

Canadian Fleet Newsletter

OF THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION

Fall 2009 A Summer Summary

Commodore's Corner



What a great summer for classic boaters! Sunny skies and light winds may frustrate the sailors, but are loved by those of us crossing the Gulf of Georgia in boats built at the turn of the last century: and cross the Gulf I did. Euphemia made four trips back and forth this year to attend various events and to have some work done on the Island.

I was saddened to see the redoubtable Hulakai leave our fleet and head south to Olympia, but trust that our PNW colleagues will keep her in the CYA fold. Dennis Feroce has his spectacular vessel Meander on the market and we hope that a Canadian buyer will step up to keep this great boat in Canada.

It was truly delightful to see Alondra attend both the Brentwood and Victoria events this year. Alondra sits in berth #2 at the Burrard Yacht Club and I have watched Dave Cook meticulously restore her over the last fifteen years or more. Her trip to Brentwood this year was apparently her first time across the Gulf in thirty years! Welcome back Alondra!!!

New member Donell has his Merva coming along beautifully and she will clearly compete for best in show at Victoria next year. What a truly unique boat.

I am off to Gravenhurst before the AGM to attend the annual meeting of the ACBS (Antique and Classic Boat Society) and view some of the incredible Muskoka runabouts.

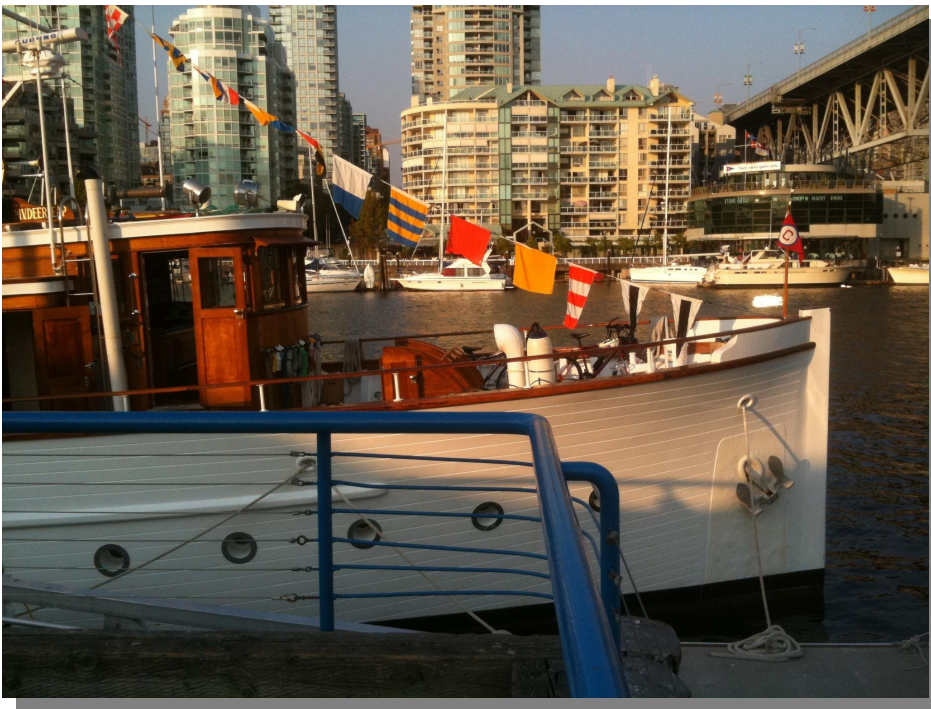
Ross Pattee has put together a process for pursuing the notion of fleet insurance and he and I will be following up on that in the next few weeks. We need to survey the membership in order to put an information package together that we can take to potential insurers.

I am sure everyone has heard that the Victoria Real Estate Board has withdrawn its long standing support for the Victoria Wooden Boat Festival. I have offered our help and my personal assistance to John West in the efforts of his committee to ensure the continuation of this iconic event. I have no doubt that we will all be in Victoria next Labour Day.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the AGM.

*Mike O'Brien, Commodore
member #319*





Vancouver Wooden Boat Show

By: Donell McDonell,
member 1282

As a brand new member of the Canadian Fleet, I fixed my new CYA burgee to Mervas little pennant staff and flew it proudly as I crossed the Georgia Strait and entered False Creek.

