

# DOCKSIDE SCUTTLEBUTT

ISSUE 05-02

APRIL 2005

The newsletter of The Fanshawe Yacht Club of London, Ontario,  
issued six times per year to Members and Friends of the Club.

Contributions, comments, complaints, compliments and critiques  
should be sent to the editor, Jacqui Longman:  
*jacqui@finavar.com* 519 473 7541  
389 Ridgewood Crescent London ON N6J 3H2

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The first thing I want to say is thank you... The Fanshawe Yacht Club is one of the most welcoming and friendly organizations that I have been involved in. Although I have not had a opportunity to meet many of you, I hope to change that during the upcoming season.

As there are undoubtedly some of you who have never even heard my name, let alone met me, I'd like to tell you a bit about myself.

I don't own a boat at the moment, but believe me, it's top of the wish list! My sailing experience has been primarily on Lake Ontario, mostly on small keelboats. I have done one offshore trip, Rhode Island to Antigua (10 days) on a Swan 51. Although I was seasick for much of it, it remains the second most amazing experience of my life.

I've been working in the marine industry - in marinas, chandleries, rigging and boat repair shops - but most recently I was with TomCat boats, building and fitting out their new 32' sailing catamaran. Currently I am attending Fanshawe College, taking *Mechanical Engineering Tech - Design*. I'm about half way through. It's been quite an adventure going back to college after nearly ten years, but I am enjoying it. I'm also taking a yacht design course through correspondence.

Jumping right into editing the newsletter may seem a bit extreme, but I thought it would be a great way to get learn more about the club and the members. I have been involved with the production of a number of different newsletters over the years so I am looking forward to it. This first issue is definitely a joint effort - Ralph's input has been invaluable.

I'm in no hurry to make major changes to the format of the newsletter, as it seems to have worked so far, but I'll be tweaking a few things here

and there. In terms of the content, I will try to ensure that it is relevant and interesting but I will be relying on your feedback to know if I am succeeding. I'm also going to have to ask your assistance to make sure that I'm getting the right information out at the right time. If there's something you'd like changed or included, please, please, PLEASE let me know! It's **your** newsletter, I just do the typing! Call, write, email, stick a message in a bottle, whatever it takes, but don't just sit there if you've got something to say.

They tell me it's the first day of Spring as I write this. Looking outside, you'd never say so. But there's a few brave bulbs popping up in the garden, and the days are noticeably longer. The sunshine gets stronger every day, the warmth on your face hinting at long lazy summer afternoons. Sorry to wax poetic, but the only thing that gets me through the winter is the knowledge that it will not last forever. Once you get past the holidays and into the new year, you can start counting the weeks 'til launch. We're down to one hand...

Oh, and if you were wondering what the most amazing experience of my life has been, that would be my daughter, Bronwen. She and my mother, Mary, who has officially become a member this year, will be down at the Club often. If you haven't met them, you certainly will this summer.

Bronwen will be three years old in May, and she's already telling her daycare teachers that the coming of spring means she'll get to go sailing soon. That's my girl!

See you there.  
Jacqui

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## NEW ADDRESS!

Due to the fact that Canada Post is moving the postal outlet we have been using in Northland Mall, effective April 21<sup>st</sup> 2005 we will have a new address:

**PO Box 32041  
RPO Northland  
London, ON  
N5V 5K4**

For six months after this date, mail sent to the new address will automatically be forwarded to the new location.

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## WELCOME ABOARD JACQUI LONGMAN!!

In response to our "cry for help" with the job of editing the Scuttlebutt, there were several responses and all appreciated. However, Jacqui Longman came forward, expressed an interest and attended the most recent dinner at Archies to get better acquainted with the "faithful". The fact that she lives quite close to me will make it easier to get together to show her what I have been doing though as stated earlier, we need new ideas, a new approach and a new way of thinking to breathe a new life into this letter.

Jacqui joined the Club last year, sailed on several occasions with Otto and was in attendance at our social events like the Corn Roast and Banquet. Getting to know the members is not too easy as never are all members at the same place at the same time and who remembers all the names anyway? One advantage I have enjoyed is having been around long enough to have been a part of the evolution of the Club from a weekly Sunday Race event with family picnics to that of many single handed outings. Though all sailing is fun we miss the association with others who share our love of the sport and we hope to improve the social part of the group.

Jacqui will need your help in acquiring information. She will need race results, notices of upcoming events, reports from the Executive meetings and anything else of that could be of interest to members. We haven't had any "Boats for Sail" lately - everyone happy with what they have? Further, we are always interested in the health and well being of our members. If you know of someone who needs our support, please let us know.

