



Soundings

Newsletter of the *South Port Sailing Club*

April 2006

Phil Kurtz, 14 Nov. 1915 - 6 March 2006 Reminiscences from Duncan Hind

Of Phil's 90 years on this earth, he probably sailed in 70 of them. Sometime in the 30s or 40s, Phil joined the Crescent Sail Club in Grosse Point, Michigan, and raced States-side for years.

Phil and Mary along with the family eventually settled on the water in Russell Woods. In 1965, Phil connected with a local group of sailors and became one of South Port Sailing Club's earliest members. Sailing became the Kurtz family's no. 1 activity.



A view Phil treasured

Whether day sailing, racing or cruising, you would often see Phil and Mary, the bikini-clad girls Kathy, Sara, Lisa and son Peter out on the water sailing. We could recall several humorous stories, but one in particular is classic Phil.

Phil rode an old ten-speed bike for years, not only to and from the club, but also all over town. If Phil wasn't on his bike, he'd be at SPSC in his utility vehicle, a well-used rusty old beater car or truck. One afternoon Phil left the club in one of these gems. Former club member and neighbour of the Kurtz', Bob Crumb, left just after Phil. At the end of the club

driveway, Bob found a screw-driver laying on the road. As he reached Tecumseh and Brighton roads, there was a wrench on the edge of the road. A short distance after that, he found a hammer in the centre of Tecumseh Rd. The trail ended at the Kurtz driveway. The bad news was that Phil's trunk had rusted away; the good news was that he got his tools back.



Sailing with Phil was at times bad news. At the third or fourth South Port Invitational, Phil had asked me to crew for him. The next thing I knew I'm helming on the windward leg, starboard tack. Phil's was watching an approaching port-tack boat. As we quickly converged, Phil began calling "Starboard! Starboard! Starboard!" then ordered me to hit him. Thankfully, I managed to alter course and avoid the collision. I don't know how we finished, but #617 was unscathed.

Phil was a fixture around South Port for over 40 years. Our memories of him will sail on forever. Smooth sailing old friend!

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Racing report, Chris Eagen

Good news for the racing program at South Port. Essex County PHRF Association announced at their annual general meeting that they would be dropping the Thames River SEA Regatta as an ECPHRF counter race due to lack of participation. South Port Sailing Club will now be hosting three of the four counter races for Lake St. Clair ECPHRF boat of the year. The four are:

- The Canadian Club
- The Harvest Moon
- South Port Invitational
(counts for two; one for each day of racing)

You only have to race three out of the four races to qualify for Lake St. Clair boat of the year so if you're a member an ECPHRF and compete in both of the South Port events you will qualify for boat of the year.

Race Instructions for the Wednesday Night Program are in their final stages. Thanks for all the input I received about improving the program. As many of you know we looked at the idea of the Shark fleet doing a windward and leeward course. This idea was met with a lot of controversy and it was decided to leave the starts and the course the same. Many of the racers suggested and liked the idea of incorporating a long-distance race into each of the series. This idea was tried in the past but never really took off; we're going to try again and see what happens.

I am looking for fleet captains for each of the Wednesday night fleets. Fleet captains are responsible for raising any rating issues within a given fleet as well as encourage racing within that fleet. If you are interested in being a fleet captain please contact me. Looking forward to a great racing season!

Lasers in Vermilion

Vermilion Boat Club
5416 Liberty Ave. Vermilion, OH. 44089
VERMILION, OHIO
May 6th, 2006

For info: Christy Parsons, e-mail:
bowbunny342@yahoo.com
tel: 440.967.5584
www.vermilionboatclub.com

If you operate a pleasure craft . . .

A reminder from Transport Canada for anyone born after April 1, 1983 who operates a pleasure craft fitted with a motor and all operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and less than 4 metres in length. If you fit into these two categories, you are required to have proof of competency on board at all times. All other operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor will have to carry proof of competency by 2009. See table below for deadlines.

Remember also to carry enough floatation devices of the appropriate size for all guests on board. Carrying the right equipment is not only the law, it could save your life.

Date at which proof of competency is required on board

All operators born after April 1, 1983	Sept 15, 1999
All operators of craft under 4 m in length, including personal watercraft	Sept 15, 2002
All operators	Sept 15, 2009

For more information on how to obtain the Pleasure Craft Operator Card and other requirements that apply to you, call 1-800-267-6687 or visit www.boatingsafety.gc.ca

For information about the boater exam, check out www.boaterexam.com/canada/

As of April 1, 2006, Canada Border Services Agency will no longer issue licenses. Transport Canada would like to inform pleasure craft owners that you can apply for a Pleasure Craft License at all 320 Service Canada Centres across Canada.