I received a great welcome from the Festival Dockmaster, Sarah White. Entering the False Creek marinas area was surprisingly easy and there were many other attendees on hand to help with moorage and sort out hook-ups. Moorage for the entire five day event was included in the registration fee.

The Granville Island event was truly a celebration. The CYA was well represented by many vessels from both the Canadian and American fleets.

Included were the impressive Deerleap, handsome Thelonius, elegant Wanderer, and of course, little Merva.

Every boat looked spectacular with their burgees flying and stays draped with multicoloured pennants. Other vessels attending included an impressive array of converted trawlers

and workboats. The redoubtable Steam-tug Master, the last surviving example of a steam driven wood tugboat on the west coast, stunning examples of 50's streamlining in the form of the beautiful "Vintage", many small, expertly built new wooden tenders and dinghies, as well as the prize-winning, vintage open tender "Raven". An early twentieth century steam-launch made the rounds of the Creek while "Master" kept the excitement up all weekend with long blasts of her powerful steam-whistle. Live entertainment on the quay was provided by an excellent folk band that performed frequently during the day all weekend. There was an event-specific mini-market of maritime arts, crafts and other boating items including hand built wooden tenders, and excellent knotted placemats and runners by master knot tyer David Fukuhara.

Double Eagle, a converted trawler of elegant appointment won best conversion, and Munin a sturdy, black-painted replica of a Viking

long-boat won best traditional build of the festival. She was, daily, crewed by ruddy-cheeked Scandinavians in full Viking costumes with names like Astrid or Erik, busy tending to making halyards from twine or hammering a bit on copper nails. The whole effect was dramatic and striking, and seemed to have been plunked into the 21st Century from the days of the Vikings themselves. Munin was a big hit, evident by her second win for write-in crowd favourite of the festival.

Pilgrim's Wake, a small wooden sailboat, was also a winner in its class.

Although no CYA vessels were awarded prizes this year, our fleet clearly helped make the event a stand-out by bringing the spectacle of crisp white hulls, polished bronze, brass, and mirror-varnished brightwork to an appreciative crowd. The contrast of 70 to 80 year-old, and older, living classics against the glass and steel of the False Creek waterfront was remarkable.

The CYA vessels were obvious crowd pleasers. Peter Reiss, sailing aboard "Deerleap" and acting as gate-keeper and crowd control for her at the festival, counted just over 900 visitors coming aboard on Saturday, the busiest day of the event, and over 800 visitors on Sunday: a phenomenal number of persons interested in getting a rare glimpse aboard a living example of Maritime history.

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Vancouver Wooden Boat Show

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Merva showing her stuff

The view of Deerleap from beneath the foot of the Burrard Street Bridge and on the promenade across the Creek was breathtaking and drew many visitors across from the downtown side of False Creek to the event. I welcomed well over 100 persons aboard little Merva on Sunday, as she had been moored outboard of a large wooden sailboat, Passat, for the first two days of the event until being moved to a dockside moorage Sunday morning, making her more accessible for viewing.

The obvious joy so many people expressed in viewing my "little ship" was an incredible boost to my determination to get Merva into top condition for her sake and for these events, and so that she makes a fine representation for the fleet.

A Potluck dinner served as the meal for the banquet. We all welcomed the opportunity to get together and mingle, have a well-deserved meal and drink and enjoy the awards and prizes.

During the ceremonies, Larry Benson of Thelonius presented us with a puzzle in the form of a thirty foot length of what looked to be hemp rope with a lead shot-filled canvas bag at one end, its ends painted red, one white and a shackle at the other end of the rope. No clear consensus could be had as to what this device may have been used for.

I was lucky enough to win a door prize in the draw. A charming, miniature wooden... door. Handcrafted and donated by Graham Eagle, a local artist represented at the Festival market.

In keeping with the grand spectacle of Deerleap, Richard Gardner arrived at the banquet in full Naval regalia complete with gold braiding, scabbard, sword and plumed Tri-corn hat, his great long salt and pepper beard completing the picture.

The facilities were fairly closely located to the docks, if not entirely convenient, but the location could not have been more fantastic in the form of the Market, the theatres, the dining and the proximity to downtown Vancouver.

