

BLUE WATER LOG

1999 Officers Set to GO! There is a Hammer at the Helm

Commodores Corner

By Bill Hammer, Commodore

Three years ago, as a committee on the Board of Governors, Merrill Feldman (present Vice Commodore) and Bill Hammer (present Commodore) recommended that all club events and functions be either Co-Chaired (two individuals or two families) or with a Chairperson and a person to "assist" in the planning. In so doing, the club was creating a reservoir of members who would be trained and prepared to chair events and have had valuable experience in cruise planning, etc. It has worked very well.

But we need more volunteers now! If you ask past event chairmen they will tell you about the fun that they had and what a terrific learning experience it was. They made many friends and visited many new places worth visiting again..

Have I made you interested? You have the skills the club needs...and the club needs you.

I hope that you will fill in the attached "Interest Sheet" and give any one of the Bridge Officers a call.

Next Generation BWSC Member



Volunteers Needed to Lead 1999 Maine Cruise!

There has been a terrific response for volunteers to help and lead the 1999 events. The most serious need is the Maine Cruise. We need a Cruise Chairman. You will get help and guidance from the Bridge and the Board. Contact any officer.

Editor for the Blue Water Log Wanted! Urgent!

Call Commodore Bill Hammer at 603-888-9191

NEW Officers & BOG

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William Hammer

Vice Commodore:

Merrill Feldman, MD

Rear Commodore

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Robert S. Gould, MD

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RussKingman

Race Committee Ch'rman & Sect'y

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Barry Levenson

Peter J. Macdonald

Irwin Macey, Historian

Melanie Richardson**

Barry C. Steinberg

* Past Commodore

** New Member BOG

Marion Bermuda Race

by Russ Kingman

The 21st Marion to Bermuda race will get underway June 18 and over 100 sailing vessels are expected to cross the starting line in Buzzards Bay. The BWSC, a co-sponsor, is one of the founders of this race and one of the clubs whose members participate in it the most.

As part of its sponsorship the club will run an all day race symposium at MIT for participating captains, navigators, and interested crew. Subjects will include navigation, weather, tactics, medical

emergencies, safety and heavy weather sailing.

BWSC members, interested in the race for the future, are welcomed as space permits. Contact Paul Hodess or Joe Fantasia.

Look up www.marionbermuda.com

Volunteers Go to

Bat Again

The BWSC owe special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the past year a success. The is a club of volunteers. The club needs YOU! Say yes when you are asked to help out.

Thanks to

Paul & Beth Goldberg and Phil & Evelyn Sidmore/Maine Cruise

Michael & Janice Mathias and Barry Levinson who assisted in planning Southern Cruise

Wally Feldman/Passamaquoddy Cruise

Steve & Lisa Ellis/Spring Meeting

Michael & Dorothy Martindale/Spring Regatta

Stu & Bette Lehman and Arthur & Glenda Wolpert / 4th of July Weekend

Ron Tracy and John Quarles/ Fall Regatta

Colin Richardson/ Diesel Seminar at Midnight Motors

Bob & Cindy Gould/Labor Day Weekend, P-Town

Tom & Laraine Devins /Ski Weekend

Austin & Jane Heath/Fourth of July

Sibley Reppert & Christine Vezetinski/ Their trip to the South Pacific- Long Passages

Colin & Melanie Richardson/Fall Dinner Meeting

Eric & Jackie Pierce/Columbus Day Weekend

Dan Kostishack & Barry Steinberg/Race Seminar

Sue La Voie/ Ladies Sailing Seminars

Melanie Richardson & Mary Ann Kramer/ Planning Women's Spring Cruise

"Mitch" Interrupts Pleasant Bahaman

Delivery

Colin Richardson with Carl Kramer, Ron Tracy, and Colin's Brother-in-law, Mo. was at his final destination, Treasure Key, Bahamas, and his newly purchased 46' Amel was secure at the slip. The crew was well fed and fast asleep.