For the location nearest you, visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca or call 1-800-622-6232.

from Commodore John Shaw

Safety Captain

For several months I have thought about the idea of having a SPSC Safety Captain. This position was approved by the executive some time ago (see page 5 for a description). Recently I saw an article in a magazine describing how a sailor had died by being pulled under his boat by a rope that he had tied around his waist to drag his boat off a mud bank. Having our own Safety Captain could help us prevent similar accidents in the future.

Soundings

I would like you to participate in a new series of articles for Soundings. The title of the article will be "Why My Boat Is The Best In The World". There are many excellent boats in our club and it would be interesting to read articles explaining what you find good, bad, or quirky about your boat.

Please submit your articles to Renka Gesing. She will be delighted to hear from you.

Buddy System

Over the last few seasons we noticed that some new members aren't aware of club events. This has led to the idea of a Buddy System. If you have proposed any new members over the last few years I would like you to resume contact and become their Buddy, encouraging and assisting with their participation in club events.

Soundings

is the newsletter of the
South Port Sailing Club

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www.southportsailingclub.on.ca

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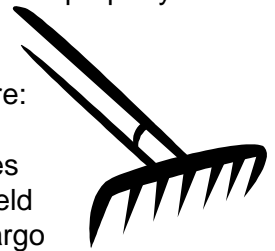
Please get your contributions by the
20th of each month to Renka
(254.5015; renka@cogeco.ca)

from the Property Committee, Rene Brown

I would like to say thank you for the people who are dedicating their time and efforts to the property committee this year.

Property Committee members are:

Sue Bufton	Bill Noakes
Phil Daoust	Bob Layfield
Wayne Hind	Steve Zsargo



Spring Work Party -- Everyone likes a party!

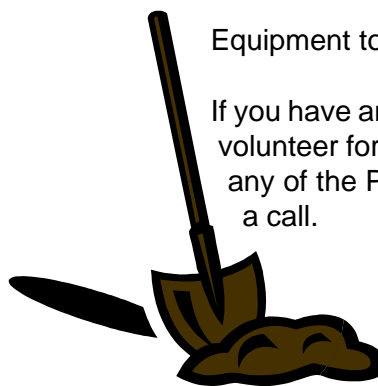
Saturday, May 13, 2006
8:00 to 12:00 noon
lunch to follow

Planned Activities:

1. Clean up parking lot and yard of blocks, wood, leaves & debris
2. Bring out hoses stored in shed
3. Clean out shed and sweep
4. Plant two bushes on north side of club house
5. Turn soil in flower beds around club house by range light
6. Paint front door
7. Trim bush by electrical box, clear around sprinkler pump
8. Install lines across top of gobi mats to prevent geese from walking up
9. Repair two sunken finger docks on E dock (some welding required)
10. Repair dock at ramp (some welding required)

Equipment to assist - shovels and rakes.

If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer for a project just give Rene or any of the Property Committee members a call.



from the Harbourmaster, Jamie Halpin

Thank you to everyone for getting in your Summer Dockage and release forms in on time. Well assignment will begin shortly.

Planning is under way for our May 6th launch day. Cranes and a forklift have been ordered. We investigated going to one crane to reduce our costs. What we discovered was that we pay for the cranes by the hour and the large crane costs more. We need the large crane for the larger boats and it would take twice as long to launch with one crane. In the end, it would actually cost us more. The only way we can save money is to launch quickly. So please, be ready when it is your turn to launch. Have the guide ropes hanging from your bow and stern, your can of antifouling open, and your paint roller in your hand. Better still, enlist an assistant to paint the bow pads while you paint the stern.

Cradles will be folded and stored as we launch. Please have any tools at hand that are required to fold your cradle.

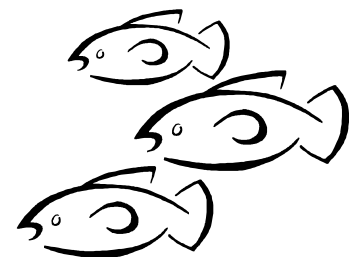
Unfortunately, we have lost the race with the fish. We contacted three contractors and all three declined to bid because they felt there was not enough

time between the ice clearing and the March 15th fish spawning to complete the job. ERCA will not allow us to dredge until after June 20th. Since ERCA gave us extreme leeway last year, we do not expect much flexibility with this date. A survey of the harbour and channel should be completed by the time you read these words. The tentative plan is to dredge the entrance channel and any urgent areas of the harbour after June 20th. Logistics make it nearly impossible to dredge the harbour while the boats are in the water. The best place to unload barges on our property is between B and C docks. This would require relocating all boats on B and C docks or they would likely lose their rudders and/or sterns to the barge as it moves through. Moving all of

these boats plus the boats on A and F docks while we dredge those areas would require a whole other harbour to dock our boats in. Emergency dredging can be done as it was last year by hauling the barges upstream to unload. However, this is slow and therefore expensive. More extensive dredging of the harbour is planned for after haul out in the fall.

