



LONDONLINE



New hope
for Old Rope!
See page 6



NEWS & VIEWS OF THE
LONDON POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON

June
2009



Post Katrina: Boating in New Orleans

Later that day it was, like,
'Man, we're going to die!'



At the New Orleans Yacht Club on August 27, 2005 Captain Mike Howell,

Division Commander, Division 4, 8th Coastal Region, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, decorated Vietnam vet and live-aboard boater was discussing a hurricane tracking westward through the Gulf of Mexico with fellow boaters from the marina. The hurricane dubbed 'Katrina' caused some destruction at the southern tip of Florida as a category one and was getting people's attention. The general feeling however was one of

only minor concern as it did not seem that the storm was tracking north. Mike remembers, 'We had no time. That morning we were asking each other what we were going to do about the storm. Some boaters simply said that they were going for breakfast and off they went. By later that day it was, like...man, we're gonna die!'

Hurricane Katrina veered north ... con't on Pg. 3

COMING
EVENTS

JUNE

- 1st - Submission deadline for London Line June Edition
- 10th - Squadron Bridge meeting @ 1900, HMCS Prevost, London
- 14-20th - CPS Safe Boating week
- 26-28th - Rendezvous and District Meeting, Boblo Island, hosted by Windsor PSS. (details Pg.5)

JULY

- No Bridge meeting scheduled
- 1st - Canada Day Celebration at HMCS Prevost (details Pg.4)

AUGUST

- 1st - Submission deadline for London Line August Edition
- 11th - Squadron Bridge meeting @ 1900, HMCS Prevost, London
- 20th - Barbeque and Pre-registration at HMCS Prevost, 1730 until 2000 (details pg. 7)

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd - Course week 1 begins
- 8th - Squadron Bridge meeting @ 1900, HMCS Prevost, London
- 30th - National AGM, Sherbrooke, Quebec

FOR LOCATION OF HMCS PREVOST SEE MAP ON PG 8.

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from the helm



COMMANDER
DEB HUGHES



Welcome to the 2009-2010 boating season! As the newly elected Commander of the London Power and Sail Squadron, it is with pleasure that I assume the helm for the upcoming year – a year notable in that we are celebrating our 60th anniversary! I am fortunate to be working with a dedicated team of volunteers on our Bridge this year. The knowledge and professionalism that these Officers bring to their roles will serve to make my job that much easier!

I would also like to acknowledge Past Commander Hunsberger for his contributions in the past year to the Squadron, and look forward to his continued participation within our organization. His work on the Bridge and in the classroom has been an inspiration. I know I will be looking forward to his council as we go forward with our many initiatives in the coming year.

Once again this year, our skilled and knowledgeable instructors are preparing to bring forward a new slate of classroom offerings. Our goal? To provide our members and prospective members with a solid foundation in safe boating.

You can be sure that the education you receive from each and every Power and Sail Squadron course you take will help you with the knowledge and confidence necessary to take your boating skills safely to the next level. Even taking one course will help you to develop independence and competence in your boating abilities.

Our instructors and courses can help provide you with the tools, the materials, and the strategies needed to ready your boats, and yourselves, to go forward out of safe harbour and into the unknown challenges on the water.

I encourage your participation in our courses, as it strengthens our message of Safe Boating. If you would like to become involved as a volunteer with our organization, please drop me a note at debhughes@rogers.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Many of us have launched our boats, or are preparing to do so. With this in mind and the chill of our waters still extremely cold, please go safely, prepare well, and enjoy the thrills of being on the water again!

LONDONLINE



WANTS You!
BEEN THERE? DONE THAT?
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It's about boating and safety!

Be part of it!
London Line welcomes
submissions
from all members.

LONDONLINE

London Line is the official publication of the London Power and Sail Squadron (a unit of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons) to inform and advise members and students.

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“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.” William Arthur Ward

from pg. 1 ... and headed straight for New Orleans. People left but, as we now know, not enough or soon enough. At about 8:00 am on Monday, August 29, 2005 Katrina hit the shores of south-western Louisiana, and the city of New Orleans as a category 3 hurricane. By the time she left, there were thousands of lives lost and some 8 billion dollars worth of damage in her wake.

Mike had so little time to react, he decided he had no choice but to ride out the storm on his 55 foot steel trawler named Manana. He positioned his boat between the dock adjacent to the yacht club wall and the row of piers forming the channel to the main dock. When asked how he tied up, he laughed and said, 'let's put it this way...ya ever seen a bug caught in a spider web?' Mike and his boat survived the storm, but only just. His biggest concern and problem during the storm was the other boats which had snapped their lines and came hurdling up channel, crashing against his lines and his boat. He indicated that he had to cut some 27 or more boats of various sizes and types loose from his lines at the height of the storm - no easy feat for Mike, who lost one of his arms in Vietnam. This is the toughest guy the author has ever met, though shyly admitting to being mildly upset with some of his fellow boaters. 'A little.' Mike conceded. 'People often tie up too tight.' Still, nothing could have stopped boats from coming loose in that storm. In some cases docks snapped with boats still tied to them.