"Mitch", meanwhile, had returned from the western Caribbean, sped through Key West and hit Treasure Key about 2AM with a suspected tornado wrapped within it. The crew was awakened by the crack of a 1" + dock line breaking. In fog, rain and lightening the crew re-secured the Amel. Treasure Key was a wreck but Colin's new rugged Amel only had minor damage.

Home sweet home!

Summer Event Highlights

Maine 1998 by Sandy Macey
No fog! Only sunshine, sea breezes and blue sky...we had spectacular views of Fox Island Thoroughfare, scenic harbors, lobster pots... everywhere... Highlights were Carver's Cove...beach bar-b-que...lunch at Butter's Island.... Camden...Port Clyde...Rockland...Camden... museums, shopping, lobsters and

more! DOES IT GET ANY BETTER? And we made new friends and renewed old friendships.

Southern Cruise 1998 by Janice and Michael Mathias

Started with a great kickoff cocktail party at Marion. Then a "weather leg" race to Cutty Hunk... the wind had a mind of its own and shifted mid race to a slow, slow down wind race.

The sail to Newport had near perfect conditions. We toured the museums and other Newport points of interest. Later in the cruise at New London we visited the Coast Guard and the sub bases... surprise birthday party for "Blue Heaven's Cap't Mark."

Three Mile harbor, East Hampton and Block Island were settings for great cocktail parties including a "raucous" evening and dancing aboard "Blue Heaven". Motored to Sachuest Point in the Sakonnet River with cocktails aboard "Anemone".

Fifteen boats took part and ALL had a WONDERFUL TIME!

Labor Weekend by Bob & Cindy Gould

The Labor Day weekend in P-Town was a resounding success... 18 boats... fun loving crowd... wind, wind and more wind... cocktails aboard "Presto", dinner at Pepe's Waterfront restaurant...

For the race, winds were 18+ knots popping to 25 UPWIND! 12 boats started. Solitaire, Presto and Free Spirit took the first three places (*sound familiar?*) in a very close action-packed, no holds barred race (*does this sounds familiar, too?*).

After the race we had an excellent dinner overlooking Plymouth Harbor at Issacs. A memorable weekend!

ALL WOMENS CRUISE BIG HIT,

plans are gelling for 1999 repeat

by Linda Allen

ED Note: These are excerpts from a day by day detailed description of the cruise. Please contact Linda for a copy of the unabridged version.

Fourteen women and three boats participated, June 5 -13, 1998, in the second annual, Women's Cruise!

"No Se'" was captained by Pat Vaillancourt and crewed by Pat Dieselman, Cathryn Griffith, and Elsbeth Vanker. "Solitaire" was captained by Linda Allen crewed by Janet Brown, Christine Keen, with rotating crew of Elaine Freedman, Pam Gardner, Elaine Kostishack, and Linda Yanofsky. The third boat was Christine Vezetinski's "Victoria" crewed by Jane Brayton and Annette Hodess.

We started on Friday with winds gusting to 40. *What a Start!* At the red buoy off Scituate, a small dove landed on "Solitaire" hoping for a safe ride into the harbor. At Scituate Harbor we met Melanie and Colin Richardson... had a "Women for Sailing" toast...

At Onset...Linda Yanofsky, the mechanic, changed a well-worn alternator belt on "Solitaire".

On Sunday headed to Padanarum... to meet "Victoria" and her crew.

After a crew change "No Se'" and "Solitaire" were off to Cuttyhunk followed shortly by "Victoria". Winds were 10 to 15 knots. "No Se'" decided to fly her spinnaker. Many, many wraps later No Se' arrived in the mooring field. With magnificent team effort, the spinnaker was

unwrapped and brought to the deck without damage to crew, boat, or sail....

...all enjoyed a walk to the top of Cuttyhunk...

"No Se'" had lost a halyard en route to Vineyard Haven. We hoisted Pat V up the mast and she retrieved it to the cheers of all ...

some spent Wednesday in Vineyard Haven riding bicycles, others cruised the lagoon by dinghy. A friend ...lent us the use of his house "Tide Bells" located two houses from the West Chop lighthouse... a spectacular home! It was a private retreat...with beautiful art, grand gardens, and a perfect view... Thursday "Victoria" headed home...

