

SALTSpring ISLAND SAILING CLUB

TellTales

VOLUME 23 • NUMBER 10 • DECEMBER 2004



RICK MACKINNON PHOTO

Season's
Greetings!

Join us for the

NEW YEAR'S DAY Hot Rum Race & Lunch

What a way to start the New Year!

True to tradition, our hardy racers will kick-start the New Year with a brisk, short race, followed by a wonderful lunch and hot rum for all club members.



1030 h – Hot Rum Race starts
1230 h – Hot Rum and Lunch



Be sure not to miss this one!

—Arlene Dashwood
Staff Captain

Retiring Commodore Russ Crouse beside his Johnny Depp look-alike at the November 27th annual Commodore's Ball!

See Rick MacKinnon's complete report on page 5

Commodore's message

Just two weeks have passed since taking the helm for the coming year and I'm pleased to report that your Board of Directors is already hard at work. New and returning executives are all keen to slip into the wake of the past Board. Nick and Norm, (Vice and Rear Commodores) are both immersed in the projects passed on by Rob and Derek. David (Racing), Arlene (Staff Captain) and Marc (Cruising) are already following up on David's suggestion to have more integrated activities at the club and on the water. The bits I've already heard sound very interesting. Bob (Wharfinger) is already carrying around the weighty items given him by Jon—it's a very large black binder! John (Dinghy) is being schooled (pun intended) by Martin on the Junior Program and is looking forward to the summer. Greg (Secretary) is already proving to be an excellent right hand to the Commodore along with Russ and JP. I'm most pleased to have such an able-bodied group to work with.

All of the By-Law and Regulation changes outlined in last month's TellTales were passed with the exception of the first item,

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BOB JONES PHOTO

The Racers' Awards Night was a huge success. Here, Fleet Captain Racing, David Wood, presides. Pizza and beer and great presentations made the event perfect.
See David's report on page 3.



**Deadline for the next
TellTales is 7th January**

Cruising 2005

Trying to match Neil's poetic writing prowess and his organisational skills is a tall order, however I look forward to acting as the club's Fleet Captain Cruising for the upcoming season. The approach to organising the cruises will be similar to last season. I will coordinate the overall scheduling and administration, and individual members will organise the specifics of the cruise including timing, logistics and leading the pack on the actual cruise. With the knowledge and expertise we have in the club we can expect some excellent opportunities for exploring new and exciting destinations.

A number of volunteers have already expressed interest in organising a cruise, however we still require several more in order to complete our calendar for the season. I would encourage any of you who would be willing to set up a cruise and share your knowledge of some magical destination to contact me either by email marc_ann@telus.net or at 537-1103. Looking forward to seeing you on a cruise next season.

—Marc Lalonde
Fleet Captain Cruising

Commodore's message, from page 1

which has been tabled. BC Land and Water has indicated a significant increase in our foreshore lease payments for the coming and future years. The Board is actively working on eliminating or at least minimising the amount of the scheduled increase. Dr. Jim's boat Tabasco is now officially ours. Russ and I are in the process of getting her ready for sale. Any member who would like the opportunity to be considered as a potential buyer should get in touch with me as we would like to put her on the block by the end of January.

Congratulations to both Derek Barrio and Philip Grange on receiving the Commodore's and Past Commodores' award respectively.

It was a pleasure to see one of our summer instructors, Stuart Dahlgren participate in the Annual General Meeting. An early start makes for a future member of your Board. It is with regrets that the following members have tendered their resignations: John and Nicki Cameron, Bill and Rosie Foster, Geoff and Anne Holland, Peter Lamb and Jean Gelwicks, John and Heather Neville, and Anne Stammer.

Many thanks to Norm Elliott for his generous donation of parking lot gravel, Bob Reynolds for his electrical skills and Tony Booker for a large tent.

I'd like to revisit the question of how jealously you guard your email address. Are you OK with it being used for internal club purposes? As it stands now, the email addresses provided by members are generally only given out for the use of the Commodore.