I won't be far away and will help her in any way I can. Perhaps it will take a while to feel comfortable with putting out an issue by herself but it is my guess that it won't take her long. Jacqui can be reached at [jacqui@finavar.com](mailto:jacqui@finavar.com) or 473-7541

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Sailor Mike informs us that there will be a **Sandpiper 565** rendezvous in Parry Sound in July. Go to <http://www.vaxxine.com/cfsailboats/s565/>

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*Mooring: The art of bringing a boat to a complete stop in a relatively protected coastal area in such a fashion that it can be sailed away again in less than one week's time by the same number of people who moored it, without heavy equipment and with no more than \$100 in repairs... ☺*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 13	18:00	Dinner at <b>King's Buffet</b> 1389 Dundas Street (between Hale & Florence, just east of Highbury)
April 15	19:00	Derek Hatfield - <i>Spirit of Canada</i> Solo round-the-world sailor HMCS Prevost, Becher Street
April 16	08:00	Work Party #1 - Fanshawe Park Road gate
April 22		Fanshawe Park opens
April 23	08:00	Work Party #2 - Main gate
April 25	19:00	General Meeting - London Music Club
May 22	TBA	Commodore's Reception and Sailpast
May 28, 29	11:00	FYC Open House
June 11,12		Commodore's Cup Regatta

## NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The April General meeting is scheduled as follows:

**April 25, 2005 - 7:00 pm**  
at

**The London Music Club**

(470 Colborne Street, just north of the Mocha Temple)

This is the last meeting prior to the start of our sailing season. Please plan to attend to participate in the running of our club. Parking will be at a premium but we are told that we can use the lot at Catholic Central Secondary School at the corner of Dundas and Colborne, a short distance away. Hope to see you there to aid in the running of our Club, especially since this will be the last General Meeting of the Membership until the fall.

## WORK PARTIES

Suddenly, after all these years, I've started to wonder why we call a summons to do physical work, a "party"? I guess it's what we make it as our "parties" are generally pleasant and a chance to see those we have missed all winter.

If you read the membership application as it pertains to "Volunteering" at the club, you will be aware that the Spring Club opening sessions are scheduled for April 16 and April 23. As the Park does not open until April 22, and the gate at the dam will not be open until then, we will have to enter the park on the 16th from Fanshawe Park Road, at the extreme eastern end of this route. If you have not been there before, keep going east on Fanshawe Park Road until you can't go any further and you will see the gate on the South side. We hope to have a gate guard there to let you in but if not, your club key will do it. On the 23rd, we should be able to use the regular access.

As happened last year, breakfast will be served from around 8:00 to 9:30 so don't eat before you come unless you are on a diet. Linda Holland has volunteered to do the breakfast and our regular chef Mike Wareing will again favour us with his great chile concoctions for lunch. Both can certainly use some help!! If you miss breakfast, the leftovers will be left wrapped on the counter.

Now, if the sun shines, it will be a great day. Please remember to bring some tools be they rakes, hammers etc as we can use them all. We also need old garbage cans for debris, and an old tarp to collect leaves. Thanks to Rose and John Hall the water is ready for Saturday.

## WEDNESDAY RACES

Once again, we will be having "fun" races on Wednesdays. The night races proved so popular that it was decided to add a new event in the afternoon which probably should be called "Races for the Retired"!! In the evening, the wind seems to go down with the sun and I don't think I ever actually finished one!! John Burgess advises that we get our boats in the water early in May so we can enjoy a long season of fun. Hope to see you at the starting line -

**May 11 - 3:00PM and 6:00PM**

Remember to bring your lunch and do both!!



## SPIRIT OF CANADA

Derek Hatfield, solo-round-the-world sailor, will be speaking at HMCS Prevost on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 19:00.

Come and meet the skipper of *Spirit of Canada*, Hatfield's brand new Open 60 with which he hopes to win the 5-Oceans race in 2006 (formerly known as Around Alone). Derek placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class II in the 2002-3 Around Alone race, despite being pitchpoled and dismantled off Cape Horn, in an Open 40 built without corporate sponsorship.

The *Spirit of Canada* campaign relies heavily on grassroots support. For a minimum donation of \$100, you can sail with Derek around the world - your name, or that of your family, club, or whatever you choose, will be painted on the hull. There are various levels of sponsorship, some of which include the opportunity to go sailing on the Open 60 when it hits the water next year. All the details are at [www.spiritofcanada.net](http://www.spiritofcanada.net). Maybe the Club should get together and show our support - put "Fanshawe Yacht Club" on the new *Spirit of Canada* and help Derek get out there and win.

NOTE: Parking at HMCS Prevost will be a problem, but there is usually parking available at the Children's Museum on Wharnccliffe, or in the downtown area just across the footbridge. If you have questions, call the London Power & Sail Squadron at 438-6222.

## FYC JOB POSTING CLUB STEWARD

Maintain and clean all buildings, grounds, safety boats, tenders, and club barge.