...on route to Quisset, Elaine Freedman badly sprained her ankle. She braved the remainder of the cruise focusing on navigation. The sail to Quissett was magnificent... some went for a refreshing swim and a little water ballet...

Friday, sailing to Marion... winds gusting from 10 to 26 knots... terrific downwind sail! Boats reached speeds of over 8 knots...after, we all headed for Annette Hodess's home for a "Last Supper". Joining us ... Wendy Goldberg, Paul and Micheal Hodess, Jim Freedman, John Quarles, Sib Reppert and daughter, and Willem Vanker... told great stories of companionship, trials and conquests... uncontrolled laughter.

On Saturday, "Solitaire" braved poor weather and headed for Boston ... gusts to 30 kts, heavy chop, thunderstorms... and 7 kts of boat speed under jib ...decided to pull in at Scituate. Easy Rider told the crew that they "won the sailors of the year award" for sailing this day from Marion... fitting end to a fine cruise!

WHAT A CRUISE!



1999 EVENTS (For planning purposes, subject to change)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Head of Event</u>
• Women's Navigation	Feb 6	Sue La Voie
• Ski Weekend@ Loon	Feb 26-28	John Quarles & Linda Allen
• Medical Seminar	Mar 13	<i>Leaders Needed</i>
• Celestial Navigation Museum of Science Hayden Planetarium	TBA	Paul LaVoie
• Marion- Bermuda Safety at Sea Seminar, MIT	March 27	Paul Hodess, Joe Fantasia
• Junior Sailors Seminar Members Children & Grandchildren only	April 24	Sue LaVoie
• Spring Meeting Hanscom Field Officer's Club	April 30	Steve & Gerry Ricci
• Spring Regatta, Mem'l Day	May 29-31	Paul DeWinter
• Marion-Bermuda Race New Bedford Yacht Club	June 18	Paul Hodess & Joe Fantasia
• 4th of July Weekend Edgartown	July 2-4	Arthur and Glenda Wolpert, Stuart and Bette Lehman
• MiniCruise Edgartown-Woodshole	July 22-26	Harry & June Pasquier
• Southern Cruise Long Island Sound to NYC	July 18- Aug 1	Merrill & Avis Feldman
• Maine Cruise	Aug 1-15	<i>Leaders Needed</i>
• Nova Scotia Cruise	Aug 1-22	Bob & Cindy Gould
• Labor Day Weekend Provincetown-Plymouth	Sept 4-6	Ed Canner
• Fall Regatta	Sept 18-19	Peter Dragonis
• Columbus Day Weekend Jubilee Yacht Club, Salem	Oct 10-12	Sam Cooper
• 40 th Anniversary Party Annual Meeting, Harvard Club	Nov 7	Wendy Goldberg Meg & Barry Steinber

e-Mail on Sailing

Tonga By Ken & Barbara Eldred

Hi Carl...we are reporting that we sailed a bareboat charter(a Jeaneau 38) for 8 days in October in Tonga... the Vava'u Group which is the northernmost group of islands and the only area that has charters(Moorings and Sunsail). This group of islands number 30 and are all close together. It was good fun because the people are Polynesian and therefore have a different culture than in the Caribbean islands, Pretty landscapes...palms, beaches, erroded stone formations, decent snorkeling, lots and lots of pigs. The people are very friendly. We spent 3 days in the southernmost group...Tongatapu... in a guesthouse where we become acquainted with an American who is developing the Tongan Airforce!!!!...a pet project of the Crown Prince. What is interesting is the Airforce consists of a single plane, airwing 01. However there is going to be "airwing 02". Another person is being brought in who will train the pilots. The hardest training will be to create good mechanics. (*In the USA, too!*) *Next Year in Tonga.*

Tonga Charter Cruise Rescheduled.

The BWSC charter cruise to Tonga in the South Pacific is now scheduled for the fall of 2000. Russ Kingman is heading up this cruise.

e-mail on Belize! Interested in a charter cruise?