Gary and I wish you and your families a festive holiday season and fair winds for 2005.

—April Steel
Commodore

Welcome new Executive!

Commodore	April Steel	537-4207
Vice Commodore	Nick Hodson	537-0021
Rear Commodore	Norm Dinsmore	538-5501
Fleet Captain, Racing	David Wood	653-2304
Fleet Captain, Cruising	Marc Lalonde	537-1103
Fleet Captain, Dinghy	John Wellington	537-4123
Wharfinger	Bob Scott	537-4021
Staff Captain	Arlene Dashwood	537-5050
Secretary	Greg Harmeson	537-1262
Treasurer	J.P. Krauss	537-2240
Past Commodore	Russ Crouse	537-5203



Commodore's Award 2004

Commodore Russ Crouse presenting this prestigious award to Derek Barrio at the recent AGM: "Saltspring Island Sailing Club has reaped the tremendous benefits of Derek Barrio's dedication, expertise and hard work towards the improvement of our breakwater and docks. Over the last two years Derek has headed up a core group of committed volunteers to complete a large section of breakwater on F dock and create and organize a new breakwater and docks on B dock. As Commodore, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I have appreciated immensely Derek's efforts in organizing our volunteers and working in cooperation with various government bodies and suppliers to get the job done."

And we'd like to thank...

the many club members who helped get TellTales together this past year: the Board members who faithfully sent in reports month after month—and sometimes even photographs, the 'ordinary' members who enlightened us with stories of their boat names, of electronic insights, and diverse humorous incidents. A special thanks also go out to Sandi Ballantyne whose crew of Crafty Cruisers (Jenny Barrio, Candace Brochmann, Sylvia Greenwood, Jennifer Healey, Jean Howell, Jackie Melzer, Joan Myers, Susan Paynter, April Steel, Dawn Shaak and Jill Sydneysmith) made sure that those who still prefer the paper version of TellTales received it with dispatch. Thank you all! —Eds.

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Editing/production by Per and Lynetta Rasmussen (telltale@saltspringsailing.ca)

RACING NEWS

The racing year in review

All in all it has been another very enjoyable year of racing, with increasingly good turnouts, friendly competition and abundant good spirits, not all of which came out of a bottle.

The racing fleet consists of three groups: a steadfast group of 4 boats; a more-often-than-not group of around 7 boats; and the once in a while group of about 10 boats. All told, a total of 21 boats came out to race during the year; this is a few less than the 25 which came out for Round Saltspring, so we are getting to most of those who race at all, at least once in awhile.

The race committee has set itself the task of trying to move boats from a less-frequent to a more-frequent group, using whatever means come to hand, and we have had some success. The new approaches we have taken include the One Day regattas in each of March, July and August; dockside and clubhouse barbecues; an Opening Day breakfast, bonus points to encourage those who are new to racing or to their boats (previously called Sissy Points, but changed for reasons of political correctness to New Boat points).

Generally, racing seems to be on an upswing at our club, a trend which almost certainly owes more to a coincidence of external events than to any success on the part of the Race Committee. We know that so much of the decision to race or not depends on what else is going on in our skippers'

lives. One thing is certain—whatever the reason for the greater turnout, there is no doubt that it owes much to the enthusiasm which Bob Jones brings to the (unofficial) position of Assistant Fleet Captain Racing; it is great to have him on board.

2004 Awards

The Total Points trophy was extremely closely contested, and won in the end by Roger Kibble in *ELECTRA*, a boat which is sailed both well and consistently. Second was Bob Jones in *ALACRITY* and third Ole Andersen in *WESTWIND*.

All awards were presented on Sunday afternoon, November 28, following the first of the Snowflake races.

