 7:30 PM

It's time to set up a cruise schedule for the 2004 season. WANTED... NEW CRUISE MEMBERS! We'd like to attract new cruisers and are looking for fresh ideas. If you think you'd like to participate, please join us. We already have a couple of fun ideas (our very own South Port Olympics and/or "Survivors" cruise).

Contact: Dave & Francine Webb

### Launch Day Saturday 24 April\* 8:00 am

Contact:  
Doug Watson



\*May be postponed a week or two, depending on dredging results.

### SPSC Clean up Day Saturday 8 May 8:00 am - noon

Free breakfast, prepared by the Saturday morning breakfast crew!

Contact: Bob Linton

### Garage Sale Saturday 15 May

Save your treasures for the  
SPSC garage sale.

Mainstays uses funds raised to help SPSC with items such as flowers for the garden, kitchen supplies, junior sailing . . .

Contact: Sue Bufton



## Corrections

The **assessment** levied on each membership to help cover the cost of dredging is \$150 for 2004, not \$100 as reported in February Soundings.

**Race Committee Chair** contact information:

Kevin Mogyorody  
kevimogy@msn.com 519-735-0968

**Harbourmaster Chair** contact information:

Doug Watson  
dgwatson@sympatico.ca 519-969-3823

**ILYA Delegate:**

Margaret Entwistle  
mentwistle@sympatico.ca

## Use *Soundings* to Communicate No flyers please

To assure the most timely and cost-effective communication to SPSC members, please send all information to the Soundings editor. As a rule, we will not be sending out individual flyers, but will include any information useful to the membership in the newsletter. Get your information and notices in by the 20th of each month, and Soundings is sure to be an up-to-date and informative document.

Besides being mailed out to members, Soundings will also be distributed by e-mail by Paul Ramey. Paul has asked that all members who have email addresses send him a short email to [paulramey@cogeco.ca](mailto:paulramey@cogeco.ca) so that he has everyone's address — a computer crash ate up his previous list.

### *Soundings*

is the newsletter of the  
**South Port Sailing Club**  
210 Brighton Rd

Tecumseh, ON N8N 2L3  
979.7772 (unattended)  
[www.southportsailingclub.on.ca](http://www.southportsailingclub.on.ca)

We attempt to go to press by the 20th of each month. Please get your contributions to:

Renka Gesing  
254.5015; [renka@cogeco.ca](mailto:renka@cogeco.ca)

## Mainstays, from Sue Bufton

Twenty ladies came to the Club on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to say good bye to Marion Nijhuis, who is moving to Ottawa. Marion was presented with a book and framed photograph taken at an earlier Mainstays party. Irene East also searched the archives to make up an album of photos taken at Club gatherings. We all enjoyed seeing ourselves looking a lot younger! Thank you to Rita, Jane & Fran for preparing the refreshments.

Mary & Paul Major have kindly agreed to come to our next meeting on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and talk about their preparations for their long planned cruise. If you missed their talk on January 21<sup>st</sup> and wished you had been there, please, join us at 7.30 pm. This meeting is open to all members. There will be a \$1 admission charge to cover coffee and cookies.

Ladies, take a look at our washroom next time you visit the Clubhouse. Judy Finch has done a superb job of smartening up the room. Mainstays funded the work. Thank you Judy for a job well done. Don't forget our planned yard sale on May 15<sup>th</sup> when you are spring cleaning. Hold on to your treasures until we ask for them.

## An Evening of Wine Tasting

About 20 SPSC members and a few friends of members enjoyed an evening of wine tasting on 28 February. Two representatives from D'Angelo Estate Winery, which is based in Amherstburg, explained to participants how to judge the quality of a wine. Five wines were sampled with hors d'oeuvres prepared and coordinated by Anne Marie Norton.

Thanks Rocky Ieraci for getting this evening going, and Anne Marie for being an wonderful and welcoming hostess.



## Property Committee Notes, from Bob Linton

Launch time is fast approaching; please note the following:

### Waste

- The club pays for all waste to be removed; take home whatever you can.
- Oil and batteries are the responsibility of the club member and must be removed from club property.
- Clearly mark any personal items left on SPSC property with your name, otherwise they will be deemed Club property and may be removed or disposed of.

### Volunteers needed

- Kitchen:** We need a volunteer to repaint the walls. The countertops will be upgraded shortly.
- Lighting:** We need a volunteer to assist the committee in upgrading the club house lights.
- Clean up:** Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am -noon. As per the last two years the Property Committee will be sponsoring the free breakfast which this year will be cooked by the Saturday Morning Breakfast crew.

