

# *The* Bilge Pump

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Keuka Yacht Club—Winter 2008

## Winter at the Lake

After shoveling snow and ice for at least a thousand times this winter, it is hard to believe that in a few short months we will all be relaxing at the lake again. Peter Gamba assures me that the lake is pretty all year round and sent these pictures to prove it.

The KYC Board and the Strategic Planning Committee have been busy over the winter planning for the upcoming year. This special issue of the Bilge Pump is to inform members of club developments over the winter months.



Keuka Lake—Winter 2008

## Membership Survey

*Submitted by Peter Gamba*

Thank you to KYC members who took the time to fill out and return the KYC surveys. As of mid-February, we received 68 completed surveys of the 121 mailed. The Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of summarizing the results.

## Racing Update

### Plans Underway for Next Year

*Submitted by Dave Tierson*

The Lusitania Cup for cruising boats has been attracting more interest each year, so we will be trying to arrange Cruising Fleet races for Sunday afternoons starting at 1:30.

We will be trying to organize volunteers for a weekly, rotating Race Committee. We also need one volunteer from each Fleet (E's, MC's, and Cruisers) to serve as a contact to the Race Committee and the Yacht Club in general.

Please contact Dave Tierson at [dptierson@yahoo.com](mailto:dptierson@yahoo.com) so your concerns/comments will be addressed as we sort this out.

## Wanted: Optimist Sailboat

If anyone has an Opti tucked away in a garage somewhere and no longer has a need for it, the Cleary boys would be interested. Send us an email at [clearyjw@hotmail.com](mailto:clearyjw@hotmail.com)

## Virginia-BVI Winter Cruise

*Submitted by Dave Tierson*

### *A Blue Water Adventure in November*

Caribbean 1500 is a rally organized to help provide safe passage for cruising boats heading south for the winter. The planned route starts near Hampton Virginia at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay with a 1486 mile rhumb line distance to Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Planned departure date of November 2<sup>nd</sup> looked fine. After final weather briefing and instructions, 69 boats headed out for a noon start. 39 boats were signed up for the rally class (for insurance reasons it's not a race, but it is) leaving 30 boats in the cruising class. Each boat was supplied with a transponder which would track the boats position in real-time to the carib1500.com website so all interested parties (owners and wives) could see the progress, or lack of it, through the Atlantic.

A total of 5 people would crew Four C's a Jeanneau 43. The owner, not on board, was paying the bills and watching our track on the website. Ken Johnson was the captain, his father Larry was navigator; Don, Sharron and myself as crew. Allan the owner took care of most details to prep the boat and supply provisions. One of the last fixes concerned repair of one of the heads (warning, warning!). We also had a marine electronics expert onboard to tell us the laptop wasn't completely plugged into its docking station, duh.

Off we go, three hour watches thru the day and night. After finishing a watch we would have 12 hours off. It seems boring but engine maintenance, navigation, log entries, fishing, radio roll call twice a day, food prep, clean-up, and reading. Don't forget re-build of a plugged head which was just repaired on shore.

After a couple of days the fleet split into three loose groups; fast, medium and slow. Bigger

boats legged out but soon encountered light winds and they fired up their engines. The middle of the fleet, which included us, had wind to sail through the Gulf Stream and continued for days. Slow boats got hammered by high wind, waves and waterspouts. Only 60 to 100 miles separated each group but the weather varied greatly.

Slower boats were caught in the bad weather for 1-2 days. A boat reported being boarded by a wave which tore loose its life raft, it inflated and was lost (\$5000). Another memorable radio call included the following from a very calm lady, "We have blown our mainsail, cut it away, and it was lost. Our jib was destroyed and our engine is not running at this time". Again she sounded very calm, but probably wanted to be someplace else.

Our passage was very quiet. We were on a port gybe for 5-6 days, they all kind of blend together. Maximum speed we saw was 12.9 knots. Caught 3 fish, two mahi-mahi (mmm-good), one tuna (mmm-better), whale, dolphin sightings, and a night crossing with Queen Mary II. Pretty quiet.

8 days, 22 hours, 37 minutes was our elapsed time for the trip. Factor in engine time and our PHRF rating, our corrected time was 197 hours 32 minutes. After all rally boats had finished, times checked, we had the lowest corrected time and placed first overall in the 2007 Caribbean 1500! The toughest part was missing the awards party as I flew home the day after we docked in Tortola. Can't wait for the next blue water passage from Bermuda to Hampton Virginia in May.





Junior Sailors with Sunfish—Summer 2007

## Junior Sailing

*Submitted by Peter Gamba*

Junior Sailing is for children ages 8 through 16. 2007 was a great year for the Junior Sailing program. We had two great instructors and more than 75 students. We are looking forward to returning instructors, returning students, and new students. This spring we are planning a Junior Racing class for experienced junior sailors in conjunction with the regular classes. The details are in process.

The schedule for 2008 is as follows:

**Session 1:** June 23 thru July 3 (Mon thru Thurs)

**Session 2:** July 7 thru July 17 (Mon thru Thurs)

**Session 3:** July 21 thru July 25 (Mon thru Fri)  
and July 28, 29, 30 (Mon thru Wed) \*

\* This avoids a conflict with the Eastern championships.

**Session 4:** Aug 4 thru Aug 14 (Mon thru Thurs)

The fees for 2008 are as follows:

KYC Members - \$195,  
w/ additional students of same household \$160

Non KYC Members - \$225,  
w/ additional students of same household \$180

An application can be acquired by E-mailing Peter Gamba at Pgamba1007@aol.com or calling him at (315) 595 8899.

## Instructor Training Offered

A Level 1 Sailing Instructor Training Course will be offered June 19 through June 22, 2008 at KYC.

The goal of the class is to teach individuals to be sailing instructors as well as enhance sailing skills. It is a four day, forty hour course and covers:

- Teaching from and using a Safety Boat.
- Use of land and on-the-water drills.
- Sports psychology and physiology
- Lesson Planning
- Classroom teaching techniques for eye-hand coordination skills
- Risk management and other legal issues
- Safety considerations
- Rainy day activities

The course is applicable to teaching in dinghies, multi hulls and small day sailing keel boats from on the boat or from a separate safety boat.

This is a great course for ages 16 and older. Good sailing and powerboat handling skills are required.

One KYC member has already signed up. US SAILING was looking for a place to increase their sailing instruction offerings in the Finger Lakes and KYC offered our services.

The cost is approx \$315 depending when you register plus a required US SAILING membership of approximately \$70 depending on membership type. For more information and to sign up for the class go to the US Sailing Web site under instructor training "LEVEL 1". If you have any questions, please call Peter Gamba at (315) 595-8899 or Debbie Koop at (315) 595-2523. Peter and Debbie took the class last year