



THE OAKVILLE YACHT SQUADRON

WINDJAMMER

January 2010



Upcoming Events

- **January 9 -17** Boat Show
- **Friday Jan. 16, 8 p.m.: All in the same boat:** The Beese family has cruised the BVI's not once, but three times. Join Andre, Daniela, Madelaine and Max as they take us along with them for an A-to- Z of family cruising.
- **Friday January 29th at 7:30 pm: Ladies Movie Night:** Please join us at the Crows Nest for a cozy evening and our 1st Ladies Movie Night of 2010. The movie will be " The Proposal", a comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. Everyone should bring an appetizer or snacks. Contact lkizmet@cogeco.ca or (905) 337-2708 if you are planning to attend.
- **Friday Feb.13, 8 p.m.: Racing with the pros:** Lifelong Royal Hamilton YC member Allan Megarry is sought after on the racing circuit. His credentials include Six Canada's Cups, two America's Cups and offshore racing events in New England, the Caribbean and Florida. Allan will offer us tips, insights and lessons learned from the world of high level racing. \$5 charge.
- **Friday Mar. 26, 8 p.m: Croatia cruising:** Geoff Freeman and Denis Dinsmore cruised the Croatian coast in June, 2009 as part of a flotilla. They tell the story of this trip, the how-to and what-happened along with the joys of Mediterranean flotilla sailing.
- **Pub Nights** - every Thursday, often with added entertainment such as movies, seminars and talks.
- **Ladies Seaview Afternoon**, 15:00 last Thursday of the month

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Contact OYS at: 97 Forsythe Street, P. O. 144, Oakville, Ontario L6J 4Z5

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Editorial contributions welcomed, Contact publicity director at publicitydirector@oysqn.com

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REPORTS

COMMODORE - PAUL ATTWOOD

I trust this finds everyone off to a great start for the New Year and that you and your family are healthy!

Please accept my gratitude to everyone who brought an unwrapped gift to the OYS Christmas Open House. Major Dan Broome of the Salvation Army would also like to offer his thanks on behalf of all the children who received your kind donations on Christmas Day! I'm sure their eyes became a little brighter that day!

During the OYS Christmas Open House, I heard a number of people indicating that their Christmas present was still waiting for them at the upcoming Boat Show. There sure were a lot of people who were "very good" during the year based on some of the purchases that were going to be made! Your Commodore's wife (Helle) was extremely good all year and she can't wait to try out her new Christmas gift (birthday gift, anniversary gift), a set of electric winches. I guess I wasn't quite as nice as I only got a winch handle!

I can not express how disappointed I was to go down to the Club on New Years Day and find the water was frozen. As Commodore, I wanted to compete and "lead the racers" around the marks on the very first race of the year. Alas, the opportunity was not to be. It was so cold that the tears that came from my eyes quickly froze on my cheeks! Peter Mack, it will be up to you to ensure that for the 3rd year in a row, the Commodore does not "fail to sail" at the first OYS race of the year.

The New Years Day event at the club was as usual a lot of fun despite the lack of racing! We did have the opportunity of hearing Claire Merry talk about her experience racing in Katsura, Japan. If memory serves me correctly, Claire will also be racing in Denmark shortly. It is nice to see another sailing school graduate broadening their experience. I can't think of a better way to see the world, then to travel to faraway destinations and compete while enjoying the different cultures.

Lastly, I want to again express my gratitude to the "Merry Family" for all the work they did again this year to make sure everything came together at the New Years Day event! It doesn't just happen (unless you have the Merry's on your team); thanks Bill and Lynda!

VICE COMMODORE - PETER MACK

I've been thinking lately about safety and security - it's a topic that comes easily to mind if we know anyone who's been on a plane recently. For us around the yacht club safety is a critical issue too. In the summer, safety means things like having our required and other safety gear up to date, checking the weather report before we leave the dock, and care with re-fuelling. And let's not forget sunscreen (this is one I have trouble with).