Part-time flexible hours:

- Spring - 8 hours per week
- Summer - 20 hours per week
- Fall - 6 hours per week

Contact:

**Commodore Bryant** 434-8289 [jbryant555@rogers.com](mailto:jbryant555@rogers.com)  
or **Vice Commodore Eidt** 964-3366 [eidt.ra@rogers.com](mailto:eidt.ra@rogers.com)

# FANSHAWE YACHT CLUB OPEN HOUSE

**MAY 28 & 29**  
**11:00 - 16:00**

This event gives us a wonderful opportunity to promote our club and sailing school and show the public what great facilities we have. Many volunteers are needed to make it run smoothly and successfully. To get the ball rolling early this year, we are posting a chart in the chalet during both spring cleanup work weekends showing what jobs need to be filled. Please take the time to sign up on the chart, so we don't have to phone everyone in the club! If you are not at spring cleanup, phone or email us (see below).

Here's a summary of the help required:

<b>Greeters at the gate</b>	1 adult and 2 youth (age 10+) per shift. Shifts are 10:45 to 13:15, and 13:15 to 16:00
<b>FYC Booth (Chalet)</b>	2 people. Raffle tickets, membership, set up lease boat outside chalet, answer questions.
<b>Sailing School (Chalet)</b>	2 people including 1 instructor.
<b>Kitchen (Chalet)</b>	4 people. Sell and serve food, drinks and snacks, etc.
<b>Dock (boats and helpers)</b>	6+ people to help visitors on and off boats. Youth (age 12+) can volunteer for this and the beach. As many boats as possible to give rides. Set-up 10:30 1 person to register visitors for rides.
<b>Beach (boats and helpers)</b>	2 people to help visitors. As many catamarans as possible for rides. Set-up 10:30
<b>Safety Boats</b>	2 boats, each with 2 people at all times.

In addition, we are always short of **adult life jackets**. If you can lend yours for the weekend, please label them clearly and take them to the dock by 10:30 on Saturday. Pick them up at 16:00 on Sunday. We also need some **spare towels, clothing, blankets** etc. for visitors who get wet! If you can donate these items, please bring them to the chalet during cleanup days.

If you cannot volunteer for a whole day, please indicate the hours you are available. We always need extra people to give others a chance for a break and a meal.

Once again, a **poster** advertising the Open House will be prepared and emailed in a pdf file to members with computers. Please forward this poster on to friends and colleagues in local businesses and ask them to post it on staff notice boards.

Have we forgotten anything? This year Stuart and Rosemary Dickinson (472-0515, [sdickins@uwo.ca](mailto:sdickins@uwo.ca)) and Carleen Hone (474-9164, [carhk@rogers.com](mailto:carhk@rogers.com)) are organizing the Open House, with help from Mike Morris, Bobby Hampton and Rob Perquin.

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## GENERAL QUESTIONS

Our Club "Handbook" will be out shortly and the answers to most of your questions will be contained therein. If you have questions about moorings, call the Harbour Master. If you want to know about dry-sailing spaces, call the Parking Area Marshall. Although Otto knows just about everything, Membership is his only true area of responsibility. He will help you if he can but he keeps no records affecting these other areas.

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## SAILING SCHOOL

During the season, if you have questions regarding the operations of the Sailing School, please direct them to the Manager of the School and not confront individual instructors.

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## TRAILER STORAGE

There will be trailer storage available in the UTRCA compound as we don't have room to store all at our facility. However, please remember to pay the UTRCA as they get grouchy and put their own lock on the gate which causes some inconvenience to all.

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*Zephyr: A warm, pleasant breeze named after the mythical Greek god of wishful thinking, false hops, and unreliable forecasts. ☺*

## SAILING SCHOOL JOB POSTING

### INTERIM SAILING SCHOOL MANAGER

Due to changes in workload for our Manager, we require a replacement before the end of May 2005.

An overview of the responsibilities includes:

- report to the Sailing School Committee designated liaison person
- oversee the on-site operation of the school programs
- liaise with the Head Instructor with regard to the activities of all instructors
- record work time of instructors
- liaise with parents during summertime youth courses

During the summer months, the time requirements include:

- in June - 40 hours, including adult training in evenings
- in July - 100 hours, with summer youth courses
- in August - 115 hours, with youth courses and post season clean-up
- in September - 30 hours, complete clean-up and administration follow-up
- total hours 285, approximately

Remuneration will vary depending on time served.

**Contact Sailing School Chair - Peter Wilkins -  
660-1238 or pwilkins@rogers.com**

## BIKE PASSES

Some have enquired about the possibility of getting passes for when they bike to the Club instead of driving. Here-to-fore, the Park has charged for bikes as they groom the trails around the lake and there is a cost involved in that. However, Otto has made enquires and has been successful in arranging for passes to be issued. If you have a car pass, just stop at the Park Office, in the maintenance area, and they will accommodate you. However, I don't think one should be caught on the trails without paying.

