

# The Bullfrog

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Oak Orchard Yacht Club

March 2010

## Commodore Report

### Welcome to a New Season

Even though the ice flows are still hugging the shore of Lake Ontario, it won't be long until the sights and sounds of spring arrive and a new season begins at OOYC.

We enter 2010 as an active, friendly and financially healthy club. Over the past several seasons, we have seen dining room attendance increase, we have enjoyed many special parties, we have welcomed new members, we have reinstated a racing program, and we have made improvements to the clubhouse, docks and grounds.

We also continue to provide a friendly and accommodating stopover for sailors and boaters as they travel around Lake Ontario. In addition, we have seen our financial "bottom line" stabilize and become viable for the foreseeable future.

But you, our members, are the most valuable asset we have. We all come here for fun, relaxation, and social and boating activities. I also would like to encourage you to reach out and acquaint yourself with some new members you don't know very well. Please consider being involved this year with the following activities:

- Enjoy the restaurant on a regular basis and support our parties.
- Sit with someone new for dinner.
- Introduce yourself to visitors from other clubs and offer help and assistance to them.
- Plan to attend the work days.
- Talk to your friends and neighbors about the club and ask them if they might like to join.
- Attend the club membership meetings.

I know the Board of Directors are planning to build on the momentum of the past few years and will work hard in providing the activities and services that you have come to expect.

As always, we welcome your comments and feedback, and wish all of you a very safe and enjoyable 2010 season.

Bob Frost  
**Commodore**

## **Vice Commodore Report**

Remember the line from Keats' poem, "Be through my lips, to an unawakened earth, the trumpet of a prophecy, O wind, if winter comes can spring be far behind? Well! Have faith, it is true. Spring is not far behind and, to be an optimist, maybe just around the corner. For those of us who have not fled the snowy winds of winter, most likely "cabin fever" has about reached its peak. Certainly, receiving this first edition of the OOYC Bullfrog can offer a glimpse of the bright sunny days ahead at the club house and docks. Your board of directors has been meeting each month all winter to prepare for another great summer at our fantastic club.

The 2010 calendar is included in this Bullfrog. The year's schedule is pretty well set but, like always, a few things are as set as wet cement. Hopefully, only a few minor changes will be necessary. More good news, for your dining pleasure we will again see Bill Ames's smiling face in the kitchen preparing his great menu offerings. Once again, Diane Ames will be at on the serving side of the bar to prepare your favorite liquid refreshments with a smile. They have both been very helpful in helping Sharon and I put all things in order for the upcoming *St. Patrick's Day Party*. (see the flyer below). Also, if you want to get in a few "club hours" early, come help decorate for the party on March 20 around 10:00. Think Green!

As a final note, please remember that the beauty of OOYC is created by the involvement of the members. All of us can do more than any one of us. If you have suggestions for changes or additions to our club's activities, let myself or one of the board members know. Volunteer to host or be on one of the party planning committees, join in on the work "party" days. It's a great time. And remember, it is not just the full members who get to have all the fun, all you social members can join in and help make the summer at OOYC the best ever. Bring on the summer.

Ted Anderson

**Vice Commodore**

## Oak Orchard Yacht Club



## St. Patrick's Day Party Saturday, March 20, 2010

5:30 drinks and appetizers

6:30 dinner prepared by Bill Ames

Corned beef, ham, cabbage, potatoes, soup and bread

7:30 – 10:00 music by Joe Head

**Come celebrate the wearing of the green!**

Members please bring an appetizer, salad/side dish or dessert, if possible; let us know what you're bringing

\$12.50 per person (cash, checks or chits, please)

RSVP to Sharon and Ted O'Anderson by March 13

[sanders7@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sanders7@rochester.rr.com) or 585-356-5324

## OOYC 2010 CALENDAR

JAN. 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat. 2:00)

FEB. 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat. 10:00)

MAR. 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat. 10:00)  
20<sup>th</sup> **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY**

APRIL 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat. 10:00)  
24<sup>th</sup> **SPRING CLEAN UP** (Sat.9:00-3:00)  
- Membership Meeting (4:30)  
- Hard Times Party (5:00-8:00 **Hosts Needed**)

MAY 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat. 10:00)  
14<sup>th</sup> ( Fri.) **RESTAURANT OPENS**  
29<sup>th</sup> Flag Raising/ Blessing the Fleet (Sat. 9:00)  
- Picnic on the Lawn (12:30)  
30<sup>th</sup> **COMMODORE'S BALL** (5:30 - 11:00)

JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat. 10:00)  
20<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade and Inspection (10:30)  
- Picnic on the Patio 12:30  
- Membership Meeting (2:00)

JULY 4<sup>th</sup> **Cook Out On T-Dock & Porch**  
10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (10:00)  
- YOUTH SAILING  
24<sup>th</sup> **SUMMER FEST/CARRIBEAN PARTY (Hosts needed)**

AUG. 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting(10:00)

14<sup>th</sup> OOYC Sailing Regatta

22<sup>nd</sup> Membership Meeting (Sun. 2:00)

SEPT. 5<sup>th</sup> **Steak Roast (Hosts Needed)**

11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting ( Sat.10:00)

25<sup>th</sup> **RESTAURANT CLOSSES FOR SEASON**

OCT. 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat. 10:00)  
17<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting ( Sun. 2:00)

NOV. 6<sup>th</sup> **FALL CLEAN UP**  
13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (Sat.10:00)  
21<sup>st</sup> Membership Meeting (Sun. 2:00)

DEC. 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting (time to be announced)  
12<sup>th</sup> **Holiday Party** ( 2:00 - 8:00)  
-Membership Meeting(4:00)

**Rear Commodore Report**

THINK SPRING.....It's just around the corner. Time to think about getting our boats cleaned up and in the water. It's also time to think about getting our clubhouse and grounds in shape for our summer enjoyment.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, just a short time from now, we will have our Spring Clean Up. Save the date, mark your calendar. April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm. We can use all the help we can get and it will make everything a little bit easier for everyone. Also it's a good time to get some hours in.

Then after the cleanup we can relax with a membership meeting at 4:30 followed with the Hard Times Party at 5 o'clock. See you then.

George Webster,  
**Rear Commodore**

## **Treasurer Report**

*No Report*

Ray Tangent  
**Treasurer**

## **Dock Master**

There is ice in the river and it's still cold, but the sun is higher in the sky and our thoughts are turning to the boat yard and the docks. Dock work for the 2010 boating season at OOYC has begun!

I'd first like to thank Dan Schuth for taking on a personal project. Using cables, come-alongs and x-bracing, he took out much of the twist in the main dock from shore to the T-dock. Thanks Dan.

A small group of us were able to get together on a Wednesday in mid-February. Working off the ice, we managed to pull 4 bad poles and place 5 new poles. This is the first time in several years that we have been able to work off the ice. A special thanks to Ray Tangent, Ted Anderson, Paul Gray, and John Scobey for their time and labor.

A larger work party is being planned for sometime at the end of March or early April. The

usual dock leveling will be the main project, but I anticipate pulling and replacing at least three more poles using the barge. An order of 8 more poles should be delivered in the next few weeks. I'll keep the members posted by e-mail. Thanks for your support.

Paul Petrie  
Dock Master

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## Membership Chairperson Report

*No Report*

Terri Wood  
Membership Chairperson

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## Boating Activities Director Report

Work is being done to finalize a sailing program for 2010.

**(OOYC SAIL AGAIN IN TWENTY-TEN).**

Many things will be simplified in order to make sailing in a race less daunting.

Remember that most sailors in our club do not have a great deal of experience racing so you should not feel intimidated by joining the fun.

The current plan is to have two distinct, five race, Thursday night series. The Spring Series will have races scheduled June 10,17,24, July 1 and 8. The Summer Series will be on July 15, 22 , 29 , August. 5 and 19. The OOYC Regatta is scheduled for Aug. 14.

In order to qualify for each season's awards you must have finished in at least three of that season's five races. If you finish more than three races your best three will be counted.

I have tentatively scheduled a May 15 information meeting for anyone interested in racing as well as for those wanting to crew. Anyone who just wants to help make the program a success is welcome Any questions on tactics, rules, boat handling, etc. will be answered.

There are many people who are excited about the upcoming season. We hope that you will be among the volunteers to help out to revitalize boating activities at OOYC.

**SAILING TIP OF THE MONTH:**

If you don't have a folding or feathering prop but have a two bladed sailboat prop make sure you place the prop in a vertical position and then mark the shaft so that when you shut down your engine you can properly align the prop for less drag and more speed.

