



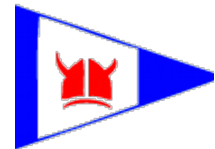
**LET'S GET RACING**  
WNR &  
Weekend Pursuit



**CRUISING THE LAKE**  
July 20th -  
August 3rd



**SAIL ON WITH  
PARKINSON'S**



**GYC**

# THE TELLTALE



“Would someone be so kind as to ease  
some main sheet?”

## Commodore's Message

By Charlie Burns (Liquor Box)

Where do I start? There is so much being accomplished at the club that it is hard to keep up with everything.

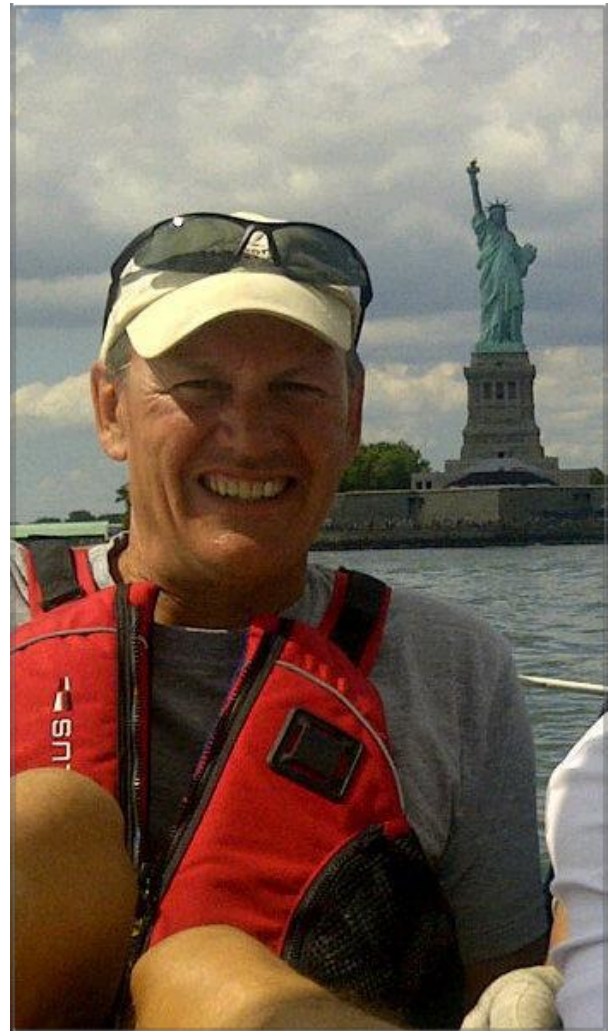
Firstly, Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We are officially 50 years old. We signed our first lease in September of 1969. We have gone from Dinghies, Finns, Flying Dutchmans, Fireballs, and Albacores to Keelboats, CS 40's, C&Cs and numerous other designs. The club has matured and grown to become one of the largest clubs in Western Canada. What an amazing hotbed of sailing and yachting.

Everyone should know that we had an incredibly successful AGM where we elected 14 extremely talented Board members. The enthusiasm and talent that this group has will benefit the club for years to come. We are pleased to see the return of Cari Rebizant, Chad Goodall, Wendy McConnell, Glen Pollard, Eric Turner, and Jason Ward. We would like welcome our new board members Mike Couture, Gary Harmer, Dan Mailhiot, Adam Reeder, Bill Spornitz, Jason Valen, Paul Zaidman, and Dave Fisher. Special thanks to Dave Fisher and all of our past commodores who have agreed to fill the Past Commodore position on the Board. Also, thanks to departing board members Peter Jones, Mike Guezen, Darrel Friesen, and Joanne Burns for their hard work, dedication and years of service.

