

PaB Sailing Club

I would open with the comment that 2009 was yet again an amazing sailing summer - but so did the previous two dozen or so of these annual write-ups. I will instead note that it was a great year for learning. Many of us learned about the effects of cold water and high winds. Others of us learned some interesting aspects of the sailing rules. Still others learned or relearned the futility of trying to catch John Lawler downwind in light air. I had the opportunity to learn at least all three. It was also a great year for comradeship and fun.

The 2009 Wrap Up

Let's start with thanks to everyone who made a successful season possible. Our outgoing Commodore, John Lawler, with assistance from John Hassard, arranged rendezvous (what is the plural of that word?), set up courses, made sure committee boats and crash boats were on hand, and supported the sailing community in an untold variety of ways. Mike Mosley, Graham Smith, and Brad Honsberger made the races happen as either the Race Committee boat or the crash boat. As an aside, I think there was a Mosley running the Race Committee in the very first race I entered and that the same has been true almost every race since, well over thirty-five years now. How do you thank a contribution like that?

And of course, we had some wonderful social gatherings hosted by the Adair/Adams clan, SUOSO, Mark and Mary Skuce, the Ortved/Armitage island, the Simpsons on Kishkadena, the Bradshaws on the shores of Shawanaga, the Curtis family, Rowan Marsh and the Regans. In some ways, hosting a rendezvous is just about the easiest entertaining you will ever do, sailors being willing to eat and drink anything not nailed down. On the other hand, it is a big challenge. Cottages are not all set for hosting as large a group as this, the weather can cause havoc, and we would all prefer to be out sailing ourselves instead of cutting the crusts off of dainty little cucumber sandwiches. So a big thank you to all our hosts.

There were some great new faces on the water this year. John Curtis with his young son Jamie made good on his promise to show up for PABAR and immediately introduced some interesting variations in the pack leaders and strategies. The Bongard Albacore is back on the water with Graham Pitfield and Matthew Bowlby showing some brilliant starts and letting the rest of us see that they will soon put together all the pieces and set a tough pace to match. Arianne Fairlie and Kate Mosley had a strong showing in PABAR. Spiritus - last seen sailed by a couple of guys in Speedo bathing suits and rubber boots, is now showing a new suit of sails and a far better dressed variety of sailors from the Johnson camp. The Dove and Simpson boats, both still close to brand new, get out with some new blood.

I still think Albacores are an amazing boat for being closely in touch with your companion and the boat. After all, on what other boat can you mark the correct centerboard position using a divot in your shin? Despite this, every year the Flying Scot fleet is a little stronger. This year the Colterjohns brought a beautiful new boat to Pointe au Baril. Ian McLeod is out there making sure that no one forgets the Bradshaws. And once again, Gail's Flying Scot sailing camp was filled to capacity. It was great to see so many new faces in that fleet.

Those readers interested in results will be pleased to learn that John Lawler finally won a couple of races . . . plus the July Cup, the August Cup, and PABAR. It must have been the sage guidance of his crew Madeleine that got him over the hump. Greg Foote showed some speed in the Scots in July,

taking the July series. But then Barry Moreton arrived from Australia for August and George and Barry put on a show. (The Bowlby boat would like to note that the Moretons almost came second in one race, however.) The Lasers were really interesting. Kristin Armitage has imported a ringer by the name of Ian Cooke, who won the series in July. Then Jim Curtiss and Miranda Bradshaw duked out a tight contest for the August cup, with Jim coming out on top on the basis of throw-outs. In the six races these two had against each other, they accumulated 6 firsts, 4 seconds, and 2 thirds between them. It was great racing to watch.

On to 2010

This coming year is going to be just as much fun. We have already filled up our rendezvous schedule. Mr. Hassard has promised to let us all run into his new old woodie. With luck, we will be able to convince Gord McLarty to bring his enlarged Hobie Cat out once or twice to show us how a real boat sails. And with the ice going out early, maybe the water will be warmer and the winds a little easier to handle in July.