Security on the island is twenty-four hours and there was extra security on the docks overnight so everyone slept soundly who stayed aboard, despite being in the heart of Canada's second largest city on a busy summer weekend. I highly recommend adding this event to your late summer cruising schedule.

Here's your chance!

This is YOUR newsletter!

Contributions in the form of pictures, articles, tall tales, even rants (within reason) are welcome!

**Tell us about::
a new product
a recent project
a boat looking to be saved
a galley recipe
a good bottle of wine,
you get the idea ...**

Please send your contribution to:

**Mike O'Brien
Or
Ted Aussem**

Our first task is to name this newsletter!

The PNW fleet has Attention on Deck,

**We need to personalize our newsletter and no ...
Rust and Rot will not do!**

Let's hear your thoughts



Baby bear, Momma bear, Papa bear aka Rita, Olmaha, Deerleap

Brentwood Bay First Canadian Rendezvous

Congratulations and thanks to Barry and Angie Fairall and Mike and Sheila Ogden for a spectacularly successful first Canadian fleet rendezvous!

Tum Tum, Townley Isle, Privateer, Sunrise New York, Sannox, Olmaha, Merva, Euphemia II and Alondra, attended, making for the largest gathering of Canadian Classics in decades. As always we welcomed members of the PNW

dispersing at the mouth of the Saanich Inlet. Speedy Zanzibar gave welcomed sea condition reports to the Turtle fleet putting along in her wake.

All of the participants agreed that the low key nature of the Rendezvous was a welcome change from the hectic shows at Victoria,

Vancouver, Port Townsend and Bell Street. Brentwood allows great opportunities for unhurried boating discussions and in depth tours of each others boats.

Don't miss this great event next year!

*Alondra and Sannox
approaching Dodd Narrows
enroute to Brentwood Bay*

fleet, as represented by Compadre, Wanderer, Winnifred, Thelonius, Deerleap, Orba, Rita and Zanzibar.

The fabulous Tuesday night CYA potluck was only surpassed by the Salmon and sweet Saanich peninsula corn organized by the resourceful Ogdens.

The sail past down Tod Inlet was a truly awesome sight with the fleet



The Victoria Classic Boat Festival

And what a show it was! The Greater Victoria Real Estate Board is to be congratulated for supporting the Classic Boat Festival for the last 32 years. Although we will all miss their participation, the organizing committee is confident that new sponsors will be found and a rejuvenated festival will kick off in 2010.

A record number of Canadian members of the CYA attended the event, led by our flag ship for 2009, Euphemia II and including Alondra, Faranda, Merva, Olmaha and Sannox. Dry land participants included Julian and Linda Matson (Associates), Ross Pattee and Dominique Primeau (Gin Fizz),

Bob and Sue Shaw (Amanha and Tsona). We also welcomed the traditional significant participation from our colleagues of the Pacific

chaired the organizing committee, acted as a judge and MC'd the awards banquet with his usual aplomb. The big winner of the



Best Classic was the spectacularly refurbished Sea Dog owned by Les & Betsy Gunther of Friday Harbour. Honourable mention went to Alondra, Zanzibar, Zella C and Euphemia II. Best Motor Sailor went to CYA member Barnacle out of Seattle. Best runabout went to the beautifully restored tender from Olympus and: best dinghy went to Zella C's delightful dinghy.

Northwest Fleet (Rita, Thelonious, Glayva, Deerleap, Winifred, Sea Dog, Miss Rolco, Zanzibar, Barnacle, Compadre, Zella C, Wanderer, Seascape, Olympus). Associate member John West

The weather played cat and mouse with the festival all weekend with both Saturday and Sunday starting off with threatening clouds but clearing with glorious sunshine for most of the day. The Monday races and sail past were cancelled due to thirty five knot winds in Juan de Fuca Strait.

This truly is the premier show for British Columbia which provides a tremendous opportunity for us to inform and educate the public about the importance of our maritime heritage through the vehicle of our classic yachts.

Congratulations to all participants and we look forward to even greater numbers in years to come.



Euphemia II and Deerleap leaving Saanich inlet

*by: Mike O'Brien
member # 319*