The AGM included many thanks. Notably we awarded Guy Newman the clubs highest honor as an Honorary Lifetime Member & Director. Guy's contributions have been many and continuous over 25 years. Along with Guy, Dave McConnell was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership for his continuous service to the club for over 25 years. Congratulations to both for their amazing leadership and voluntary service over such a long time. Mike Guezen (Volunteer of the Year) and Darrell Friesen (Commodores Award) were each honored for their amazing volunteer contributions over the last few years. Mike Couture was awarded the Sailor of the Year for his amazing Masters Laser Sailing all over the world including the World Championships in Ireland.

Cruising the largest lake in Western Canada can be intimidating and challenging to say the least. Building on last summer's success we are hosting a cruise week where members can join the Gimli Flotilla and work with other members to plan their cruise and have some safety in numbers. Jason Ward has agreed to be the Cruise Week Commodore again and they are planning for an even better cruise than last year. Make sure you read the 2019 plans, as it sounds like its is going to be a lot of fun.

Dan Mailhiot wants to encourage racing at all levels. He is actively working to try and encourage more people to participate in our Pursuit Races and in our Wednesday Night Racing. If you know Dan, he is not going to rest until he achieves his goal. He has convinced the board to continue the free membership prize for the Scallywag Regatta and he wants to introduce more changes. Stay tuned as one of the joys of belonging to a club is sailing with your fellow members. There is a Pirate in all of us!



The Club Open House and Save the Lake fund raiser will be held on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Last year The Save the Lake Fish Fry raised over \$7,000 thanks to the help of the Kiwanis cooking a Pickerel lunch with all proceeds donated to the Lake Winnipeg Foundation. This year we have expanded the charities to include the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium headed by our very own Al Kristofferson and his Chief Scientist our very own Karen Scott. Our lake is why we are here and I urge you to support this fun event. Roger Ramsay is once again the chair of this incredible day and he is looking for volunteers. We will have lectures from scientists giving us the results of their latest research, displays, prizes, as well as a Lake Winnipeg pickerel lunch.

On a similar note, Karen Scott is spearheading our goal to get the club awarded Blue Flag eco status. We need to follow the best eco practices recommended by Blue Flag. Karen tells me that it is not an easy certification process and will take some time to achieve this status. If you are interested, please reach out to Karen at: [photuris@shaw.ca](mailto:photuris@shaw.ca).

The Club has now purchased two Albacores and has been given the care of a 3<sup>rd</sup> by Dave Hammond. We are planning to purchase three more. We hope to bolster our Discover Sailing Lessons and get new members to join the club. Mike Couture is pricing out the purchase of Kayaks, canoes and paddle Boards as we want to offer these boats to members as well. Our Discover Sailing Lessons were very successful last year as we got a record number of Adults trying sailing and asking about membership in the club. Our plan is to continue this and grow our membership in this way. Our Open House and Save the Lake Fish Fry on June 30<sup>th</sup> will be important to help highlight all these benefits of joining the club.

James Bezan's office announced three weeks ago that we have received three summer employment grants worth over \$9,000 to support our sailing school and club administration programs. Kevin Stewart and Mike Guezen are actively interviewing candidates for the sailing programs. We have hired Mary Jordan as our Manager this summer. Mary comes with a rich history of sailing experience, including several trans Atlantic crossings, World Championships, and her RYA Ocean Master license. She has an engineering degree from Duke University. A very talented candidate that we are fortunate to have interested in our club.

Looking forward to a great summer sailing on "Manitoba's Greatest Lake!"

## Constitution and By-Law Update

By Cari Rebizant – Club Secretary

**Status-** Review and research of the entire GYC Constitution and By-Laws continued throughout 2018. A blacklined draft has been prepared however it is not ready for release to the membership as a vetting process needs to take place through a Constitution and By-Law committee. There are three (3) confirmed committee members. **One more volunteer for this committee is required. Please contact Cari Rebizant - Club Secretary [carilyn@mymts.net](mailto:carilyn@mymts.net) to join the committee.**

My plan this year:

- Committee in place by end of April 2019.
- Carry-out about 4 committee meetings to vet the draft.
- Goal is to circulate the draft to the membership June/July 2019.
- Have two follow-up member discussions (Saturday Sept 7 10am at GYC and Wed Oct 16 at 7pm in Winnipeg).
- A final version circulated well in advance for member vote at the next AGM.

