

Florida for Sail (continued from page 1)

sailing.

During the first lesson, we were taken out on the water in a little Sunfish with an instructor and learned the basics of rigging the sails, tacking and jibing. After the first lesson, we were informed that in subsequent lessons we would be sailing solo. That was a scary thought since we had never sailed before. However, the patient encouragement of our instructors soon had us confidently in command of our individual Sunfish and successfully navigating the course that they had set up for each session

When the six lessons were completed we successfully completed our sailing exam and received our certification from the American Red Cross Sailing School. What a sense of achievement! We had been power boaters for years, but learning how to sail was the fulfillment of a dream.

Incidentally, we received the entire course of six lessons, the use of a sailboat, text books, exam and certification for sixty dollars US. What a deal! In addition, each week we received free grapefruit since one of the instructors had an abundant crop of grapefruit in his back yard and brought the surplus to class each week.

What a great way to spend the winter! We met some wonderful people at the Sailing Club and

learned to appreciate the exhilaration and excitement of a sailboat skimming effortlessly and silently over the water.

We aren't planning to give up power boating but we are looking forward to returning to Florida for winter vacations to practise our sailing skills and enjoy the wonderful nautical environment of southwest Florida.

If you have the opportunity to spend some time in the sunny south, I would encourage you to consider taking on a special project and enrolling in some new adventure during your vacation time. It's a great way to meet many wonderful new friends and achieve personal challenges that will make your winter getaway unforgettable.

For Your Information

PCOC cards issued by CPS are approved by NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) in the United States for use in US waters. Check at www.nasbla.org for a list of states that recognize the PCOC. CPS is the only large provider of the card that has such approval.

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West Nile Virus

Today, mosquitoes are more than a nuisance. Some can carry the West Nile virus. Bites may lead to infection with no symptoms, to mild illness such as West Nile fever, or to serious neurological illness such as encephalitis.

It is impossible to tell from a mosquito bite on the skin surface whether the mosquito was carrying an infection such as West Nile virus. Approximately four out of five people who are bitten by an infected mosquito show no symptoms.

See a doctor if you have fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, confusion, severe headache, sudden sensitivity to light, or extreme swelling or infection at the site of the mosquito bite.

Protect yourself by using a federally regulated insect repellent and by covering up. Mosquitoes are attracted to darker, more intense colours. Wear light colours.

Mosquitoes are infected when they bite and infected bird. The virus is not spread by person-to-person contact or from mammals to humans. However, use gloves or a thick plastic bag if you have to handle a dead bird.

...from the Government of Ontario

News Flash!

You still require a VHF Radio Station Permit, as well as your own personal Restricted Operator's Certificate, when you travel to American waters. See our Web site for directions to apply for this license.

Wanted: We need 2 used metal sextants for use in our Celestial Navigation Course
In good serviceable condition. Reasonable cost.
Call Robert Bakker at 623 1945.
Or send email to robert.bakker@sympatico.ca

Needed: Volunteers to help on our telephone committee. Make calls to others about upcoming events etc. It would involve about an hour every 3 months or so.
Call Diane at 576 0749 or email dallan@gto.net

Needed: Volunteers to help at our booth in Fairview Mall on September 4/04
Call Janice at 886 0625 or email executiveofficer@kwpowerandsail.ca

Next Squadron Bridge meeting Sept 14, 2004 at Ratz-Bechtel Family Center
Next District Council Meeting Sept 15, 2004 at Canadian Center for Inland Waters
National Convention October 20-24, 2004 at Toronto Marriott Hotel

Web site addresses to visit

Our squadron site www.kwpowerandsail.ca
Niagara District www.cps-niagara.org
National site www.cps-ecp.ca

Do you have a boating story to tell?
Send it in to our Editor Rick Brenneman who can publish your tale in our newsletter
Send email newsletter@kwpowerandsail.ca

Advertise in our newsletter! If you have a product that you consider useful to our membership, place an ad in our newsletter for a very low cost. Ads for items for sale will be advertised at no cost for our members for any of our members in good standing.

Special Events by Diane Allan

Be sure to mark your calendar for these special events. We're looking forward to having many of our Squadron members attending these activities.

- December 1/04 Annual Christmas Dinner and Entertainment
- January 22/05 Bus Trip to the Toronto Boat Show
- January 29/05 Derek Hatfield Around The World Alone Sailor

Please check on our website at <http://www.kwpowerandsail.ca/> frequently, for updates and information on coming events. Also, check the outline of course offerings on the website and begin thinking about courses that you may wish to take this fall. Details about course registration for the fall program will be coming out in mid August.

From the Training Officer

by Jackie Bizjak

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jackie Bizjak and I am the new K-W Squadron Training Officer. Glenn Shugg, the previous Training Officer, has been "weaning" me into this position and has been a great support for me as I learn the ropes. Now on to the work.

Following are the highlights of The Training Department's year end meeting. We confirmed Instructor/Proctor availability for the 2004/2005 season;

An Instructional Techniques course is proposed for the September/October time frame. If there is any other interest out there, please let me know.

Students have expressed an interest around what to know or ask when buying a boat. A proposal was put forth to have a guest speaker at one of our events - perhaps Graduation.

The squadron has purchased a projector and laptop along with Powerpoint software, which will be introduced in the 2004 fall term. We are in the process of determining training requirements on the software for the trainers as well as the courses for which it would be most beneficial.

Stay tuned for further details. I look forward to meeting many of you next year, or perhaps I'll see you on the water! Happy Boating!