## REFLECTIONS ON A WINTER'S DAY

With 18" of snow on the lawn and a foot of ice on Fanshawe, things boaty seem far away. Even ice boating has been a dead loss with so much snow, the worst winter for sailing since I bought the ice boat in '94.

At our end of season dinner, I spoke of Wednesday racing and Ralph asked me if I would write something for Scuttlebutt. So this is it.

The big news is that we now have two races: one in the afternoon at 3 pm, and one in the evening starting at 6:30. These are very informal light-hearted races. If you are interested but don't feel ready to have a go in your own boat, come and sail with one of the single-handers who would only be pleased to have a crew. The race start can be scary at first. You read the books written by the hot shot racers and they show you how to find the right end of the line. They will tell you that this is the only place to be, sailing fast on a starboard tack. That is why when you watch one of the hot shot fleets at our open regattas they will be trying like mad for the "favoured end", with lots of shouting and gnashing of teeth, and this may be off-putting to the new racer. That may be the way to start when all the boats are in the same class and sail at the same speed, but it's not the case in a mixed fleet like our Wednesday crowd. In fact on the rare occasion when I have found myself in the classic great start position, it soon became a hopeless situation as the faster boats who were also trying for the sacred spot sail over the top of my slow boat and I can't escape until they have all passed. So forget the books on Wednesdays unless you have a cat, a big green tri, or a hot dinghy. Find yourself a space around the middle of the line with clean air, it's much better. Come and join the hooky players, the shift workers and the gentle folk in retirement - sail a race or two followed by free coffee at the race hut. It's great fun and a good way to meet the members.

I would also like to mention that we now have a library, at least, we have a bookcase in the trophy room. I was given a pile of books to start things rolling but I am looking for more - books, magazines, it doesn't matter how old, bring them out. The library is quite easy to use. You just borrow the books, read them and bring them back. I will try to mark them F.Y.C. to remind you where they came from.

One more reflection. Varnish and boats go together like hot dogs and mustard, and for the last 35 years, I have been fighting a losing battle with the stuff (varnish that is, not hot dogs or mustard). In the spring when new it looks great, but by August it's starting to crack, especially

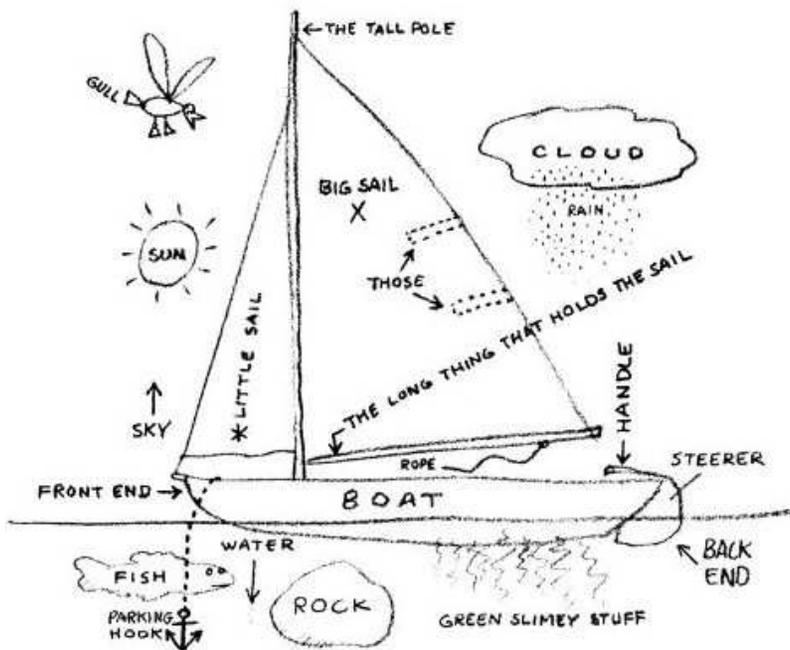
on volatile wood like white oak. In September the rain and dew get in and that's it - next spring you have to start all over again. Not any more, not with Cetol by Sikkens. It's more like a stain than a varnish, easy to apply, not as pretty as varnish but it lasts. In it's basic form, Cetol Marine Light, it gives you a semi-gloss, satin finish. If you want high gloss, Cetol Marine Gloss is applied over Marine Light, but must not be used by itself. Cetol has a few drawbacks. It can only be used on bare wood, can't be used over epoxy or old varnish. It's not cheap (\$33/quart). Para Paint will order it for you if they don't have it in stock. For me it's the way to go. Just one more thing, the high gloss finish takes a long time to dry - don't hurry it.

One very last thing. I have tried some epoxy paint sold for refinishing baths and sinks on a rudder. It looks good so far. We shall see.

See you on Wednesdays.  
John Burgess



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Sailboat parts... ☺