## Let's get Racing!

By Daniel L. Mailhiot (Trinity)

The 2019 race season is about to begin with the Spring Tune Up race scheduled for June the 5th. I'd like to welcome *Gary Harmer* (Delphi) as the director of racing. He is looking for race officers to run the pursuit races, so pick your favourite race and contact Gary.



Photo courtesy of CPG Photography

GYC's Wednesday Night Racing (WNR) 12 race series is scheduled to kickoff June

12th. Liquor Box will be back to defend their one point lead in division 1. I'm sure Rhum Line won't let that happen again. Ozama took first place in division 2 with Privateer close on their stern. *Mike Guezen* (Empress) says "I will be your Race Officer again this coming season with help from the Volunteer Race Crews as well as volunteers from Club Members. The Race Committee Boat will have a shiny new coat of paint, so you should be able to see it on the water a lot easier. Get your crews signed up, shine up those hulls and brush up on the Race Rules of Sailing and we will see you out on the water!" It's ramping up to be another exciting WNR series.

In division 3, wait... whatever happened to division 3? Working sails only, sure it's not pretty but when you're shorthanded or just getting to know your boat, what better way to get out of the harbour and enjoy some fantastic sailing, laughs and sunsets? I know what you're thinking, "but I don't have any crew". We've got you covered. New this year "CREW / BOAT BANK". Anyone wanting to race on boats or boats looking for crew can email [wnr@gimliyachtclub.com](mailto:wnr@gimliyachtclub.com) and the race officer can match up crew & skippers. On race days there will be a "CREW / BOAT WHITE BOARD" anyone in need of crew or interested in crewing can swap contact information.

"I was hooked  
... the thrill of  
the racing!"

*Carol Guezen* with CPG Photography will be back on the water this season starting July 10th, capturing stunning photos of all the action. She quotes "I had never done something like that before but was willing to give it a try. I was hooked after the first night, not sure if it was the photography or the thrill of the racing!" We are thrilled to have her back this season. Be sure to check out her website at [www.cpgphotography.ca](http://www.cpgphotography.ca) to view the 2018 photos and keep an eye out for current ones, access to the GYC galleries is WNR2018.

**Did You Know?** For many years, boaters had a problem protecting their hulls and/or drives against stray current in **fresh water**. An alloy much more active than zinc or aluminum is needed. **Magnesium** is the answer. A **magnesium anode** is a super activated metal which means it will protect more efficiently in **fresh water**. Magnesium anodes are available at Bruce's Marine in Gimli and Cargo East in Winnipeg. Thanks Brent Gillon (Lucy) for the tip.

# Gimli Yacht Club Cruising the Lake 2019

By Daniel L. Mailhiot



July 20th -  
August 3rd.  
Back in time for  
the Icelandic  
Festival.

Jason Ward  
(Starship) is  
organizing and  
leading the GYC  
cruising the lake.

Photo courtesy of  
Mailhiot Family  
(Trinity) 2018 cruisers  
outside Wells Harbour.

**The Plan.** Tour the south basin and hit some favourite spots, spending a day or 2 exploring each location. Potential stops are Hnausa, Hecla Village, Gull Harbour, Biscuit Bay, Granite Quarry, Rice River, Black Island #6 & #8. Go wherever the wind blows. These locations & extended stay overs will make it ideal for boats to join and depart as desired.