There are two racing awards which are decided by nomination and vote; those for the Most Improved Sailor and the Most Enthusiastic Racer (the Peter Drage award). Anyone could nominate a candidate for either award, but only those who attended the Awards ceremony were able to vote. The award for the Most Improved Sailor went to Nicholas Sladen-Dew, who is relatively new to the club and even newer to racing. He bought Bill Bull's *DRAFTY ACHERS*, renamed it *JEEKERS!*, and has persevered over the summer and fall series, making his way steadily up the fleet. His progress culminated in a first place finish in the Montague Harbour race, when he not only corrected out ahead of everyone, but crossed the line ahead of several much faster boats. He fully deserves this award, which he was gracious enough to say was the only award he truly coveted.

The Peter Drage award for the most enthusiastic racer (which I have to confess

Racing schedule

Saturday, 1 January, 2005

HOT RUM RACE (and LUNCH)

1030 h start - course TBA

SNOWFLAKE RACING continues

See page 6 (and check the club website for the latest schedule)

All of Bob Jones' race logs and individual race results can be found at
saltspringsailing.ca

is the award I really covet) went to Josh and Dan Wood, nominated as a team unit (which is the way they tend to approach life) for their commitment to the racing program, and the tireless assistance which they provide to Bob Jones in collecting all the boats' times and working out the results, and perhaps subliminally for their equally tireless and seemingly endless ability to hold forth on the finer points of the racing rules.

All boats which placed in a race during the season were awarded a beautiful plaque made by Ping Drage; she also made the plaques for the nominated awards, and was kind enough to make two plaques for Josh and Dan so that they could each have one.

One of the less coveted awards is the Broken Tiller, which after a lengthy turn around the clubhouse landed in Bob Jones' hands,

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Total points summary - 2004

	Spring points	Series throw	Summer points	Series throw	Fall points	Series throw	Total points	Total throw	Final points
<i>ELECTRA</i>	502	0	451	0	518	0	1471	0	1471
<i>ALACRITY</i>	356	0	421	0	630	33	1407	33	1374
<i>WESTWIND</i>	475	0	725	114	279	0	1479	114	1365
<i>FINAL DASH</i>	569	25	384	0	314	0	1267	25	1242
<i>FANDANGO</i>	338	0	169	0	277	0	784	0	784
<i>DERYN MÔR</i>	257	0	170	0	100	0	527	0	527
<i>CAT DANCER</i>	103	0	349	0	50	0	502	0	502
<i>TIGGER J</i>	87	0	367	0	0	0	454	0	454
<i>YEOMAN OF C</i>	269	0	67	0	116	0	452	0	452
<i>AQUILA MIA</i>	154	0	176	0	58	0	388	0	388
<i>MINKE</i>	248	0	138	0	0	0	386	0	386
<i>JJ FLASH</i>	223	0	145	0	0	0	368	0	368
<i>SOUL DANCER</i>	162	0	60	0	137	0	359	0	359
<i>JEEKERS!</i>	0	0	103	0	241	0	344	0	344
<i>QUESTO</i>	225	0	0	0	64	0	289	0	289
<i>SAORSA</i>	211	0	56	0	0	0	267	0	267
<i>PETRONELLA</i>	107	0	111	0	0	0	218	0	218
<i>LONE RANGER</i>	58	0	92	0	20	0	170	0	170
<i>ORACLE</i>	81	0	42	0	11	0	134	0	134
<i>CLASSY LADY</i>	0	0	122	0	0	0	122	0	122

On the docks

Congratulations to my predecessor on winning the Commodore's award for his work on the docks. He has left big shoes to fill but I will try my best and he has promised to come to my aid when needed.

The water on the docks has now been turned off until spring and the system drained to prevent any freezing. While performing this task Rod Macdonald has provided the information to update our water layout drawings. The revised drawings will be used to determine if additional hose stations and shut-off valves are needed and where they might be located.

Similar to the water system a markup for updating our electrical layout drawings is being done by Bob Reynolds. The revised drawings will aid in the planning for the upgrading of the D-dock electrical system which is scheduled for the spring.