The Flying Scot School is tentatively planned for July 26 through 28 ("tentative" because your commodores are only just waking up to the fact that it will soon be spring). The Flying Scot Regatta, an annual point to point race through the islands, will follow on July 30.

PABAR is scheduled for August 14. PABAR was originally all about Albacores (PaB Albacore Regatta). Now it is all about sailing (PaB Annual Regatta), with as many Lasers and Flying Scots as Albacores and a few in the Odd-Boat class besides. It consists of three races held in Shawanaga Bay between Turning and Grave Islands. To get three races in, we begin at 10:30, so don't be late.

In most multi-race regattas, the sailors leave the beach soon after breakfast and don't get back to dry land until 4:00 or later. Lunch (and whatever else) is handled on the water, hurriedly, between races. Here at Pointe au Baril, we see no reason to sacrifice comfort just because we want to sail. After race one, there is a family picnic at the Bradshaws' beautiful cove, two more races in the afternoon, then cocktails and dinner at the Ojibway. Make sure you pack a big PABAR lunch and come out to participate in one of the best traditions in sailing anywhere.

Getting Into Sailing

Sailing is one of those activities where more really is merrier. Not only is the socializing more fun but it is more fun on the water the more people participate. Increasing the participation, particularly from younger sailors, has been the prime goal of past commodores and the organization as a whole. Doug and I continue to hold that as our first priority. I hear of people who have only a week or two at the island and don't know if they want to go to the hassle of rigging a boat, don't know if they can find all the parts, etc., so the boat lies under a tarp for yet another summer. Please let us know if that's how you are feeling. To quote Ratty in *Wind in the Willows*, many of us believe that: "there is NOTHING--absolute nothing--half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." We would be glad to help get you out on the water.

If you are reading this and none of these names are familiar and the notion of a Scot that flies seems odd, but you are nonetheless interested, call Doug or me and let us know. There are boats available, people looking for crew, instructional programs, and fun social events to which anyone is welcome. Several of us have sailed in many locales and can attest that there is no place as eager to welcome newcomers to sailing as Pointe au Baril.

The 2009 Albacore results notwithstanding, sailing does take skill and it is hard to know where to start. There are any number of people who, if given half an excuse, will take a new sailor out for some lessons. Virtually any of the sailors named in these pages probably fall into that description. If you don't know any of them, contact Doug and me and let us see what we can do.

In terms of organized instruction, we have two local programs: the Flying Scot School and the recreational program at the Ojibway.

Gail Regan, who started and has been the guiding light of the Flying Scot School for years, has set up three mornings of in-boat instruction followed by a chalk talk over lunch. The goal is to give people of almost all ages a low key and safe introduction to the sport and, for those with a little more experience, an opportunity to sharpen skills, see tactics play out, and talk through what works and does not work. Each boat is led by an experienced, knowledgeable sailor, but it is everyone else who does the sailing. While there is no upper age limit, the program works best for sailors over the age of twelve. If you are interested, Doug or I can pass on a message to Gail or you can drop her a line directly and then just show up on location (tbd) around 9:00 Monday, lifejacket in hand!

The Ojibway Club has made a more sophisticated level of sailing instruction a top priority for the past several years. This is starting to pay off in an increasingly well-trained group of young sailors in an increasingly functional fleet of boats. The goal of the program (if I may speak for Andrea Isbester, the Director of Recreation at the Ojibway and a distant relative) is to get as many kids as possible "on the stick," competent at the tiller of their own boat. I look forward to seeing the result of this effort on the racecourse.

Details

The schedule, at least as it exists today, is set forth below. All the details, including complete results from 2009, sailing notices, any updates to the schedule, etc. are found in the website, thanks to John Hassard: www.pabsc.ca.

Doug and I are always happy to talk to a sailor, so do not hesitate to contact us too.

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