



SALTSPRING ISLAND SAILING CLUB

# TellTales

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*The Commodore's Award for 2001 is awarded to Tony Meek who, throughout the past year, has been a driving force in the training, transportation, and guidance of our Junior Racing Programme. His efforts have been a major contribution to the success of the Junior Program, and the community at large has benefitted greatly. The award is presented by Past Commodore John Farquharson*

Hugh and Sylvia Greenwood receiving the Honorary Life Membership from Commodore Jim Ganderton. The Greenwoods are nominated for this special honour by Past Commodore Charles Sutcliffe for their unfailing interest in the club, and for Hugh's efforts as Commodore and advisor on engineering matters



## Commodore's report

When I saw the number of club friends and colleagues who attended the memorial services for Shirley Davidson and Steve Thomas, I was moved to the realisation that we have lost true friends. We will miss them both.

After the terrible weather in December and January, February was a delight and saw numerous boats taking advantage of the early season. We hope that the unseasonable snows of early March will not dampen the club members' enthusiasm as we approach the Spring Clean Up and the Opening Day Sailpast.

The General Meeting in February saw a number of innovations. The most important to the membership will be the introduction of a new Long Term Plan Sub-

Committee. This Sub-Committee will study both the short term as well as the long term needs and desires of the club in three aspects: the clubhouse and grounds; the docks and foreshore; and, for the first time, the long term needs of the Junior Program. The team plans to have completed their deliberations in time to report their findings at the May General Meeting. Another equally important, but less obvious, announcement is the planned pay-down of the club mortgage for the breakwater. It has been decided to pay off \$33,000 for which there will be no penalty. Another innovation has been the cataloguing of a host of charts available for members' use. Tony  
*Continued on page 2*

Please note that this social will now start at 1700 h.  
See info on club website front page.

### NOTE:

*This social is not listed in the club calendar—however, our Staff Captain has gone out of her way to arrange a special celebration in honour of our new BBQ!*

### RAIN OR SHINE Come and help christen the NEW CLUB BBQ

*Tuesday, April 9 at 1700 h*

Hamburgers, veggie burgers,  
salads, dessert  
Beer, wine, coffee, tea  
\$5 per person

*IT WILL BE GOOD!*



### Volunteers needed!

The Round Saltspring Race will take place on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of May. The planning is already underway and even though it is still almost three months away, we want to remind all club members that we'll need volunteers to assist in this very busy weekend.

*See the full story on page 3.*

### Power Squadron FIRST AID SEMINAR scheduled for Friday, March 22nd

*See details on page 2.*

### The 2002 Yearbook is now available!

*It includes your 2002 membership card, and it's in the clubhouse now, waiting to be picked up.*

**Deadline for the next  
TellTales is 5th April**

Burridge, our Fleet Captain Cruising, has done a superb job of the cataloguing and storing of the charts which cover not only our cruising area but also a good portion of the tropics. We have also received a model of the *HMS GANGES* from the IODE, which now is on display in the trophy cabinet. My personal vote of thanks goes out to Barb Todd for filling in as Secretary at the General Meeting as well as at the March Board meeting. Her expert participation seems to have become a spring tradition. Thanks Barb!

It's time to go to your calendars and fill in all the important dates of club activities which are listed in the club Yearbook. This book has now been completed and is available for pick-up in the clubhouse. We all owe a debt of thanks to Nigel Denyer, Per Rasmussen and Dan Phelan for a difficult task well done.

With all the problems which we have had regarding membership lists, late payments of membership dues, and unsigned insurance certifications, we have decided to revamp the mail-out and invoicing system in October. We hope this will clarify and simplify the whole club membership renewal process.

### **Board activities**

The purpose of this series of articles in the TellTales is to let you know of some of the activities which your Board is considering and discussing.

**New Members** – Bruce and Gail Coney have been inducted into the club as members and hopefully will be at the Meet-and-Greet on the 12th. We have also received applications for Associate membership from Scott and June Simmons and from Catherine Holahag.

**Mortgage pay-down** – As was discussed at the GM, the Board has taken action to pay down the mortgage by \$33,000 in March 2002. This can be done without penalty. The Board will reassess the mortgage and the club's financial position in 4–5 months to see if further pay-down is warranted.

**Regional Meeting** – The Sidney Saanich Yacht Club organised a regional meeting of all clubs in the lower Vancouver Island region to discuss common areas of interest and concern. Jim Ganderton and John Farquharson attended this meeting.

**Masterlift system** – The Board is examining the possibility of the club acquiring a Masterlift winch system that will greatly facilitate mast top maintenance. The system is, essentially, a winch which is moved to the top of the mast using at least two halyards and on which the daring sailor can be safely, and independently, elevated.