### Cradles

Remember the cost to store non collapsible cradles will go up this year. Check your old cradle and if you plan to replace it this year, ensure it is clearly marked accordingly and not packed into the cradle storage area. All collapsible cradles must be collapsed by Sunday morning following launch day, which is scheduled for 24 April, or they will be charged at full rate.

## **Scurvy**

### **A Book Review by John Bufton**

**Author: Stephen R. Brown**

**Publisher: Thomas Allen, Toronto**

Anyone who enjoys the sailing navy yarns of C.S. Forester (Hornblower) or Patrick O'Brien will enjoy *Scurvy*, written by a Canadian author from Ottawa. I had not realized the extent of the problem of scurvy. During the Seven Year's War (when Canada became part of the British Empire), 184,899 men were employed in the Royal Navy; of whom 133,708 died from disease, primarily scurvy, while only 1,512 were killed in action. Ships routinely left on voyages 30% over-manned, just to allow for death by disease. The detective work of enlightened mariners like Captain Cook and their medical colleagues to find the cure for scurvy is fascinating. Stephen Brown makes a convincing case that the British lost the American War of Independence because of a fleet weakened by scurvy, and having found the cure just as the Napoleonic wars started, were able to beat the French in those wars by maintaining a blockade and having fitter seamen than the French and Spanish. At Trafalgar the British, because of they were fitter, and better trained from being at sea for long periods, were superior in manoeuvring their ships, and could fire their guns faster than their enemy. The French and Spanish had not found a cure, and so were still handicapped by a scurvy-ridden fleet.

### **Opening for Social Committee Chair**

**Volunteer for a job  
that guarantees you  
a good time!**

**For more information,  
please call Al Finch  
945-7141**



## **2005 Shark Worlds**

### **from Lynn Baker**

The organizing committee for the 2005 Shark Worlds continues to pull together the details for the big event...which is now less than a year and a half away. The planning effort will get a dry run this coming summer when South Port hosts the Shark Canadians August 28 and 29 with significant race management support from Bayview Yacht Club. Anyone who wants to get involved in either or both regattas is welcome.

The search is on for a major sponsor for both regattas.. The committee is looking for a company that will lend its name and provide some financial backing for the Regatta.

Any ideas? Contact Jane McArthur or any of the committee members....

More to come next month!!

### **Call for Food Help**

### **from Margaret Entwistle**

Do you have any contacts in the food industry? Since the Shark 2005 Worlds (3-8 July 2005) championship is quite early in the harvesting season in Essex county, fresh food choices are limited. I am looking for contacts for even the limited choices in fresh foods from this area or imported food. Do we have someone who works at a canning plant or knows someone who could get us a deal? Let's not forget the soft drinks, juices, or items such as paper or plastic products.





We could of course get some of these items from wholesale outlets, but if we could save a little more through our own members, family or friends, we could offer an outstanding menu for the regatta. Meat is another area of need, since we will be doing a lot of barbequing given our limited kitchen facilities. Anyone who could give us an exceptional deal on chicken breasts, ground beef, sausage, kebabs, steaks, etc., would be most appreciated.

This event may seem far away, but the Shark Canadians this year will give me a good opportunity to start talking to any contacts I receive.

Please keep this information in mind and get in touch if you can help the committee in any way ([mentwistle@sympatico.ca](mailto:mentwistle@sympatico.ca); 739-2061).

We'll all get to enjoy the evening meals at the Club during the Worlds at a very low cost.

## March 2004 SPSC Calendar

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>Club House Duties</p>  <p>Roger Somerville, Janice Lavang</p>	<p>2</p>	<p> 3</p> <p>Sailors' Nights Out 7:30 pm</p> <p>Racing rules</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p> 6</p> <p>Games Night for everyone 7:30 pm</p> <p>Info: Lorne &amp; Rita Mann </p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>	<p> 9</p> <p>7:30 pm Executive Meeting</p>	<p> 10</p> <p>Cruising South down the Intercoastal to Florida &amp; Bahamas: Jim &amp; Lee Ann Halpin</p>	<p>11</p>	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Fundraiser for Craig Noakes and Nick Beaudoin who are campaigning for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.</p> </div>		<p>14</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p> 17</p> <p>Advice &amp; guidance for crew, and for skippers who need them</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p> 20</p> <p>Games Night for everyone 7:30 pm </p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p> 23</p> <p>Shark Worlds Org. Committee Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p> 24</p> <p>Pacific Cruise through the Coral Sea with Rod Zatyko</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>David &amp; Gloria Stephenson </p>	<p>30</p>	<p> 31</p> <p>How to be race committee</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p>(4-10 April) Don &amp; Doreen Stratton </p>