Another spring project is the installation of safety ladders. The locations of the existing ladders have been noted and new sites will be chosen to provide the best coverage of our total dock area. The number will be large and will not allow us to perform all the work on our spring work day. Watch for a call to our able volunteer force to produce and install ladders.

—Norm Dinsmore
Rear Commodore



Boat for sale...

As April Steel in the Commodore's message points out, Dr. Jim Buchan's boat TABASCO—which he so generously donated to the club—now officially belongs to us. It is now being made ready for sale, and any member who would like to be considered as a potential buyer should get in touch with April at 537-4207 as the Board would like to put the boat on the block by the end of January.

Report from the outgoing Wharfinger

This will be my last report. I have enjoyed my time as wharfinger and thank everyone for their patience and assistance over the past year. We welcome Bob Scott to this position and I wish him the best in the coming year.

There has not been much activity with respect to moorage this past month but I see that I neglected to report on some changes in moorage from earlier in the fall. A fond farewell to MY-JO, to SILVER DOLPHIN and to GEORGIA LEE. A belated welcome to LITTLE DRAGON, a Davidson 17, to TARA'S WHISPER, a Catalina 27 and to NESIKA, a fine old ex-forestry boat.

With a number of new members coming on board, our waiting list has taken quite a jump. There are currently 10 members requesting relocation and 14 looking for new moorage. There is a revised list of members looking for moorage or relocation posted on the Wharfinger bulletin board in the entry to the club.

The winter electrical season is well underway with many boats plugged in. Members are reminded that club regulations require a proper three wire extension cord, meeting CSA standards, and that electrical charges are based on peak usage.

Also remember to check your mooring lines and tarps.

And finally, a reminder to all summer wharfingers of the appreciation evening at 1700 hours on January 6th.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.
—Jon Healey

Farewell

David Peter, keen and able sailor, club member, friend and gentleman, died November 12, 2004, after fighting a valiant battle with leukemia, never for a moment losing his good humour and grace. David leaves his wife Grace on Salt Spring, and children and grandchildren on Vancouver Island and in Alberta.

In the short time that David was a member of Saltspring Island Sailing Club, he participated in club events in his sailboat BLUE PETER. Using his many years experience as an architect, he was formulating preliminary plans for the improvement of the clubhouse. He and Grace loved to cruise the coast and Desolation Sound along with their beloved dog Skylla. Cruising with them was always pleasant and relaxing, if you remained out of range of the water balloons of which BLUE PETER was well provisioned; his gin and tonics were very good too.

We will miss him as a true and valued friend, his great sense of fun, his serious side, his love for his family and the courage with which he faced his illness.

—Derek and Jenny Barrio, BLUE PETER

Notes from the Staff Captain

I think the Staff Captain's committee's job has to be one of the best. We get to throw all of the parties! If this is something you like to do we would welcome you to join us. I hope to follow in the footsteps of our previous accomplished Staff Captains and set up this year's schedule of social events with different teams involved each time. I have a core group who will pitch in with the New Year's Day Hot Rum Race and Lunch. After that I would like to meet, in January, with those interested, and plan the remaining of the year's activities. So don't feel that you will get trapped if you offer your assistance. We need volunteers for promotion and planning, set-up and decorating, food set-up and serving, and cleanup.

Bar captains

I know we have in the club many experienced Bar Captains. If you will step forward, I promise you will not be 'chained to the job'. We are looking for other people as well, who will take the 'Serve it Right' course, which is needed before you can set-up and serve the bar. Many assure me that this is a very simple procedure.

So I encourage you to get in touch with me to volunteer on the 'Staff Captain's and Bar Captain's Committee'. Could there be a better way to put in your 20 hours (minimum) of volunteer time?

Racers and cruisers social events

Watch future TellTales for more information on the social activities we are proposing for this year. Your Fleet Captain Racing - David Wood, Fleet Captain Cruising - Marc Lalonde, and I, will work together on this.