Three bladed fixed props are great for motoring but are speed killers when sailing. Make sure I am made aware of which prop you have when I am calculating your handicap.

Did you get the last tip on tell-tails? If you did not and want a copy let me know.

Ray Leonard

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A  
Mid Winter's Dream  
By  
Greg Feller

Authors note: I make no claims to grammatical correctness, spelling, or readability! I just thought I would try my hand at submitting an article to The Bullfrog.

Winter has the strange habit of bringing out the weird and wonderful in those of us who suffer from "cabin fever". 1999 was the end of one millennium and the beginning of another. Anna and I had been seeing each other for about three years and had discovered the same sense of adventure in both of us. Sailing, although new to Anna was a passion developed in myself since I could operate a boat on Lake Ontario. I had been a boater since I was ten, thanks to my dad, but that's a story for another time.

Anna had been quickly bitten by the bug, and was willing to handle a line and put Sailacious's rail into the waves. Unfortunately, Lake Ontario is only a haven to sailing about six months out of the year, and winter brings depressing doldrums accentuated by the "itch"; that is occupying your time with anything that will keep you in a sailing state of mind, and keep you excited about the season to come. What to do this winter????

As it turned out, there was an offshore sailing seminar being offered in early Spring at

the Holiday Inn on Grand Island. What the hell, it would keep us “on the water”, and offer us some tips for handling Sailacious next season. Right?

Sometimes you head down a path for the hell of it and find yourself in a completely new fantasy. Something that neither of us had expected, or was even looking for, landed on deck and took the helm. Heading off shore and becoming enthralled in the physical and spiritual wonders of the sea were “laid before us” by Beth Leonard, a circumnavigator and article writer for Sail magazine.

Was it really possible to cast off and leave land behind for weeks, months, and possibly years at a time?! Ouch! What was that?! You guessed it; right on the cerebral kiester, we’d been bit!

Did people really do this? We had become as excited as an inexperienced seventeen year old on his first prom date.

## “Are You Nuts!?”

We were clueless! If you asked anyone on the docks who Greg Feller was, they would most likely reply, “Oh yea, he’s that idiot who takes his twenty eight foot Pearson out in a strong breeze with too much sail up while setting his rump on the rail with one hand on the tiller and his leg over the side in the water yelling giddy-up at the top of his lungs!” No one ever said there was a law stating you had to be smart to own a boat.

Sailacious could make it around the world, right? Hell, all we had to do was stock the cooler with enough amber survival beverage and push off. Just in case, maybe we should read Beth Leonard’s book The Voyager’s Handbook. What an amazing piece of literature. Just about everything you wanted to know about off shore cruising was covered in detail. Boat, budget, stowing gear, how much TP to bring along and a host of other topics were all covered.

Slowly but surely it began to sink in. If we were really going to do this, we would have to do lots more research, go to “school”, and take things one step at a time. The good news was that it could be done!

Of course when I opened my big mouth and started sharing our fantasy with others, the reaction was more of apprehension than support. I often found that the response was “You can’t do that!” or “What do you want to do that for?” Luckily I was familiar with this kind of response. Somewhere down the line I had learned that if you let others do the thinking and dreaming for you, you end up spinning your wheels and just daydreaming about an exciting life. I received the same reaction when I went to China in the mid-eighties, bought a bicycle, and peddled all over the country. Nevertheless, I digress.

## Das Boot

Sailacious was / is a twenty-eight foot Pearson sloop. Built like a tank, I'd say it's one of the safest production boats out there, and will take you anywhere you want to go. Technically, it sleeps five, has an onboard head, small galley, and six feet of headroom in the salon. Its Atomic four gasoline auxiliary engine with twelve gallon fuel tank can actually motor you across the lake. Thankfully I've only had to do this once. I've even single handed it across the lake at night with absolutely no problems (Again, you don't have to be smart to own a boat!).

Anna and I had sailed Sailacious all over Lake Ontario, and had enjoyed trips to Rochester, Sodus Bay, Oswego, and across and up through the Bay of Quinte. With nothing more than a hand held GPS, Ports Book, Chart Book and a case of beer; we thought we were quite the water bound navigators! Wrong!

Although we had logged quite a few nautical miles under our keel, we really didn't have the knowledge and skills to do serious cursing. We had pushed the envelop of "It's sometimes better to be lucky than smart". I can remember changing head sails off Oswego in twelve foot seas with no safety harness, giggling as the waves broke over the bow and giving me a good wash. Fortunately, Anna was still new enough to sailing that she didn't realize the danger. Why am I still here?