**Electric power usage** – A study is being undertaken to identify members who are using, but not paying for, electric power,



*Come and check out the new BBQ on 9th April!!*

### **The social scene**

February's traditional Skipper's Choice Potluck was well attended with about 40 members and visitors enjoying a wide variety of dishes. A young trio from Victoria entertained during and after dinner and was very popular. Many thanks to Jean Howell, Sylvia Greenwood, Susan Paynter and Heather Kusch—a great crew who did all the work. Thanks also to three new bartenders: Paul Kusch, Rob Denny and Derek Barrio.

Our very useful and good-looking new bar is mainly due to Rob Denny's skillful woodwork in converting this \$10 garage sale item. Bar supplies have now been stashed inside and will make the bartenders' job that much more convenient. Many thanks to Rob, and to Derek for doing the necessary metalwork.

Last but not least, our socials would not be so successful without the extraordinary talents of Harold Brochman and his computer in creating our posters to advertise the events. Thanks Harold!

Mark your calendars for an event on April 9th. Read all about it on page 1.

—Jenny Barrio, Staff Captain

and action will be taken when this is completed.

**Club insurance** – The Board decided to use one insurance agent rather than the previous two. Insurance policies for club facilities, as well as the Directors, are now in place.

**Long Term Plan** – A Sub-Committee has been formed to study the long term club improvements which are desired, and are possible within the usual financial constraints. The plan will be presented to the membership at the May General Meeting.

—Jim Ganderton, Commodore

### **Farewell**

This February the club lost a much liked and long-term member.

Steve Thomas was a tireless volunteer with the club for over twenty years. He spent countless hours fixing and replacing club floats and railings, repairing leaking pipes and fixtures, and he did the entire replumbing of the clubhouse during the 1998-99 renovation. His professional expertise was much appreciated, and in May 2000 he received the club's Honorary Life Membership.

He was an avid sailor and racer and he donated the Doug Thomas Memorial Trophy for the Round Saltspring Race, in honour of his friend and fellow sailor Doug. He also won the naming competition which gave us the name 'TellTales'.

Steve will be missed by all the club members who knew him and, as Don Baxter said, "I will especially miss having Steve and *PIPEDREAM* alongside my boat where we would sometimes spend the whole day doing absolutely nothing but enjoy each other's company."

—Ed.

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### **Power Squadron first aid seminar**

The SaltSpring Island Power and Sail Squadron is holding a first aid seminar on Friday, March 22nd at the Lion's Hall, and we would like to extend an invitation to any Sailing Club members who wish to attend.

We will have a potluck supper starting at 1800h and the speaker will begin at 1900 h. There will be just coffee and tea and juice (no alcohol) and we ask that everyone bring enough to feed themselves and two other people. No desserts or alcohol please as we are not going to get a liquor license for an event like this.

Our speaker will be Lenore Hearsy who has been involved in first aid for years and she will be touching on the following: stopping bleeding, preventing shock, CPR, and hypothermia.

There will be a charge of \$4 per person to cover her cost and the hall rental.

Hope to see many of you there.

—Brian Tolman (Cdr.), *FABER*

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A picture worth a thousand new shoots...



## Cruising plans

The Yearbook is out and it is a really good source for finding out what has been planned for this season's cruising. So far we have not had to make any changes in the schedule. The first cruise of the year will take place Saturday, 11 May. A few days ago, with some truly splendid spring weather blessing us, the May date seemed quite advanced. Today, with snow and below freezing temperatures, the date doesn't look that bad.

The Maple Bay Race is scheduled for Saturday, 22 June. Please give some thought to the activities planned for Sunday, the 23rd of June. On this day we're planning a quick trip around to Cowichan Bay for a picnic lunch and a concert by the Victoria Symphony at the Cherry Point Vineyard. The Vineyard, however, requires us to buy tickets in advance for the concert, at \$15 per person, so we shall be asking you to sign up and pay for this about two weeks in advance. Look for a notice on the club-house door. You can provide your own lunch or buy a plate of Cowichan cheese and bread at the vineyard. This outing is a bit of an experiment for us yachtmen but apparently the vineyard had very good reports on its success last summer and is therefore repeating it this summer.

Happy cruising!

—Tony Burridge  
Fleet Captain, Cruising

## Wharfingering

### Daily Wharfinger duty calls again!

A signup sheet for the Daily Wharfinger schedule for this Spring and Summer (May 15 to September 15) is posted in the clubhouse foyer. Please donate some time for this activity. If everyone signs up, we will have no trouble filling the schedule. Consider signing up for several dates—first signed, first served!