—Arlene Dashwood
Staff Captain

House and grounds

Having been in the position of Vice Commodore for only one week, I have nothing as yet to report regarding the house and grounds.

However I would like to give my sincere thanks to Rob Denny for the superb job he has done over the past two years. His is going to be a hard act to follow.

Also I would like to offer my apologies in advance to all those members whose name I forget. I may well recognise you, or know your boat, but I am hopeless at remembering names.

I look forward to working with the Board and my new committee, and if anyone has any concerns or suggestions for the clubhouse or grounds, I will be pleased to hear from them.

—Nick Hodson,
Vice Commodore

Racing news, from page 3

and would go no farther. He was cited for the unusual transgression of Trimaraning, and also for something else which I have forgotten, and it seems to have slipped Bob's mind too.

Plans for next year

A number of decisions, some small, some large, were taken at a general meeting of racers which took place on the same day as the awards. They were:

Races and Courses

- Governor Rock (to port) will be added to the Walker Rock race.
- The Night Race will be moved to July.
- A proposal to change the Jack and Jill race to a double-handed race was defeated.
- The Pender Island race will overnight at Otter Bay rather than Port Browning; the two legs will count as one race, rather than each leg counting as a separate race as has happened in the past.

A new race will be added to the calendar: what is being referred to as the Vendée Salt Spring will replace the Maple Bay race. This race will have two divisions, one single-handed, the other double-handed. There will be an overnight stop at Maple Bay, and we will invite participation from other clubs in the area. To start things off, there will be a series of 4 seminars on short-handed sailing between January and April. The race will probably be around July 10.

For the July One-day Regatta, we will try to get a power boater from the club to volunteer as a committee boat, so that we can set a start line near Second Sister and lay courses out in Captain Passage.

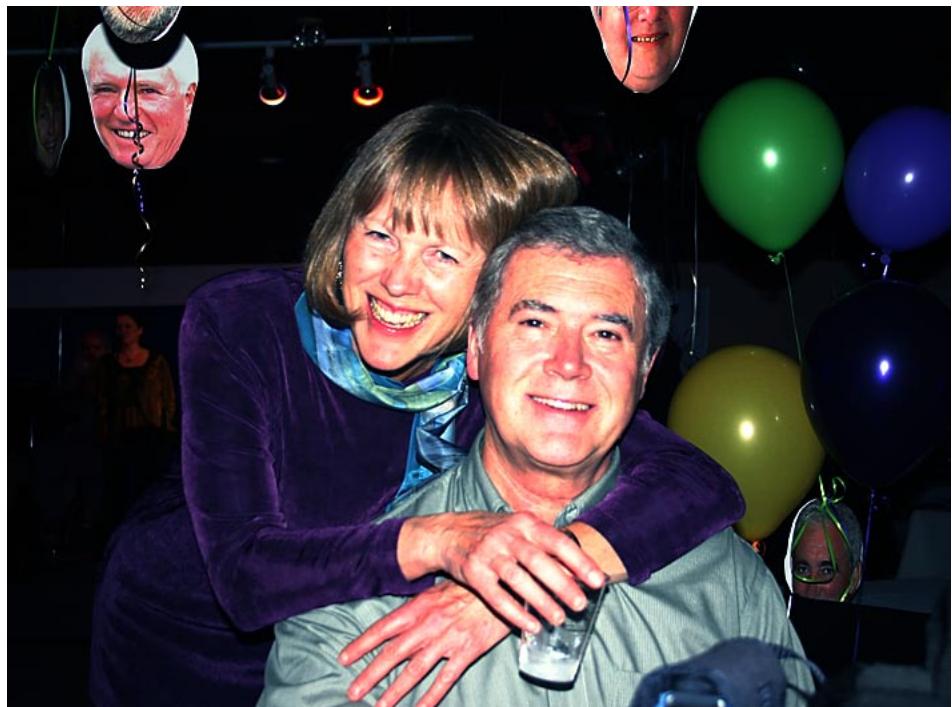
Short courses: there will be no short course declared on first sailing of a race; short course will be set on second attempt.