When I had questioned Beth Leonard after the seminar about the feasibility of taking a twenty-eight foot Pearson off shore, she tactfully dodged my question. Can you imagine the outcome of offering a fool like me encouragement on such folly? In all fairness it must be noted that in her book she made mention of young couples circumnavigating in boats of only twenty-two feet in length. God Bless Em'!

We loved Sailacious, but my six feet two inch frame in a boat with six feet of head room constantly gave me a stiff neck. Sleeping in the v-birth and suffering from a slight case of Closterphobia also gave me the fits and Anna a less than restful nights sleep. A twelve gallon holding tank also had us "holding it" on many occasion. Lake water baths well off shore in the cockpit were somewhat nice though.

Alas, the decision was made to purchase a different boat. Five or six feet in additional length, more headroom, bigger tanks, and all of the characteristics of a "cruising boat" became a blueprint for the purchase. After much research and hours on the web, we decided that a Valiant would be our dream boat. With a reputation for being one of the strongest and best cruising boats, there didn't seem to be much that we could screw up. Now anyone who knows about Valiant's also knows that they come with a very hefty price tag, and a new model was strictly out of the question. Used would have to be the way to go, and besides, everyone also knows that when you buy a used boat, you also get

all of the “extra equipment” with it. With a Valiant, one also had to stay away from certain years when the company used an inferior epoxy that caused blistering. The other years were just fine.

We thought our luck had held out when we found a Valiant 37 in St. Catherine’s, Ontario. A short Sunday’s drive found “Stonefire” resting on her jacks in the yard. It was in the process of being brought up to snuff by her owner and there were a few pieces which had to be put back together. Overall her integrity was fine and she just might be the ticket. Her owner was making ready for another trip down South when health problems had halted progress. Perhaps a good deal was in the making here!

Rats! No sooner had we gotten home and started making the appropriate calls, and the bad news hit. Her owner’s health had improved. Stonefire was to be brought back to cruising shape and would make the trip south without us. Back to the drawing board.

The months dragged on and Anna and I continued to search the web for our dream boat. The economy must have been in great shape because we could not find a decent boat in our price range. The file folders grew with research on other makes and models, but it seemed that we just had to find the right Valiant!

### A Pox Upon You!

It was April and Spring had sprung. Another season with Sailacious wouldn’t be bad, but we were in the “itch” zone and needed to find the elusive cruising craft. A squeal came from the den and it appeared that Anna had hit pay dirt! There was another Valiant down near Annapolis, and it was within our budget! Plans had to be made! Pet friendly motels had to be found! Brokers had to be contacted! Was there enough gas in the truck?

It turned out that the owners were living in Hawaii now and were in need of releasing themselves of their Valiant vows. We could go have a look, and the broker would meet us at the yard. You could smell the excitement in the air as personal days were arranged at work and last minute preparations were made for a mad Friday morning dash to Maryland.

It was early evening when we reached the boat yard. Checking into a motel had become less than a priority on our way down, and it was decided that the yard would be the first stop. Wow, they had boats upon boats upon boats all over the place; both in and out of the water! As we wove in and out of the lanes, we were treated to all manner of craft sitting on the hard. Slick fast looking sloops, comfortable slow trawlers, and even a cumbersome tug looking ketch that prompted a smirk.

The broker had contacted us and said that he couldn’t make it, but gave us the combination to the boat, and we could contact him later. Fine with us. We would rather that he wasn’t around to see us drool and dance as we gawked at what would surely be

our first cruising craft. “It should be just around this corner” chirped Anna as we eased our way down a lane. And there it was.

Did you hear that? Sounded like fifty pounds of soft lead hitting the pavement. Our hearts had sunk in synchronization. There it sat in a rotting cradle. Smallpox and the bubonic plague had nothing on the number of oozing pustules this beast possessed. No wonder the broker had slithered out of town. How could he seriously expect to ask prospective buyers to shell out 80K for an acne poster child? We had driven all that way, and for what?

As we maneuvered through the maze of boats, dragging our hearts, we headed for our motel, and consoled ourselves that we at least had the rest of the weekend to spend in the beautiful Annapolis area.

**To be continued.....(?)**