Over the next several days, Mike found himself as the sole support crew for the U.S. Coast Guard station located at the outer harbour on Lake Pontchartrain. 'I had 2,000 gallons of fresh water on board and I washed their clothes. After working in 100 degree Fahrenheit temperatures with 100 percent humidity and being shot at while trying to rescue people, these boys needed support. They came aboard and used my shower,

borrowed my clothes for the night and came back for their clean stuff in the morning. Eventually we got fresh water supplies and food and I just carried on.'

Much has been restored and rebuilt in New Orleans since the fall of 2005. Still, the outer harbour marine basin where the NOYC is located is still largely without power. According to Elizabeth "Buzzy" McFerrin, manager of the NOYC, only several power outlets are available at this time. Members of the club, like Mike Howell, volunteered their time to restore services to the present level. The outer harbour is slated to get all new electrical distribution soon.

As far as the NOYC club-house is concerned, most of the damage suffered from Katrina was not from the storm itself, rather the looters that came in following the storm. In the outer harbour marina, some 150 yacht club member boats were damaged by the storm.

And did any of these unfortunate events stop boaters from docking in New Orleans and participating in events? Not! According to Buzzy, 'Our regattas are more popular than ever.' Comprising mostly of sailors, the NOYC recently hosted their annual Mardi Gras Regatta, attracting some 60 boats including participants from the U.K., Canada and the west coast of the U.S. Each Wednesday night, during the daylight savings time of the year, the club hosts a race, where yachts compete in categories rated by boat size. Prior to the storm the outer harbour contained some 250 boats, but following their re-opening in November of 2005, they peaked at 290 boats. Some of this is attributed to the many lucky boaters who still had boats, but were left without a slip.

While the NOYC is a member's only association, Buzzy points out that there are five yacht clubs and two major marinas which operate 12 months per year on Lake Pontchartrain in the New Orleans area. Reciprocal arrangements with hundreds of other yacht clubs all along the Gulf Coast are typical, and transient/guest boaters are always welcome for short stays and services. ... to be continued in the August issue of LondonLine

Ralph Lembcke



Mike Howell



For more on Captain Mike and his adventures on Manana, go to www.manana.com, or read *Finding Manana: A memoir of a Cuban Exodus* by Mirta Ojito, Penguin Press

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Meet The Members

... is an occasional column profiling members of the London Power and Sail Squadron. If you'd like to submit a member or yourself to be profiled, respond to the same questions you see below with a suitable photo and send them to the editor by email. This month's candidate is the London Line business manager, Mark Anderson.

How and when were you introduced to boating?
 Summer of 2002, we took a 2 hr. sailboat ride and that was it. I was hooked.

How and when did you get involved with the Power and Sail Squadron?

I took the boating course in 2004 and then started sitting in on the course when not taking advanced courses. I joined the bridge in 2006 as London Line business manager.

What are your present boating activities?

I'm currently the Commodore of the Fanshawe Yacht Club here in London. I also love to trailer my CS22 up to Bayfield and beyond.

What are your future boating plans?

Will be heading up to the North Channel with a group from FYC for 10 days or so.

What are your present non-boating activities?

Woodworking, playing guitar and helping a friend once in a while who is building an F22 tri-maran. But by far, my newest passion is sailing.



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PREVOST
 map on page 8

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To register, forms are online at:
<http://www.cps-ecp.ca/windsor>

AREA CLUB EVENTS

Grand Bend Yacht Club
June 27 - GB30 Race
June 29 to July 30 - Boom Sailing School

Fanshawe Yacht Club
May 30 & 31 - Junebug Regatta (open)
Sailing School (CYA levels) thru Summer
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Junebug Regatta



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Fall Course Pre-Registration

Will kick off with a free BBQ at HMCS Prevost (see map, Pg. 8)
on Thursday August 20th.

COME ON DOWN and munch on a burger or hotdog
anytime between 5:30 and 8:00pm!
(1730 to 2000, if you've taken the course)



Course details are all available on-line at <http://www.cps-ecp.ca> under "Courses".
Look to courses offered in London and check back often as details are fleshed out for date and location.

A DATE To REMEMBER!

September 15, 2009 is the
deadline for a Pleasure
Craft Operator Card
(PCOC).

You, your spouse, and the
kids too will need a card if
they operate any sort of
motorized vessel.

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Course will be offered
Tuesday evenings at CCH.
The suggested prerequisite
is Advanced Piloting.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON AUGUST 20!

Flare Night a Flaming Success!

As a result of the May 6 Fire Extinguisher and Flare Event, 40 members are much more aware of the importance and the steps to practice Fire Safety. Jason Pool of The London Fire Dept came well prepared to update us all about smoke detectors, CO detectors, escape plans for your family and guests in event of fire, dangers of non-approved electrical adapters and connections. Jason demonstrated the correct method of using a fire extinguisher with a very impressive (!) artificial fire. He explained the importance of checking your fire extinguisher on a regular basis and that a 5 kg / 10 lb. extinguisher would provide about a 90 sec discharge.

Jason also covered a great deal of information on flares. Remember, the only legal time to discharge a red flare is in an emergency situation. Flares are no longer valid 4 years from the date of manufacture. The audience presented Jason with over 300 expired flares collected, some dating back to 1969! Jason noted that London's Hazardous Waste site of Manning Road, will also accept expired flares. Keep your boat legal with the requisite number of valid flares.

Steve Waite



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