We will try moving one or two races to a Saturday to see if it affects attendance; we will also start some of the shorter Sunday races at 1200 rather than 1000 to accommodate those who are busy on Sunday mornings.

Handicapping

The aforementioned New Boat Points will be awarded to new racers, or to old racers with new boats, but half the points will be taken away when the boat wins a race, and the rest taken when it wins its second race. Two seconds or three thirds will probably count as one win. At the same time, there will be a permanent sub-committee of the racing group who will tackle the thorny and persistent issue of a club handicap system.

However, perhaps the most important thing that the assembled racers expressed was a strong wish for closer ties between racers and cruisers, and for racing to be seen as a central part of the club's activities rather than as a somewhat independent program. It is hard to say where this separation started: many on the current Board say that it has been this way as long as they have been around. We see several opportunities to start to break down the barriers; by



RICK MACKINNON PHOTO

Ann and Mike Byrne having fun
at the annual Commodore's Ball

Keep up-to-date
—check our club website
saltspringsailing.ca for the latest
in racing and cruising news!
Better yet...
subscribe to the electronic edition
of **TellTales**—it's so much nicer!

inviting all club members to racing barbecues and breakfast; to get the Staff Captain and her assistants involved in some of our food activities; perhaps to have the July social coincide with one of our One-day regattas and to roll the post-regatta barbecue and the July social into one; to work on the combined racing/cruising events so that people actually come out and enjoy them; and to continue to encourage people to give racing a try, and to actively help them with obstacles which prevent them—one of which we know is crew.

The Race Committee for next year consists of Roger Kibble, Stuart Farson, Bob Jones, Ole Andersen and Brian Zapf.

Once again Bob Jones has done a tremendous job in working out and organising the results, in providing information to Per for the webpage, in keeping racers and potential racers informed, working on the marks and buoys, and generally doing all the work. Without him we would not have half the success.

—David Wood
Fleet Captain, Racing

Over 90 people celebrate with the Commodore!

On Saturday, November 27th, our annual Commodore's Ball was held at Meaden Hall. This year's party was one with a slight twist!

There was a focus on a particular individual. Russ was greeted with a few photos of himself just a little out of character. From the punk rocker to the 'Johnny Depp look-alike' life-sized picture on the stage, Russ seemed to be everywhere!

There was no head table this year, just pictures of Russ' head on each table centre piece. There also was a support cast of 150 photos of club members attached to balloons to cheer Russ on for the night.

The food provided by the Legion's Womens Auxiliary was fantastic! The band had everyone up on the floor after the second dance! This was pretty much the reaction for most of the night. Loud—yes but people actually stayed until after 11 p.m!

Also, special recognition goes to Marilyn and Chris Schmah for the beautiful centre pieces, and Gail, Jenny and Sharon for helping with the decorations... and to Russ Crouse a big "Thank you!" for being such a good sport on your special evening.

—Rick Mackinnon
Staff Captain, 2004



Snowflake races continue!

The Snowflake race on Saturday, 11th December, was a huge success with 30 knot winds from the northwest and reefed mains/Is and jibs! *FANDANGO*, although 2 minutes late for the start, finished first, with *WESTWIND*, *ORACLE* and *JEEKERS* close behind. *AQUILA MIA* and *MADRIGAL* didn't finish. [Hint to racers: wouldn't it have been great if we'd had photos of this race? —Ed.]

The next race is scheduled for Sunday, 18th December, and there'll be more in early January. Call Ole Andersen (537-8814) or Bob Jones (537-5514) for latest info.

• •

Junior Sailors back from their foray to the regattas!

It's now the end of a very busy season for the SISC Junior racing team. The team, with a total of 13 members, trains from 11 to 3 every Friday! We attended three regattas this year: the Gladwell Team Cup race, the Fall Dinghy Champs and the Pumpkin Fest.