**What to Expect?** Jason Ward with 30 years experience cruising this lake says, “If you have never gone north expect a bit of everything. You will have storms, things will break and you will get stressed. These are the inevitable realities of cruising. That said, you will also experience the great beauty that northern Manitoba has to offer that you can only experience by boat. You will walk away with a huge sense of accomplishment that you met the challenge head-on, learned new skills and further developed the ones you already had.” Jason’s best memories. “As a kid the best part of cruising was the feeling of adventure and sailing off into the wild... I can honestly say that I have never lost that adventurous feeling when we leave to go north. Nowadays my favourite memories are watching that same sense of adventure shine in my children’s eyes... time with my family will be the memories that I never forget. The next best part of cruising on the lake is the people you meet. When you are out there everyone ends up mixing together at some point or another. Often you will spend time on a beach or get together with people that you may not normally cross paths with back in Gimli. It is nice having this time to connect away from your normal routines.”

**Sign Me Up!** If you are ready to go or even thinking about it contact Jason at [jaward@mymts.net](mailto:jaward@mymts.net), the sooner the better. He has a wealth of information and tips. Make this your year of adventure, shove off into the wild and make some memories.

# Upcoming Events

## Spring Work Party

May 25 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Let's work together to get the club "ship shape " for the upcoming season. A number of new tasks have been added as we now have both albacores and dinghy dollies to set up. A complete list of available tasks will be posted on the club website the first week of May. Please sign up there to indicate your preference. You might want to bring your favourite tools. Wendy McConnell is coordinating the event. Feel free to contact her with any questions, comments or additions. [dwmcc@mts.net](mailto:dwmcc@mts.net) Please note- club tractor and club crane are not available during the work party. Thanks to member feedback, volunteer hours have been reduced to 7.5 hrs to make it easier for people to get their hours completed.

## Laser Master Training

- Come out and get yourself ready for The upcoming Canadian Laser Masters Championships being held at Royal Lake of the Woods Yacht Club, August 16-18.
- GYC will be hosting Monday night Laser Masters training from June 24<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup> .
- We'll be meeting at 6:00pm Mondays, ready to sail by 6:30pm.
- Mike Couture will be providing informal coaching and boat set up guidance. The plan is to set up some windward leeward marks for racing drills, mark rounding practice, etc.
- You don't have to be participating in the Canadian Masters Championships to join us. Just come out and learn how to sail a Laser.

## Wine & Cheese

Saturday June 01 at 06:00 PM

Admission for members & guests \$12.00 per person. Please bring your favourite appetizer to share. If you are interested in helping out with social activities please drop a line to Wendy McConnell [dwmconn@gmail.com](mailto:dwmconn@gmail.com)

## Sailing School

- Two instructors this year; an experienced instructor from the cadet program and a junior instructor still learning the ropes.
- The club manager will also be a certified instructor and will be available for private and Discovery Sailing Lessons.
- Six weeks of group lessons from July 8 to August 16 from Monday to Friday.
- Lessons run Monday to Friday in either the mornings or afternoons.
- Lessons are conducted in optimists, Lasers and Albacores.
- We have teamed up with Gimli Recreation Services to offer an all day program for children 12 and under (half day sailing and half day recreation).
- Private and Semi-private lessons and "Discover Sailing" are offered at very reasonable prices.

## Planning on Using the Club Crane?

It's time to review the Club policy and procedures. You must have minimum 3 people, sign up on the website in advance and confirm a key holder is available.

## Sail On With Parkinson's

By Darlene & Steve Hildebrand (Cloud)

Club members Steve and Darlene Van Vlaenderen are continuing their Sail of the Great Lakes for Parkinson's Disease awareness. The club sponsored their efforts and we are continuing to do so as we are proud to see that they are carrying their Gimli Yacht Club banner with pride and determination. We wish them both Good Winds and a safe journey as they continue their adventure. The following is a presentation they made at the annual Parkinson's Canada Conference in Winnipeg.

**DARLENE:** On June 22 last year, as we were leaving the Marina in Superior Wisconsin and heading out to the open waters of Lake Superior. Steve and I looked at each other and said "We are actually doing this!" And gave each other a high five. After almost five years of planning we were finally embarking on our 2 year adventure to sail the Great Lake. SAIL ON WITH PARKINSON'S.