## On The Waterfront

I could tell you about the wheelbarrow handle that got fixed, I could tell you about the gate closure apparatus that has received attention, but still needs a new cable, I could tell you about the other wheelbarrow that got a flat tire, I could even tell you about the lamp standard at A and B dock that doesn't want to work, and no matter how I grabbed the bare wires I couldn't get my hair to stand on end... but I will not, and we all know why—just too boring.

But I will let you know that the water works connection is on hold until this ugly cold snap is well and truly out of our system, hopefully by the time you receive this issue of the TellTales.

And to fill in the huge gap left by the lack of printable news I was going relate a somewhat humorous joke I heard the other day, but it was decided that it was just a little too sensitive for the pages of our monthly circular. [It was very funny, though. —Ed.]

So let me tell you about a thought I was having the other day as I fought with that recalcitrant gate closing mechanism on the coldest day of the year with a lazy wind that went straight through a body. As my fingers froze to the cold steel of the gate I was feeling somewhat duped. My mind went back to the time when a certain chairman of the Nominating Committee was persuading me to take on this noble appointment with visions of the Sub-Committee doing all the work (which they do) while I sipped on Gin and Tonics on the clubhouse veranda rubbing shoulders with the likes of members from the Royal Van and Royal Vic Yacht Clubs. Boy did I land with a bump!

Seriously, my only regret is that there are times when I cannot spend as much time as I would like on those docks, and the really good news is that spring is just around the corner... Until next month.

—Brian Swinburne  
Rear Commodore

## Moorage needed for the Round Saltspring Race

A reminder: we can expect many vessels wanting to compete in the Round Saltspring Race (May 17,18,19) and we must be prepared to accommodate them overnight in our club marina. Please let me know if you are willing to vacate your slip during this time. Rafting could occur during that weekend. Raft with a friend!

Please call me at 653-9688 or email suspaynt@islandnet.com if you want to help out.

—Doc Paynter, Wharfinger



## Volunteers needed!

The Round Saltspring Race will take place on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of May. The planning is already underway and even though it is still almost three months away, we want to remind all club members that we'll need volunteers to assist in this very busy weekend.

**Catering** - John and Ruth Pankhurst will be looking for a very large number of volunteers to assist in the catering end. Their hope is to get enough volunteers so that a club member will only put in a couple of hours for the whole weekend.

**Grounds and facilities** - Mike Byrne will be looking for about eight people to help him with the set up of tents, tables, chairs etc., and to help in keeping the grounds and facilities clean and working.

**Guest moorage** - Doc Paynter will need a crew to help in arranging for moorage for the large number of boats that will arrive. It is hoped that the past wharfingers who are experienced with this will be part of the crew.

**Race management** - The racing crew will need help with setting up the starting buoys and a crew to keep track of the boats as they finish. The club members who have done these duties in the past will be approached to do it again. The racers need someone to gather the stats and enter them as the boats finish. As this usually requires a last minute effort, it is preferable to have someone who is fresh and has not been up all night racing. Also, we need to have someone with good computer skills.

**Donate a race prize!** - Donations of race prizes are most welcome, and any club member who would like to join the list of prize donors should contact me as soon as possible.

**T-shirts, Sweat shirts and hats** - Paul Kusch at pkusch@saltspring.com will be handling the orders for t-shirts, sweat shirts and hats. There is a mail bin for us at the club, bottom right, marked RSR. Prices are as follows: T-Shirts \$15, monogrammed \$18; Sweat shirts \$28, monogrammed \$31; Hats \$12. A sample t-shirt (Medium Blue) will be on display in the clubhouse. Please make cheques payable to SaltSpring Island Sailing Club.

—Bill Bull, Race Organiser  
Phone 538-0095

# RACING NEWS

## Ben Mohr Rock Race

The challenge of this year's Ben Mohr Rock Race was trying to figure out which way the wind was going to come from next!

The small fleet began a run out of the harbour, which switched into a beat by the time it reached the Sisters. At the opening to the harbour, the all-too-predictable Hole at the Head of the Harbour appeared. Once out into Captain Passage, the wind became somewhat more predictable, as the fleet headed for the Nose Point-Peile Point gap.

*FINAL DASH* went up the Prevost side through the passage, but *FANDANGO* chose the Saltspring side, which gave her the edge she needed to round Ben Mohr first.

Spinnakers went up briefly, but then the wind shifted and it became a close reach back to the Sisters, and a beat home. Even though she made the effort, *CHEEKY BUOY* was unable to find a wind to successfully fly her spinnaker, and spent the bulk of the race beating and close reaching.

