

THE MAIN SHEET

The Hampton Sailing Club Newsletter

www.hsc.yachting.org.au



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Commodore's Corner

AUGUST 2008

Winter is upon us and passing at last. Winter sailing is well under way on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. Starts are at 1pm to allow for the shorter days. The first race was an outstanding afternoon of sailing, despite the appalling weather in the early morning. The weather moderated and the sun came out, to such an extent that the race was shortened due to a LACK of wind later in the race. With a fleet of 7 boats, including a friend of Monica's who sailed her Impulse, the race was technical and you had to be patient.

Hazelwood Pondage Regatta on Queen's birthday was a great event as usual. Light weather, warm water, big camp fires by the lake and plenty of kids having a ball set the scene for over 200 boats.

HSC had three boats there this year (more next year), Kevin Kay (Impulse), Russell and William Brown (Mirror) and myself, Sue and Miryem with our aging 125. After we sailed three up on Sunday morning, the Vinot family (Tasar) arrive at lunch time and with Sue keen to stay close to the camp fire, I didn't have to ask twice to find a willing crew. Ingrid Vinot volunteered in a flash and did a sterling job. She learnt how to put up and down a kite, gybe it and even steered the last leg of our second afternoon race.

Meanwhile, Kevin was quietly going about his usual business of demolishing the 13 strong Impulse fleet by winning all but one race for the entire weekend. He came second in the other. He's not bad, our boy!

With the number of boats and the varying boat speed, the trick was to find and keep clear air and stay out of other people's way.

The organisation is great. They put on breakfasts and lunches every day, set junior, mono hull and cat courses and vary the number of laps each according to the YV Yardstick. Very cleverly done and it works. These guys have been running this regatta since I was a kid, so they have it down pat. So put Hazelwood regatta in your calendar for Queen's birthday in 2009 and get organised.

The club is currently organising another TL3 course with Doug King, plus trying to get a marine orientated first aid course planned as well. Anyone interested in either or both could contact Stewart Simmons.

We have lodged an application to Marine Safety Victoria for funding under the 2008-09 Boating Safety and Facilities Program to assist in delivering the TL3 course. The outcome should be known in the next few weeks.

Michelle and Sheila are also organising another Teenagers night at the end of August. All you parents who have teenagers with an interest in sailing, or who just want to socialise with other teenagers at the club, get them to email me and I will put them on the HSC Teen email list.

Finally, the Pot Luck Dinner was terrific, great family company, great food and most of our regular sailors. Thanks Michelle for organising it and thanks for all the cooks.

See you on the water soon.

Sail Safe
Johnno

John Dayman
Commodore

Sunday Racing Calendar for 08/09

There's plenty of racing scheduled for the 08/09 series, with a total of 20 races in our Club Championship, Autumn and Spring Handicap series. In addition, there's the Commodore's Cup Handicap and the End of Season sail, rounding out our racing season to 22 races.

We've also included two special event dates in the calendar. The event details will be determined closer to the start of the season - I'm happy to accept any suggestions for these days - as long as it involves sailing.

The sailing calendar isn't limited to Sunday afternoon racing. The next instalment of the Mainsheet will include dates for the rest of the sailing activities. These will include family sailing activities, social sailing, a picnic cruise or Fawcner beacon run, juniors racing and Thursday evening twilight sailing, once the evenings are long and warm.

The season kicks off with our Commodore's Cup on 5th October. The Commodore's Cup is an annual event, with the winner being presented the Commodore's Cup Perpetual trophy.

Winter Sailing

Don't forget that we still sail through the winter, with racing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, from June until October.

We've had two winter races so far:

Race 1 was held on 22nd June. What a fantastic winter's day - light northerly winds, no chop and surprisingly for mid-winter, it was fairly warm. We had a good turnout and some enjoyable light weather racing. Special commendation to Monica Jones and Angus Moller, who screamed around the course in one of the club Pacers - They picked up a second place, only 30 seconds behind our reigning club champion, Kevin.

The second race, on 13/7/08, was abandoned. While we had 5 enthusiastic sailors looking

for some mid-winter sailing, the 30-knot NWs prevented all but one slightly insane Laser sailor/sailboarder from venturing out.