For Sale

Al and Pat Dunn (K-W Power Squadron Members)

28 Tallwood Drive

West Montrose, Ontario

PH: 519 669-1150

palco@kw.igs.net

FOR SALE

1988 37' PRESIDENT Double cabin Yacht. Teak interior.

T454 Geny. Enclosed aft and bridge.

Buy from owner and save \$11,000, GST and \$15,000 Broker fees.

Thanks,

Editorial

After experimenting with publishing the High and Dry on our website only, we have decided to return to printing and distributing hard copies of each issue to our members. We will continue to publish each issue in digital form as well on our website. However, many members indicated that they do not have access to the internet and prefer a hard copy so we will be mailing future issues to each household.

With a new season of boating just beginning, it is important once again to ensure that your vessel meets all the safety requirements. Take time to inspect all flares, sound signals, floatation devices, ground tackle, bailing equipment and bilge pumps, etc. to ensure that your boating season will be safe and trouble free.

Check out the new bridge members listed on page four of this issue. Keep this list for future reference and share your comments and concerns with appropriate members at any time. Your involvement in the squadron is necessary to ensure an active program of activities and programs.

I would encourage all of you to share your boating stories for publication in future issues. We all have had many fascinating boating adventures that would make interesting anecdotes for others to enjoy. Please send your adventures to me so that I can include them in future issues. Sharing experiences about boating holidays, fishing adventures, or sailing regattas are always welcome.

Be sure to mark your calendars with the special activities that Diane Allan has described in her ***Special Events*** article. We hope to get a large number of squadron members involved in these special activities that have been planned.

Our next issue, which will be coming out in mid August, will outline the fall courses and registration procedures for upcoming squadron courses. In the meantime, please check our website to become acquainted with the variety of courses that are available and begin planning your selections for the fall.

Finally, I'm looking forward to hearing from you and receiving your contributions for future issues of the High and Dry. Please e-mail your contributions to rbren@golden.net or send them by regular mail to 68 Riverside Drive, New Hamburg, ON N3A 2H6.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer on the water.

The *High and Dry*

The K-W Power and Sail Squadron

June, 2004

Florida for Sail by Rick Brenneman

This winter, my wife Ardys and I had the privilege to spend most of the winter in sunny southern Florida. After hearing from family and friends back home about the extremely cold, snowy conditions that enveloped southern Ontario, it was especially wonderful to be able to bask in the warmth of the sunshine state.

Our destination for our winter getaway was Live Oak, a beautiful RV park near Punta Gorda. Punta Gorda is a quaint and historic city just thirty minutes north of Fort Meyers

adjacent to Charlotte Harbour at the mouth of the Peace River. Charlotte Harbour is a large body of protected water that empties into the Gulf of Mexico at Boca Grande. The area is a renowned for its sheltered waters and boasts many marinas and sailing clubs.

Before arriving in Florida, we had been looking to purchase a used sailboat to use while we were in Florida. We had never sailed before, but we wanted to learn how to sail and decided to take up the challenge during our winter stay in

Florida. A search on the internet finally connected us with someone in the Punta Gorda area who had a sailboat for sale that met our criteria. We were very excited. Several e-mails and telephone calls later, we agreed to meet Gary and consider the possibilities.

We eagerly looked forward to meeting Gary and checking out the boat that he had for sale. We were excited. The sailboat was exactly what we were looking for. Within a very short time we had negotiated an agreement and we were proud owners of a 1980 22' McGreggor. We excitedly trailered the boat back to our park and began the task of cleaning and re-upholstering our prized purchase.

Gary was a member of the Punta Gorda Sailing Club and invited us to attend one of their meetings. At the Sailing Club we were introduced to some wonderful people who told us about a series of sailing lessons that they were offering during the winter. Ardys and I immediately signed up and excitedly looked forward to the challenge of learning how to sail.

The course consisted of six two and one-half hour lessons. Each lesson consisted of one-half hour of theory and two hours of sailing. Our instructors were members of the Punta Gorda Sailing Club and enthusiastically and patiently taught us the fundamentals of

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From the Helm by Commander Bill Allan

It looks like summer is finally here. Hopefully we will have great weather this year.

We held the 2004 Annual General Meeting April 21/04 at the Waterloo Knights of Columbus Hall. Niagara D/C Sharon Reeve pledged in the new Bridge.

Our Graduation Evening Reception was held at the same location. Past D/C Les Armstrong pledged in the graduates and welcomed them to CPS. Donna Lankin, our District Membership Officer/Webmistress was there to take pictures for the District Web site, as well as to listen to the excellent presentation given by Terry Gillespie on Weather and Myths. Terry teaches the weather course in Guelph Squadron. Thanks once more, Terry! Everyone enjoyed it. The food was provided by Village Catering in New Dundee.

The June Bridge meeting took place at our home in as a Summer Kick-off. After a short meeting, we had hamburgers, hot dogs and a variety of appetizers, salads, and desserts, pot-luck style. Thanks to all who showed up with all that yummy food!

Diane and I attended the District June Social, which was held at the Tim Horton's Kids Camp, near St. George, Ont. They have an incredible facility and kids from all over Ontario attend their 10 day camp sessions.

Our newsletter will be mailed to all members' households as it was before. It will also be posted on our Web site. We're hoping for 3-4 issues yearly. We're always looking for contributors!

Email our Editor, Richard Brenneman newsletter@kwpowerandsail.ca