The winds oscillated from nearly nothing to 20 knot knock-downs. Crew would be sent to the leeward rail, only to find themselves scrambling to the windward rail as gust after gust knocked the boats over.

The fluky conditions gave *FANDANGO* line honours, with *FINAL DASH* very close behind. *ELECTRA* finished in the middle of the pack, followed by *MINKE* and *CHEEKY BUOY* who fought it out at the end: *CHEEKY BUOY* edging out *MINKE* by mere seconds.

The finish line results bore no resemblance to the actual results however. On corrected time, *FANDANGO* hung on to first place, with *MINKE* a close second. *ELECTRA* was in the middle of the pack, followed by *CHEEKY BUOY* and *FINAL DASH*.

## McMillan Trophy Race

Sailors were greeted by a crisp, cold, morning and a light, but promising, breeze blowing out of the south for the McMillan Trophy Race.

At the skippers' meeting, it was explained that *SCHOLARSHIP*—skippered by Don Baxter, with the Thomas family and friends aboard—was the first mark of the course. The intent was to intercept and circle *SCHOLARSHIP*, in a show of respect for the late Steve Thomas, an ardent sailor and highly regarded member of our club.

Immediately after the start, which was won readily by *MINKE*, the breeze died entirely, leaving the small fleet wondering if they were ever going to reach *SCHOLARSHIP*, only a hundred metres away, let alone complete a circle around her. Don wisely called off the 360°, and a spontaneous three cheers rang out for Steve from the crews of the 6-boat racing fleet.

*SCHOLARSHIP* headed off and eventually the southerly breeze returned. By the end of the Harbour, *FINAL DASH* had taken a commanding lead, with *FANDANGO* trying to sail above her along the Sisters' shoreline. The southerly wind bounced and fluctuated over the islands, making constant sail trim the determining factor in boat speed.

*FINAL DASH* was the first to round Ben Mohr. *FANDANGO* was a distant second, with *ELECTRA* third and the rest of the fleet—*CHEEKY BUOY*, *MINKE*, *SAORSA*—trailing behind.

In the reach from Ben Mohr back through Captain Passage, *FINAL DASH* topped an astounding 9 knots under spinnaker!

*FINAL DASH* took line honours and first place. Congratulations to skipper David Wood! The crew's incentive to hurry home was to catch the last period of the Canada-USA hockey game!

An after-race celebration took place in the cockpit of second place *MINKE*, where copious amounts of Molson's Canadian were consumed in honour of the Canadian Olympic hockey victory. *CHEEKY BUOY* corrected to third.

## Upcoming off-island races

Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club  
**PATOS ISLAND CLASSIC**

March 16  
(250) 655-0960

West Vancouver Yacht Club  
**SOUTHERN STRAITS**  
March 29-31  
[www.wvyc.bc.ca](http://www.wvyc.bc.ca)

Royal Victoria Yacht Club  
**SWIFTSURE INTERNATIONAL  
YACHT RACE**  
May 25-27  
[www.swiftsure.org](http://www.swiftsure.org)

Nanaimo Yacht Club  
**SNAKE ISLAND NANAIMO (SIN)  
REGATTA**  
June 29-30  
[www.nanaimoyc.ca](http://www.nanaimoyc.ca)

—Kevin Vine  
Fleet Captain, Racing

## Racing schedule

### SPRING SERIES

(One throw out allowed)

Sunday, 24 March  
**CHANNEL ISLES #1 RACE**  
1000 h start, TL 1500 h, 10.4 NM  
Start - Channel Isles (P or S)  
- Finish

Sunday, 7 April  
**WALKER ROCK RACE**  
1000 h start, TL 1830 h, 17.3 NM  
Start - Welbury Spar (P)  
- Walker Rock (P)  
- Welbury Spar (S) - Finish

## More than a race...

the Round Saltspring is a weekend event shared by hundreds of sailors and their families. It takes place on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of May.

Next month's TellTales will include full information and the entry form but, if you can't wait, it's online right now at <http://newbasics.net/rsi/rsi2.html>



## 'Tom Cat' for sale

Campion Toba, 26' powerboat. Mer-cruiser I/O 260 h.p. with 1000 hrs on power-train. Boat built in 1978. Full survey 2 years ago. Cruises at 23 mph using 6.6 gph. New wiring harness. Propane stove, swim grid, dual instruments. All in good condition. Surveyor says \$20,000. All offers over \$16,500 considered. Please call Terry Warbey at 537-9820.

## The electronic TellTales

If you have internet access, you are encouraged to subscribe to TellTales online instead of the paper version. Keep in touch with Sailing Club events at [www.saltspringsailing.ca](http://www.saltspringsailing.ca)