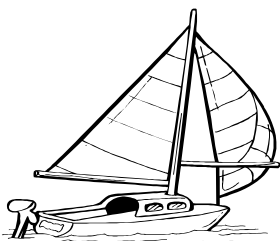


"Unfortunately, we have lost the race with the fish."



Cruising Potluck Supper & Planning, from John Bufton

Thirteen members braved unseasonably late snow showers on 24 March for a convivial evening at the clubhouse to plan next season's cruising agenda. But cruisers get their priorities right, and before planning commenced, we sat down to an excellent potluck meal, washed down with BYOB!



Planning discussions followed dinner and a draft program was drawn up. Dates may change, as we need to be sure our intended hosts/destination are willing/able to accommodate us!

We're looking at a long cruise to Pelee Island (linking up with other clubs), four weekend cruises and one midweek cruise to destinations around the shores of Lake St. Clair. We are also planning three evening dinner cruises to local restaurants/clubs, the concept being that we will take a small number of boats, with several members on each, leaving SPSC late afternoon and returning before dusk. Additionally, other members would be encouraged to join us by road.

Our first cruise will be May 27th weekend, and full details of the cruising schedule will appear in the next Soundings.

Safe Boating Awareness Week - 20-26 May

Safe Boating Awareness Week is promoted by the Canadian Safe Boating Council, a non-profit organization from all areas of the marine community. The goal is to ensure that the millions of Canadians who head out on the waters in kayaks, sailboards, sailboats, fishing boats, personal watercraft and powerboats are equipped with the knowledge for a safe day on the water.

We all know the recommendations listed below, but it never hurts to refresh one's memory prior to the launch of a new season:

- know the water conditions before launching and always check the local marine weather forecasts
- do not overload your watercraft
- become an accredited pleasure craft operator
- ensure you have proper safety equipment on your boat
- be certain you carry enough Personal Flotation Devices for everyone on board, and that they are approved by Transport Canada or The Canadian Coast Guard









- check your fuel, as the wind can be unpredictable

Sometimes we forget the effects of alcohol combined with sun, fatigue, wind and motion can decrease fine motor skills resulting in reduced reaction time. Statistics show that more than 40% of recreational boating fatalities in Canada are alcohol related. Drinking and driving rules apply whether you are on the road or water.



Some of the members of the SPSC present executive relax after the March 13 meeting. From the left: Lyn Domney, Bill Noakes, John Shaw, Rene Brown, Derek White and Chris Eagen

April 2006 SPSC Calendar

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun															
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">OPP Safety Inspection</p> <p>OPP Marine Safety Inspection for 2006 coming soon to SPSC. Details to follow in next <i>Soundings</i>.</p>					<p>1</p> <p>7:30 pm Games night at the club</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Club House Duties </p> <p>(Mar 26-Apr 1) Stephenson, D&G</p>															
<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm Mainstays annual spring pot luck supper. All ladies welcome.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Work Party 13 May</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Launch Day 6 May</p>  </div> </div>				<p>9</p> <p>(Apr 2-8) Stratton, D&D Tousignant, W&M</p>																
<p> 10</p> <p>7:15 pm Executive Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p> 12</p> <p>Men's Lunch</p>			<p>15</p> <p>7:30 pm Games night at the club</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>(Apr 9-15) Stridiron, W&S Watson, D&M</p>															
<p>17</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Search for Safety Captain</p> <p>Applications are invited for the new position of Safety Captain. The Safety Captain will assess and recommend action on all items of safety concerning South Port Sailing Club encompassing personal, property and on-water safety.</p> <p>The Safety Captain would work with assistants skilled in different areas of responsibility, for example first aid, electrical, fire prevention.</p> <p>If you have any interest in this position please contact Commodore John Shaw. Phone: 519 966 0757; Email: jshaw@mnsi.net</p>				<p>23</p> <p>(Apr 16-22) Watson, J&K Weber, S&P</p>																
<p>24</p> <p>Friends of Pike Creek</p>					<p>30</p> <p>(Apr 23-29) Young, B Zatyko, R</p> 																
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">May 2006 Club House Duties</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;">Apr 30-May 6</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">May 7-13</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">May 14-20</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">May 21-27</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">May 28 - June 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrews, G&P</td> <td>Barlow, A&J</td> <td>Bennett, G&K</td> <td>Blyth, K&J</td> <td>Bowsher, P&P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arthur, W</td> <td>Baker, M</td> <td>Beaudoin, N</td> <td>Boivin, G&V</td> <td>Braidford, E</td> </tr> </table>							Apr 30-May 6	May 7-13	May 14-20	May 21-27	May 28 - June 3	Andrews, G&P	Barlow, A&J	Bennett, G&K	Blyth, K&J	Bowsher, P&P	Arthur, W	Baker, M	Beaudoin, N	Boivin, G&V	Braidford, E
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