The 3rd winter sailing event was held on 27 July - this happened to be the coldest day this year, with the mercury hovering just under 10 degrees. This cold snap, combined with the mid-winter ills that have affected a good percentage of Melbournians, saw very few boats participating. We had 4 boats on the water, not enough to hold a race. The sailing was still pleasant, in a shifty 5-10 knot breeze.

On a final note - if there's anything you'd like to see in our sailing calendar, let me know. My aim is to ensure there's sailing for everyone, not just the racing set. I'm happy to receive any suggestions for sailing activities.

See you on the water!

David Thompson
Sailing Secretary

Social Activities

The Pot Luck dinner in June was a great night. Approx. 40 members, including new families, enjoyed a wonderful range of food in a relaxed atmosphere. For those who missed out, please join us for the Winter Roast or Pizza night. I look forward to seeing you there,

Michelle Moller
Social Secretary

Christmas Dinner 6th December

Remember to mark the date in your diary - more details in the October and December newsletters.

Member Functions

Don't forget the club rooms are available for member functions. Contact Michelle to discuss.

WARM WINTER ROAST

(Adults only event)

Saturday 23rd August 2008**7.00 PM Start with pre-dinner drink and nibbles****BYO** on the night

Cost \$25 per person

2 Course catered menu**Main:** Roast beef and Turkey breast, served with baked potatoes, hot gravy and condimentsWhole pumpkin with seasoning
Whole baby beans
Cauliflower au gratin*
Fresh bread rolls and butter

Vegetarian couscous is available on prior request.

Dessert: selection served from the Buffet, one serve per person,
Orange & almond cake
Apple & rhubarb crumble
Mixed berry cheesecake*

NB. This meal is gluten and dairy free with 2 exceptions*.

Don't miss out, book early!
RSVP Essential 10th AUGUST
Contact Michelle**TEENAGE MOVIE/PIZZA NIGHT****Saturday 30th August****6.00 pm onwards in the club rooms****A great opportunity for the teenage members to get to know each other. Share a pizza over a movie.****BYO:** Friend if you wish**Cost:** \$15 per person = plenty of pizza and refreshments**RSVP: Mon 25th August**

Last year we had our inaugural teenager night and HSC would like to see more join in this year.

All suggestions welcome.

RSVP Michelle

NB. Winter Warriors sailing race is Sunday 31st August, 1pm. Teenagers welcome, let Johnno, so we can organise boats, skippers, crew etc.

Expressions of Interest - Sail Training

If you are interested in participating in any sort of training for the up and coming spring/summer season, please call Monica or Kevin. We will try and organise in advance a suitable course based upon those who are interested.

Storage of boat equipment within Club House

This is a further reminder to members to place their names on equipment held in storage within the Club House.

On 7th September, the Committee proposes to conduct a review of storage space and it is important therefore for members to identify their property as soon as possible. Property that can not be identified will be put into the yard with a view to its future disposal.

Members who have paid and use their boat regularly will be allocated a storage space.

**Neil Watson
Boat Storage Officer**

Subscriptions Overdue

08/09 subscriptions were due on or before 1 May. As at 27 July only 63 out of 117 members had paid their subscriptions. The club relies on prompt payment of subs to prepare the club rooms and boats for the new sailing season.

Please note that under the Club Rules if payment is not received by 1 August your membership lapses. For this year the Committee has agreed to extend this to 1 September. If you have not done so already, **PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBS NOW.**

Subscriptions can be paid at the club on the winter sailing days. Don't forget a money order is a good alternative if you don't have a cheque book.

Newsletter

More articles to include in future newsletters will be welcomed. Newsletters are published every 2 months. Please email your contributions to the newsletter editor

This newsletter has been sent to your email address as well if we have this in our database. Please let me know via email if you would like to receive an e-newsletter in future.

**Deb Stephenson
Newsletter Editor**

Lost Property

We will be cleaning out the lost property at the end of August. If you are missing anything please check the barrel in the sail area.