From David Neelon

Carl—We were in Belize for a few weeks. Great place to sail and hardly anyone's doing it! BWSC members interested, feel free to contact me. We want to go back and charter sometimes soon.

"Perfect Storm" Puts the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" back on the Map e-mail by Nancy and George Marvin

The 1997 bestseller "Perfect Storm" put Sable Island back "on the map" after nearly four decades without a shipwreck.

Still known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," this remote island has captured hundreds of ships during its recorded history. Sable Island is a sandspit some 20 miles long, a mile wide at its widest point, located 160 miles east of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Its longitude places it almost 200 miles further east than Bermuda, south southwest of Newfoundland. It is located at the convergence of the Labrador current and a finger of the Gulf Stream which account for the 150 plus days of fog which enshroud the island each year. Gales are as common year round at Sable as a sea breeze along the New England coast during the summer months. Additionally there are treacherous sand shoals stretching south, east and west of the island which have

accounted for the hundreds of casualties from ships wrecked upon its shores.

The French first landed there 400 years ago and introduced the ancestors of the 300 plus wild horses that live on Sable today.

In 1801, for years lifesaving stations were set up manned to rescue the poor souls who were cast ashore after their ships became victims of Sable's unforgiving and uncharted shoals. Today there are but 8 persons who live on the island - mostly to man a government weather station. There are various scientists who visit Sable each summer to study the horses, seals, birds, and vegetation, which holds the island together. Sable is truly a sandspit - the only stones are remnants of ballast carried in the holds of some of the ships wrecked.

In August 1998 we had the unique opportunity to join a group of boats which were granted the necessary government permits to land on Sable Island. We gathered in Halifax and were given several hours of briefings the evening before our departure. The "recommended" visit was 3-4 hours, not to remain overnight due to concerns from the Canadian Coast Guard about potentially rapidly changing weather. We had a one day window to make this trip before the permits expired. Anyone can sail to Sable - only a handful of boats are granted permits to land, a measure to discourage most yachtsmen from making

this potentially hazardous voyage. The average total number of visitors to Sable is only 75...and we were bringing over 60 in our half day jaunt!

We departed Halifax in the predawn of August 6, 1998. We never gave much thought to the incredible opportunity we were about to undertake, but as we were departing the RNSYS docks a night watchman remarked that we were "some of the lucky folks" to be headed to Sable. That pretty much sums up how Nova Scotians feel about having an opportunity to set foot on Sable - it's a dream that most have but few will ever fulfill.

We had a near perfect trip to Sable, calm seas, light winds, a full moon and no fog...until we were making our predawn approach to the island when fog socked in the island. Fortunately the island painted well on radar due to the high dunes and we felt our way into an anchorage a few hundred yards off the northern shore about midway between the western light and the manned weather station. TRUMPETER was first to drop the hook before 0600 in the eerie early morning fog with only a few curious seals watching, but whining from the horses ashore signaling that humans had arrived!



The fleet trickled in. By 0800 when we were given permission by the weather station OIC to come ashore, most boats had arrived. The fog was still thick prompting us to tuck a handheld GPS in our backpack to ensure we could find the boat again! As the morning progressed the fog began to burn off. Our crew headed inland and toward the west light where we had our first up close and personal experience

with a "family" of the wild horses. The horses are neither afraid of humans nor hostile but just a wary. We had been instructed ahead of time not to feed the horses to upset the balance of nature.

We then followed the "main" road (a dirt track for ATVs) a mile or so to the east to the weather station. We passed fresh water ponds abundant with bird life. Sable is the only nesting area in the world for the Ipswich Swallow. We saw many of these

as well as gulls, terns, shearwaters, ducks, mergansers to name a few.

The interior of the island is lush with ground vegetation but nothing as tall as a bush. Cranberries were once grown and harvested in large quantities.

We arrived at the weather station and met the OIC, Gerry Forbes, who described life on Sable, particularly during hurricane strength winds (most of their "hurricanes" are fierce winter storms - not the tropical variety which generally lose much of their punch before reaching Sable).