The Gladwell Regatta at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club was the very first regatta most of the team had ever competed in. We sailed in 420s and Flying Juniors, also a first for most of us, against ten other teams from around the lower mainland. The competition was stiff, but we managed to pull off three firsts. Sailing were: Natalie Shergold, Caitlin Pal, Carleen Wallace, Dash Darling, Liam Johnston, Amy Zacharias, Keegan McColl and Hanna Snetsinger.

At the Fall Dinghy Champs only our coach, Heather Meek, competed. She sailed in the Europe/Byte class. Her father, Tony Meek, raced as well in the Laser Masters class.

As a finish, we went all the way to the West Vancouver Yacht Club for the Pumpkin Fest regatta. We brought two Laser 2s, which placed first and second, with Natalie Shergold/Amy Zacharias and Dom Boudreau/Carlee Wallace aboard. We also had three Lasers sailed by Dash Darling, Ian Hausler and Caitlin Pal, with Heather Meek in the Euro class.

The regatta was great, with some of Canada's best sailors in the under 21 category there. Too bad the wind was so very light and shifty and we were only able to complete three races. It was a great end to a great season, and we're looking forward to another one next spring, starting around late March/early April. If you know of anyone who would be interested in participating, the requirements for this are Junior SISC membership and the White Sail 3 qualification. Call Heather Meek for more information at 653-4572.

Cruising that was

It's been a 'D' year for the Cruise Captain and his long suffering mate. Distressing, Demoralising, Depressing. It has been a long, long, long term boat project, each 'little' thing revealing another 'little' thing to do, and ignorance meant doing much work twice... once to learn how, once to do the job.

But, the mast is returned to its rightful place, the scuzz is removed from the bottom, new bottom paint is applied and some interior work is in progress. A lick 'o paint and *NAIAD* will show well, be robust and sail well again.

I apologise to any who took exception to, or were inconvenienced by 'things poking out' here and there. Without your forbearance we would not have been able to afford a refit of the boat. Your patience is appreciated....

That as Cruise Captain we were not able to go on cruises has an ironic flavour that sea gods may chuckle over.

My thanks go to all those forgiving sailors who cobbled together the cruises with the camaraderie that comes from sharing good things together with the occasional setback and sideswipe of fate.

Now for the 'other' news... Dorothy and I will be relocating in about April/May of next year. We have bought (if all goes well) a house in Courtenay not far from another club emigré, Terry Small. We shall keep our ties with this wonderful club as Associate members, but will really miss the involvement of our full membership status.

I have enjoyed my years as a Board member, watching the splendid work done by that core of dedicated sailors who put so much time and thoughtful energy into the club. Without these people the club would be just another public convenience. Just another place to put a boat. A club in name only.

The new members of the past two years are all, I repeat, ALL, assets that bring much to the club. I have been invigorated by their enthusiasm and the club will benefit from what they bring us. They may shame some of us. If they do it is our failing. The club is the sum of what each one of us brings to it. If we only take what it offers, it will fail to offer it for long.

I rejoice in what this club is, in how it was created, evolved, continues to be, and I am optimistic for the future.

The cruising that we have done has been some of the happiest, interesting and scenic parts of our lives. What a place! What people!

This marvellous place, these warm and knowledgeable people need to be appreciated and joined as much as possible to enliven our lives on the water. I hope that next cruising season will attract more of our members to take a sail with them. Such lives you meet will astound you, and will reveal that this little club is made up of exceptional people, of whom you are one.

With a little luck Dorothy and I shall join your cruises up 'our way' as you come by. We look forward to that....

Kind regards from,

'The Cabin Boy', Neil Buchan



Volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary members Philip Grange (Coxswain and club member) and Roger Webber on an exercise off Pat Bay and the Ocean Sciences Institute on 28th November. The buoy is a so-called ODAS which stands for Ocean Data Acquisition Site. The buoy passengers are one-ton sea lions...

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED