



CATSCAN

Newsletter of the Clinton River Catalina Association

Founded 1988

December, 2006

Calendar

Social Schedule

Commodore's Ball - Sterling InnMar 24

Cruising Schedule (tentative schedule)

Windsor, Lakeview Marina* Jun 10

Thames River - Radlin's MarinaJun 30

Belle RiverJul 14

Metro BeachJul 28

Thames River - Cove MarinaAug 04

Raft Off - Black Lagoon* Aug 18

Windsor, Lakeview Marina*Sep 1-2

Metro Beach, Pumpkin Cruise* Sep 29

(* dates shown are tentative at this time)

Race Schedule

The race schedule and details are being developed to be published in a subsequent issue of Catscan.

2006 CRCA Officers

Deanna LundyCommodore586 228-5864

Pat MorellVice Commodore .586 786-1673

Jean PostSecretary586 412-7864

Sandy BousumTreasurer586 954-2727

Ken BousumMember-at-Large
and Club Resource Coordinator586 954-2727

2006 Committee Chairs

Paul KurkowskiConstitution586 675-8211

Gayle & Eric Locke...Cruising248 526-9686

Paul KruttyRacing248 649-0597

Phil MorellMembership586 786-1673

Ted WingNewsletter248 373-5463

Barb Kurkowski and.....586 675-8211

Rose Lauricella.....Social586 948-3631

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Catscan is published 5 times yearly in March, May, July, September and December.

Commodore's Corner

Dee Lundy - Commodore

The year is almost over. We are full from our Thanksgiving feast, and now looking forward to Christmas.

CRCA had a good year. The racers raced and the cruisers cruised, and everyone had fun.

The schedule is out for next year's cruises. It's not too late to sign up to host a cruise, just give Gayle & Eric Locke a call. I know they'll be happy to hear from you.

Linda Reed has provided a copy of an invitation from Madalyn Duerr and Chicago fleet 21 to join them in several Strictly Sail activities. The flyer for the events is included in this newsletter. Thanks Madalyn and Linda.

The Commodore's Ball is March 24th at the Sterling Inn, in Sterling Heights. Hope to see everyone there.

Bill & I want to wish all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year.

Commodore Dee Lundy "*Deanna J*"

Social Scene

Barb Kurkowski

Rose Lauricella - Social Committee

Mark your calendars!

The 2007 Commodore's Ball is set for Saturday, March 24, 2007. The event will be held at The Best Western Sterling Inn 34911 Van Dyke (15 Mile & Van Dyke), in Sterling Heights.

Hope you all can make it.

> **Remember. Guests are welcome.**

> **Don't forget your crew!**

More details regarding cost and time to follow.

Barb Kurkowski "*Space Hunter*"

Rose Lauricella "*Sundown*"

Confessions Of A Reluctant Racer

By Lorenzo Caricchio

I successfully avoided racing my Catalina 25 for eight years. From the day I bought it, as I sat with the salesman and selected options, I made it perfectly clear that I never intended to race. So why was he talking about Mylar sails and two speed winches?

For eight years after the purchase I happily day sailed, night sailed, and generally cruised around. When my more intrepid sailing buddies would urge me to race, I would counter them by saying that I didn't have a macho competitive nature. Or I'd say that I had such a competitive nature that winning would become an obsession.

Both statements were true to a degree. Ever since I was introduced to sailing I was drawn to its Zen-like qualities of becoming one with the boat, the water and the wind. A contemplative state in which one could transcend the narrow limits of the modern jungle we call progress. On the other hand, being a beast raised in that jungle of social and economic dominance I have developed some instinct for the hunt and the kill.

Oh, there were other reasons for not wanting to race; money for equipment and fees, fear of hurting the boat, finding the time, finding crew, and others that I can't remember now. But the real reason was loss of innocence, a fear that the act of racing would sully the pure love I had for sailing; a fear that the reality of having to perform the very thing that I enjoyed and fantasized about would destroy the aura of romance that surrounded it in my imagination.

But innocence has its price and naiveté its dangers. So a number of years ago, when the opportunity was seductively placed before me, I reluctantly gave in to temptation, and with trembling, hesitant movements I approached the starting line of my first race.

Now, years later I curse my earlier innocence. My fantasy was like a dream in black and white compared to the multicolored reality of rounding a Windward Mark ahead of other boats. The romance has turned to passion, and in the throes of this passion all sensations are heightened. The caress of the wind upon face and neck, the sibilant whisper of the sea at the bow, the boat's response to the slightest pressure of my hand against the helm, the deck heaving over wave after wave, plunging closer and closer to the finish, then shuddering as a gust of pure, free energy from the sky sweeps us over the line. These are the true roots of the racing obsession. The danger and competition increase sensation exponentially.

Continued, next column

From the Poop Deck **Seaworthy Ideas and Stuff**

Paul Kurkowski

Ahoy and Happy Holidays Mates. I assume you all survived Turkey Day. Here in good old Michigan there were no weather complaints that I heard. I even got a good mow in on the same weekend. 'Tis the Season of merriment, cheer and the colors of Port and Starboard so, be careful out there. I want see you all at the Ball and more importantly on the water in 2007.

An El Niño is forming in the Pacific Ocean and should stabilize the weather patterns of the world (as we know them). The horrendous hurricane season of last year (2005), at least in part, was blamed on the lack of an El Niño. Knowing weather people though, they'll blame whatever they can get a chance to blame.

Recently I read that we'll need two earths of natural resources to sustain the world population by 2040. Imagine that! It's hard to fathom that the world's oceans will soon be depleted of creatures to consume. Maybe as folks who enjoy the water so much, we should invest our time and monies into Fish Farming. There are some incredible plans on drawing boards for mid-ocean farms that would drift with the currents. I'm talking huge and deep-netted farms. Most farms today are inland or anchored near shore. That alone restricts their size.

The Hawaiians are the first to be credited to fish farming and their farming is reported to go back nearly 2000 years. They were the first to engineer fishponds. According to Captain Cook in 1778, some 360 ponds produced near two million pounds of seafood.

Hopin' all your stockings are hung from the boom with care. Yep, good old Saint Nick will soon be here. See y'all soon and in '07.

That's it for now.

Casting off all lines. Color me gone.

Paul Kurkowski *"Space Hunter"*

My first love, my pure love of sailing, is now less immaculate, but the insights and increased awareness I gained through racing expanded that love beyond its limited borders of fear and comfort to a place of understanding. Innocence is no longer, the fantasy not quite as fanciful, but the romance has become imbedded in the flesh of reality.

Larry Caricchio - *"Zingara"*

Cruising Column

Gayle & Eric Locke - Cruise Committee

Hi Everyone!

Even though we haven't ended 2006, the 2007 cruise season is already taking shape. Below is a list of the cruises and the leaders we have signed up so far.

Four more cruise leaders are needed. Please email me to let me know if you will be helping out next year.

Keep safe and warm through the coming months and have a blessed Holiday Season! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Commodore's Ball.

Gayle Locke - "*Knigh't'n Gayle*"

(586) 431-7017 - gayle@lockesite.us

2007 Cruise Schedule

WINDSOR – LAKEVIEW MARINA

(SATURDAY, JUNE 10 - Tentative)

Cruise Leaders –

Ken & Sandy Bousum (586) 954-2727

Phil & Pat Morell (586) 786-1673

THAMES RIVER – RADLIN'S MARINA

(SATURDAY, JUNE 30)

Cruise Leaders – Needed

BELLE RIVER – BELLE RIVER MARINA

(SATURDAY, JULY 14)

Cruise Leaders – Jack & Nancy Gray

(248) 656-0947

METRO BEACH

(SATURDAY, July 28)

Cruise Leaders – Needed

THAMES RIVER – COVE MARINA

(SATURDAY, AUGUST 4)

Cruise Leaders – Needed

BLACK LAGOON - RAFT OFF

(SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 - Tentative)

Cruise Leaders – Needed

WINDSOR – LAKEVIEW MARINA

(SATURDAY, SEPT 1 & SUNDAY, SEPT 2 - Tentative)

Cruise Leader – Creed's (248) 623-0628

Lundy's (586) 228-5864

Wing's (248) 373-5463

PUMPKIN CRUISE – METRO

(SATURDAY, September 29 - Tentative)

Cruise Leaders – Glen & Becky Ellison

(586) 463-7876

A special treat retrieved from the Internet

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ANCHOR

T'was the night before Christmas, as I swung on the hook,

With snowflakes a'landing, asleep with my book.

When up on the deck I heard footsteps and stuff.

"I've been boarded!" I thought, and tried to be tough.

Then down the companionway hatch came a dude.

He was dressed like a nut and I thought, "I'm so screwed."

But he laughed and he hummed as he surveyed my junk.

So I figured he must be the resident drunk.

His eyes were lit up like a junkie on speed

But he gave me a whole bunch of stuff that I need.

Like rum and cigars, new charts and a dinghy,

And some kind of fancy electrical thingy.

I knew it was stolen but I wasn't telling.

I just hoped he was giving and wasn't just selling.

And I poured him a grog which he downed with a wink.

Then I poured one for me (Lord I needed a drink!)

Then he staggered above to the dark snowy night,
As I peeked out I beheld an incredible sight.

I saw eight tiny dolphins and a beautiful sleigh

And the dude hopped aboard and prepared to make weigh.

The dolphins were ready to power the sled

But the guy raised a genny and mains'l instead.

With a burp and a chuckle he gathered the breeze

And called to the dolphins, now swimming with ease.

"Hey Stalker and FEMA and Cancer and Nixon!

Or Stinky and Pepper Spray, Mason, and Dixon!

Or whatever your names are, you cute little fishes,

Here's to every last sailor, my best Christmas wishes!"

As he sailed away on a wobbly wake

I hoped he had not many stops left to make

He got close to shore and he soon was aground

But the dolphins proceeded to pull him around

And I heard him exclaim as he sailed out of sight

"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

*Please accept our best wishes for you and yours to
have a most enjoyable and safe holiday season.*

From Your Catscan Staff.

Race Report

Paul Krutty, Race Chairman

2007 Race program is in the planning stage. At the November meeting, moving our fleet to join either Tuesday or Wednesday night racing was discussed. No one wanted to see CRCA Thursday night racing disappear. Mike Bracket & Doug Post will continue as CRCA reps to ABY-RA.

Doug also volunteered to be Race officer for the 2007 Fun Race , using last year's format. Thanks Doug!

I'd like to encourage all non-racers to join us for this fun and exciting way to further enjoy our sport. If you would like to participate as crew or on race committee, please contact me and I'll see to it that you're included.

A full race program is being planned for 2007 and details will be in the March Catscan.

If are you're interested in any way, please contact me.

Membership Report

Phil Morell- Membership Chairman

Here's a reminder from your new Membership Chairman that your 2007 dues are payable by December 31st. You'll notice there's a new address to send your completed form and dues to this year. After several years service as Membership Chairman, Bill Lundy has decided to 'retire'. I'd like to thank him for doing a fine job!

If you know someone with a Catalina, why not invite them to our annual Commodores Ball in March. They'll have a good time and can see how much participation we have in our activities throughout the year.

We currently have 37 members. I ask that you take a close look at the list below and send me any corrections. We know some of the e-mail addresses don't work so please check yours.

Phil Morell - "*Bittersweet 2*"