In the wintertime, boaters have safety issues to worry about as well. I find it's very peaceful to visit OYS on a clear, quiet evening and check that the cover's still on securely. I know the cover's OK, but I like the habit of visiting the boat. But the snow and ice in the yard can be miserable after a couple of thaw / freeze cycles, and it wouldn't be so funny if someone slipped and hurt themselves alone in the yard!

My hints for the winter season: try not to visit the yard alone. At the very least make sure someone knows where you're going. Just like the sailing season, make sure you dress for the weather. A 15 minute visit in the yard might need different clothes than you wear for a drive in the nice warm car. If you put up your ladder, tie it off to the rail. We know folks who have suffered from a fall off their ladder in the OYS yard, and we don't want any more. And then lock your ladder up again when you bring it down. I know it's a nuisance, but it protects us all from unwelcome guests.



Presentation of gifts to Salvation Army following Commodore's Christmas Open House

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Please don't leave your boat plugged in when you're not there. Coiled electric cords can heat up a lot from the inductance caused by an AC current, and there are several recorded incidents of safely and correctly wired boats burning themselves up from this exact cause. And many boats are not wired perfectly, and snow can get in the connections and cause shorts.

I'm sure there are many other tips we could pull together. I'll leave you with this thought: Donna and I bought inflatable PFDs a couple of years ago, and we've found they're much nicer to wear - and so we wear them a lot more often. The boat show is coming, and this is a great time to check over your safety gear and fill in any gaps in the list. Let's see, a new main would get me to port faster when I'm running from a storm ...

REAR COMMODORE - ELI OSZLAK

OYS is once again participating in this year's boat show. We will be sharing a booth with the Oakville Power Boat Club. The theme will be to promote Oakville's 16 Mile Creek as a boating destination as well as membership in our clubs. We have agreed that there will be one person from each club on the booth at all times.

The shifts will be either 4.5 hours or 4 hours (on both Sunday's) starting Saturday January 9, 2010 and running through to Sunday January 17, 2010. Working the show will mean a free show pass for you the booth attendant as well as an additional pass if your spouse wishes to join you before or after.

Please get back to me directly in order to secure your preferred shift. It should be a lot of fun as well as a great way to see the Boat Show. Please review the shift schedule at the following url;

http://oysqn.com/boatshow_signup.html

Once you know which shift you would like to volunteer for; please contact me using the email address boatshow@oysqn.com

RACING DIRECTOR - ANDRE BEESE

First and foremost my family and I would like to wish all of our membership a Happy New Year, which I hope will include fairer winds and sunnier skies.

For those of you that do not know me, I sail Weebeestee with family and friends, and have been with OYS since 1995. I have lived in Oakville since 1988, and was told when I got married that I could not leave. That is how much this town, and OYS means to us, both the racing aspect and social, although I have still to fit a Cruising schedule in between racing.

So, on that note, I started my year off by missing both the first race and social combination; I will have to make that up. For a start I will be at the boat show and hope to have seen some of you there.

For the upcoming racing season I have some small changes in mind but what I would also like is some input as to what you liked/disliked and can email me at racingdirector@oysqn.com. Your suggestions are welcome.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR - PETER URWIN

Our newsletter typically consists of various reports put together by members of your OYS executive, but, all things considered there is much more to our club than this. How about some articles from you, our members? Try your hand as a budding author and report on some of your interesting nautical endeavors, places you have cruised to, races with spectacular (crowd pleasing) disasters etc. Or perhaps some thing of a social nature is more to your calling for example what exactly goes on at those ladies Seaview afternoons and why do some of my male colleagues report a sensation of burning ears on the last Thursday of the month?

If you would like to contribute something (a few paragraphs) simply email to me before the first of the month. I will be pleased to help as required.



Commodore's Christmas Open House



*From left to right, Shannon, Ainsley, Jacob & Jordan
Enjoy treats at the Commodore's Christmas Open House*

Classified & Personals

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Club Donation

Harbour Yachts Inc. will donate 10% of their commission from the sale of any OYC member' boat, to the OYS Jr. Sailing Program

Contact **John Haynes** john@Harbouryachts.ca
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Equipment or Info

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