Oil and natural gas exploration on and around Sable has become a booming business. There are currently two North Sea type oil rigs in operation near the island and we saw several supply boats headed to and from these rigs during our trip to the island. There is currently no exploration

allowed on the island, but this may change in the future. Sable belongs to the province of Nova Scotia, so there are tight controls on what is allowed. At the weather station we joined up with the crew of our "buddy boat" JOYE, from Clearwater, Florida, with another BWSC member, Jeff Wisch as crew.

We also met Zoe Lucas, a young woman who has lived on Sable continuously since 1976. We had read about her work on dune reconstruction in a book about Sable before arriving. She now studies the horses and seals. She offered the crews of TRUMPETER and JOYE a guided tour for our remaining time on the island and we jumped at the opportunity. Zoe took us to high dunes overlooking the south side of the island - what a spectacular sight! As far as you could see were sandbars, giving us a greater appreciation of the hazards before radar, loran and GPS. She gave us a two-hour walking tour pointing out the different plants (there are 4 types of orchids grown there), birds and horses.

... the horses are totally left to nature - during the winter the weaker ones die and during the summer the foals are born. These horses are not treated for any ailments, nor is any additional food made available. A few years ago, during a particularly harsh winter, the government airlifted tons of hay to help the horses survive- they wouldn't touch it as it smelled of humans! The average lifespan for these horses is about 17 years, roughly half of domesticated horses.

The seal population, around 130,000, is controlled by white sharks which are in abundance around the island, discouraging any swimming despite sea water temperatures in the mid 60's due to the Gulf Stream.

Soon it was time to leave Sable and start our 190 mile trip back to Lunenburg, where Jeff had left Cindy in the care of Wischbone. The sun was out, we were perspiring after our hike and as we headed back to our dinghies everyone was scrambling for some momento of the island, a bag of sand, driftwood, shells, etc. It's rare in a person's lifetime that you can say with some degree of certainty that you probably won't return to a place, but we all shared that thought as we left Sable behind. We departed at 1300 and had another moonlit passage to cross to Lunenburg and arrive before dark the following day. This was an almost fairylike trip and months later we find it hard to believe that we were so fortunate to have made this trip

Sable Island may be the Graveyard of the Atlantic, but for us it will always be a very special place and certainly one of the most unique places we will ever sail to in our own boat!

San Blas Islands an eMail from Ken Eldred near just beating the newsletter deadline!

Hi...don't think there's enough time to send photos on our Western Carib trip but will give you a short synopsis (just returned from out of state and

haven't accessed for a while...sorry).

We did this trip a couple of years ago with two other friends. Left St. Thomas on 4 March after bringing boat up from St. Barts where we laid in 15 cases of CHEAP, GOOD French wines!!!!... then made some short repairs or alterations in Tortola, and finished our circumnavigation in May back here in Boothbay. Our route: first landfall from St. Thomas was the San Blas Islands (360 of them just off the coast of Panama...the MOST glorious sailing area we've ever encountered...lake smooth, quintessent tropical islands protected by coral reefs for miles and miles and miles!!!

The Kuna Indians inhabit them.. They have a self-ruled matriarchal society with no written language. It's as if we had stepped into a world 400 years ago, and this place is what we have (unintentionally) compared every other sailing experience to...even the remainder of those three months...and nothing yet, has compared.

From the San Blas we went to Providencia; the Bay Islands; the Cayos Cochinos Island group and up the Rio Dulce in Guatemala with a 10 day shore trip into the Highlands (spectacular), and the Mayan ruins of Tikal (fantastic), and in Roatan (the Bay Islands) I swam with the dolphins (practically mystical experience!); Belize, including the outer islands and reefs (those reefs are quite an

experience...huge circular reefs
large enough to create big
lagoons .

We traveled to the Yucatan

Peninsula to Isla Mujeres to to
the Mayan ruins at Chichenitza
(incredible!!).

DON'T MISS SAN BLAS !



More Summer Fun

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