Club Rooms

The club rooms have been painted and reverse cycle air-conditioning has been installed. Blinds will be up in the next few weeks. The club rooms will be warm in winter and cool in summer!

We look forward to seeing you make good use of the club.

**Frank Leipper
House Secretary**

Volunteers to Improve Boating Safety

The National Marine Safety Committee is seeking volunteers for its National Boating Usage Study, the first long term diary study of its kind in the world.

Please go to www.nmsc.gov.au to register on-line.

The Enterprize a 19th Century sailing experience.



Many of you will know the Enterprize, a replica of an early 19th Century Topsail Schooner, that is often moored at Gem pier Williamstown and taking members of the public for a sail. About ten years ago members of HSC had an outing on board sailing Hobsons Bay.

The original Enterprize was built in Tasmania in 1830 as a coastal trader and was used by John Pascoe Fawkner to found Melbourne in 1835.

The \$2.9 million replica was built through public donation and State government grant and was launched in 1997, 162 years after her namesake tied up in the Yarra River. I am pleased to say that the replica has a few improvements on the original. For one thing it has a diesel engine, radio, GPS, electrically operated anchor, radar, bunks and showers.

The Enterprize is managed by a not for profit trust and takes school groups and members of the public on sailing experiences. Apart from the Office Manager and Skipper, the crew members are volunteers. I recently joined the crew.

In February 2009, the Enterprize will be sailing to Hobart and as a crew member; I will be sailing on the return journey which should take about eight days to reach Melbourne.

Many of you will be wondering what it is like to sail an 18th Century Topsail Schooner. Compared to a modern sloop everything requires heavy manual labour. There are nautical miles of heavy rope and numerous sails that are made of flax with a liberal coating of pine tar (they did not call them old tars for nothing). There is no colour coding. Blocks are solid wood so there is always a risk of injury. You do not haul on a rope you sweat and bending a rope, would you believe, is actually tying a knot.

While the rigging has some similarities to a gaff rigged Heron a whole range of old nautical names have to be learnt. In the way of sails the Enterprize carries a Topsail, Course, Mainsail, Foresail, Main Topmast Staysail, Flying Jib and more. In addition it has a Jib Boom, Dolphin Striker and Yards. Among the stays there is a Jib Stay, Main Topmast Stay, Running Back Stays, Fore Topmast Backstay etc all covered in pine tar.

Enterprize is currently in lay-up and will be shortly coming out of the water for anti fouling. Volunteers are busy repairing sails and cleats and painting more tar on the rigging. Hopefully she will be back in the water in late August and resume her sailing.

As for me, I will continue to occasionally crew her and to prepare myself for the February experience.

Neil Watson

POWERBOAT HANDLING COURSE

HSC will engage Doug King to run a PowerBoat Handling Course in the early part of 2008-09. If our Marine Safety Grant application is successful this will be fully funded for 15 members, with priority going to those members who can make a reasonable commitment to rescue boat duties.

The course normally runs over a full weekend (Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday) covering theoretical and practical topics, including:

- Basic Safety & Risk Management
- Craft & Engines
- Safety Equipment
- Rope-work
- Rules and Regulations for Safe Powerboating
- Weather & Tides
- Responding to Emergencies & Incidents
- Planning Safe Boating Activities
- Practical Boat Handling (1 full day of practical work).

Successful completion of the course fulfils the test requirements for obtaining a Victorian powerboat licence, and is also a prerequisite for anyone wishing to undertake more specialised rescue boat training. Hampton Sailing Club requires that any member who skippers the *Lady Isa* must hold this qualification.

If our grant application to Marine Safety Victoria is unsuccessful, the Club will meet 50% of the course fee for each participating member (about \$60), subject to any conditions being met.

To assist with planning for this course (grant funded or otherwise), interested members are asked to register by contacting Stewart Simmons (Vice-Commodore)

FIRST AID COURSE 27 & 28 SEPTEMBER 2008

The final ORCV presented Level 2 First Aid course for 2008 is scheduled for Sep 27 & 28 at Yachting Victoria "Boat Shed", 3 Aquatic Drive, Albert Park. Dr Cindy Nelson will present the course. To download a booking form go to orcv.org.au and select the Training tab.