The 2018 leg took us from Duluth on the southern shores of Lake Superior to the locks at Sault Ste Marie; down the St. Mary's waterway to Lake Huron all the way south to our final destination of Sarnia Ontario. This took us 2 months. We visited 22 ports and sailed 750 NAUTICAL miles or 1440 KILOMETRES!!

This year we are excited to be continuing on the second leg of Sail On With Parkinson's. We plan on departing from Sarnia Ontario the second week of June. We'll sail down the Detroit River to Lake Erie, through the Welland Canal to Lake Ontario and then up the St. Lawrence River to our turn around point of Gananoque Ontario. We'll explore The Thousand Islands before sailing back to Whitby Ontario. This year we'll be sailing 780 nautical miles / 1750 kilometres. We'll stop at 27 Ports. We'll be on the water for 2 1/2 months.

**STEVE:** After completing the 2018 leg of our adventure on The Great Lakes I am often asked "What were the challenges you faced navigating the Great Lakes?" I usually start by saying that it was an amazing experience for both of us. As to the challenges...Well! Sailing the Great Lakes poses **a lot** of challenges. The biggest challenge for any sailor is the weather – the forces of nature beyond your control. You may have heard the saying "We can't control the wind but we can adjust our sails." As a sailor with Parkinson's, I've learned I have to adjust my sails quite often!

For instance. Determining our navigational position and maintaining course direction can sometimes be stressful even under routine conditions. As a sailor I need to have a good knowledge of wind speed, wind direction and currents. All the while keeping an eye on navigation charts to avoid shoals and rocks.

Our Navigation system is down loaded onto an iPad mounted to a bracket on the deck. I have to adjust the course on a continuous basis. Imagine for a moment, you're on a sailboat. The boat is pitching and rolling. You can hardly keep your balance. NOW ...you have to adjust the course on the touch screen, which is challenging enough. THEN couple that with fact that you have Tremors.

I can't tell you the number of times my tremors accidentally deleted a chart when I touched the screen! I was just lucky that Darlene was always there to reset the charts!



ANOTHER CHALLENGE is managing the stress of maintaining a 2 month sailing schedule when you can't control the weather. Sailing in bad weather can put both us and our sailboat in danger. So keeping glued to the weather forecast was a must! There were times that we were tied up at a dock waiting up to five days for the weather to break. Those were the days I became a little impatient and anxious. In my eyes we were behind schedule. That's when Darlene would remind me that we had a PLAN not a SCHEDULE. So I learned to "adjust my sails" and wait out the storm at the safety of a dock.

But I guess the most difficult challenge has been acceptance of my Parkinson diagnosis. Accepting the fact that my life had changed, not only physically but mentally as well. I had to learn to overcome those obstacles that lay in front of me.

Parkinson's is like an ice berg, 10% is above the surface that you can see. 90% is what's below the surface that you can't see. And It was the 90% that frightened me the most. The unknown. I had to face the question. Does Parkinson define who I am? Or do I choose to live life to its fullest in spite of having Parkinson's? C..C..A.. as I call it COMPLICATED COLLECTION OF AILMENTS. As you probably guessed by now, I chose the latter. I did not want to let Parkinson's define who I am. I did not want Parkinson's to rob me of my dreams. There is life after a Parkinson's diagnosis. Now I was ready to begin planning. Sail On With Parkinson's was born.

I have often been accused by those who know me well of being a little obsessive when it comes to planning!! 😊 I spent 5 years planning our Great Lakes adventure. That meant researching everything, from the 60 ports we would visit along the 3200 kilometre route, to the number of emergency flares we were required to have onboard. Yet on that June morning, as we were ready to set sail, I questioned whether ANY amount of planning could prepare me for the magnitude of the journey we were undertaking? But by that point, I couldn't hit the pause button. I couldn't change my mind. We were in an unstoppable expedition into the unknown. Whenever I started to doubt myself, Darlene reminded me that even the best laid plans will have some setbacks and temporary defeats. We learned this when the US Coastguard had to rescue us 20 miles out of Bayfield Wisconsin, on only our 3<sup>rd</sup> day out on the water! It simply meant that we had to re-work the plan.

I think about the first day we set sail from Superior Wisconsin. As we left the safety of the harbour and I looked at the vast expanse of Lake Superior, fear and doubt started to set in. Anxiety. What was I thinking? Was I really prepared for what lay ahead? But I kept reminding myself that I had planned this trip down to the smallest detail. I had memorized navigation charts. I had been physically and mentally preparing for this trip for almost five years. I had contingency plans developed for almost every situation. Soon my anxiety started to ease up. After a few days on the water I got my sea legs back. I started enjoying the people we met, the beautiful scenery we experienced, the communities we visited, the stories we heard and the people that helped us along the way. Our journey wasn't about conquering The Great Lakes. It was about facing my own fears and conquering my own challenges.

## Sail On with Parkinson's - Parkinson Canada - Fundraising Your Way

The primary mission of "Sail on with Parkinson's" is to create awareness for people with Parkinson's. As a Parkinson's Ambassador Steve Van Vlaenderen will participate in national, provincial and federal governmental relations and advocacy initiatives to help move Parkinson's Issues forward.

[donate.parkinson.ca](https://donate.parkinson.ca)



# Future GYC, Let's Start Talking!

By Cari Rebizant (LynLeigh)



Gimli Yacht Club Concept Rendering



Over the winter your board held discussions about a future GYC facility..... What should it include? What should it look like? How do we start a dialogue with our club members, the RM of Gimli, Provincial and Federal stakeholders about all of this?

And the outcome?.... Engagement of Republic Architecture Inc. who in consultation with a mix of 10 -12 GYC board and club members created the concept presented.

The intent of this concept is to get people talking. GYC members have a say in this. The board wants to hear from you.

Three (3) visioning discussion sessions at the club have been organized for GYC members to learn and talk to board members about the concept. Please plan to attend one of these sessions. Your input is welcomed and valued!

Member discussion – GYC Future- Visioning sessions:

#1 - Saturday June 10 – 10AM at the club

#2- Sunday July 7- 10AM at the club

#3 - Friday Aug 23 - 7PM at the club

An undertaking of such a development will take a lot of time to organize. Let's get the conversation started this season!



## ERNEST SKUBLICS January 14, 1936 - April 9, 2019

Ernest Skublics achieved his eternal rest with his two daughters at his side, on April 9, 2019.

Ernie's sailing adventures are perhaps the most colourful and characteristic features of his leisure time – from childhood races on Lake Balaton to family sailing trips to the north of Lake Winnipeg, culminating in the solo journey from northern England through the rivers of Europe all the way to Turkey. Throughout his life, he expressed himself in writing and also in painting, with a special love for iconography.

Ernie, his first wife Christine and children Ken, Heather and Adrienne were members of the club from 1979 to 1990. As a young family they made their first trip to George Island in their Nash 20,

proving that you do not need a large boat to enjoy the lake. As the children grew, Ernie and Christine purchased a C&C 25 making more trips into the North Basin and to George Island. Ernie was last on a sailboat August 2018 at age 82 sailing to Black 6. His children continue their love of sailing and own sailboats in Ottawa, Calgary and Silver Harbour.

He is reunited with his first wife, Christine, and leaves to remember him his wife Janet, his children Kenneth (Denise) Skublics, Heather (Paul) Lampman and Adrienne (Neil) Reimer and grandchildren.

To view the obituary go to <https://www.integritydeathcare.com/skublics-ernest>



Editors Corner:  
**Daniel L. Mailhiot**  
(Trinity)

If you have a story or photos you'd like to see in the next issue of "THE TELLTALE" email them to [dmailhiot@gmail.com](mailto:dmailhiot@gmail.com)

*See you on the water.*

**Party of Five.** This crazy crew spent over 60 days living on a boat, 2 weeks sailing north as far as Berens Island and everything in-between. We weathered many storms on the water & below deck. Looking back I am so blessed to share these adventures and memories with the ones I love the most.