

BEACH DIRT

The official newsletter of
TORONTO WINDSURFING CLUB
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SUMMER 2007



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MAMMOTH MARATHON -SUN. SEPT. 9!

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

August winds have come just in time to soothe us antsy sailors who sat out most of the July doldrums. This is a good thing as the Mammoth Marathon race around the Toronto Islands is just a couple of weeks away. For those of us who have "pumped" around the islands, having a bit of arm and hand conditioning is a must for a competitive effort in this event. However, one can always adopt a "tourist" mindset when sailing the Mammoth Marathon and just enjoy the scenery, and arrive back without palms delaminated. Enjoy your sail and remember, there is always the short course if you don't feel like tackling the more challenging long course. This year, member Marek Badzynski has come up with a great logo for the event and event T-shirts. Last year's graphic, provided by Alina Didenko, made the 2006 Mammoth Marathon T shirts a big hit.



This year, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Mammoth Marathon, we have pumped up the prize giving. In prior years, Sailboard Vacations was generous enough to provide a week of accommodations and gear rental for two as a grand prize draw. Alas, great things never seem to last for ever, so we have not been able to offer such a great prize in recent years. However, we have some major draw prizes this year, including a brand new F2 board. Don't worry, you don't have to beat David Hayes or Ian Matthews on the water to get the big prizes – winners are determined in a draw after the race prizes have been awarded.

Looking further ahead, we hope to have some of those big southwesterly winds that turn our site into a world class windsurfing venue. Unfortunately, these are few and far between but if you have any holiday time left in the bank, you might want to keep a day or two in reserve and keep an eye on the weather.

Coinciding with the arrival of colder weather, November 10, is our annual general meeting and dinner dance. This year, your Board has struggled under the weight of differing visions for the TWC. I will offer my view on the situation, but you should formulate your own opinion on the direction of the club and ensure that you elect a board that shares your vision.

In the last few years, the club has grown significantly. This has brought change to every facet of the club. Congestion has become a problem both on the grassy rigging area and in the parking lot. Solutions have been implemented (adding more grassy rigging area and pushing parking back) but more are needed to make better use of our space.

On the waters of the Outer Harbour, congestion is also becoming a problem. The other day, I watched as one of our members, finding himself in the way of a couple of leading boats in an Albacore regatta, stalled his board and sank gracefully between the two lead boats as they gave wiggle room but remained on course for the next buoy.

It is worth remembering that these are competitive fleets, and we should really try to stay out of their way when they are racing. Take a minute to study the race course, and plan your route accordingly.

Our robust Learn to Windsurf program has brought many new people to the sport of windsurfing and to the TWC. Under the direction of Tom Mae, our excellent program, has been refined to a level that could qualify it as the best ever offered in Canada. Being the only program in the city, it has grown with the addition of a fleet of beginner boards a few years ago. However, the size and intensity of the program has added to the congestion at our club and like the TWC, this new program has experienced some growth pains that have caused some members to question the program's size and efficiency. This year more than ever, overall congestion and atmosphere has led some members to ask the question "have we grown too big?" or "what's happened to our club?"

There are also members who believe TWC and its programs should grow much larger. Consider the changes in store for our area as Lake Ontario Park takes shape and keep in mind that at any time, we can be evicted with six months notice. We sit on a very valuable piece of property but what we pay annually in rent would get you no more than a storage locker in this city. Our approach to long-term survival has been a no fences, open to the public policy and a commitment to maintain a well-manicured site.

We cannot deny that our behaviour will also play a pivotal role in our ability to maintain our lease. Concerns about our image and the fact that we could be evicted led to the adoption, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board, of a no alcohol consumption policy for the club.

Besides our personal behaviour, our survival at our site will likely depend on our success at being seen as contributors to the community. Since our contribution to the city is of negligible value financially, we need to be seen as providing value to the community by:

- promoting safety on the water
- offering low-cost programs to teach windsurfing to kids and adults
- bringing under-privileged kids to the sport
- teaching competitive sailing
- helping develop Canada's top competitive windsurfers



With the Big Brothers and Big Sisters outreach program getting underway next year, we should be able to check all the above boxes.

Finally, TWC members deserve a good social environment – after all, what is a club all about? One member suggested that TWC should be 50% windsurfing, 50% social and 100% fun. It is a great way to think of us, but we have to keep in mind that the social scene at the Club is of little interest to our landlord, unless it is carried to excess.

As we head towards our next annual general meeting, it is important that we elect a board that shares a common view on how these aspects of our club are balanced. This year, I aim to ensure that information on candidates running for election is available in advance of the meeting.

Further, members interested in seeing how Directors voted on issues through the year may obtain copies of the minutes by contacting our secretary (jenny@twsc.ca).

Finally, I urge those of you who would like to become more involved by serving as a director, to send your name and a brief bio and your vision for the club to . If you do not want to be a director, but have an idea you would like to implement for the club, let us know!

(Bill Mackenzie)

CHANGES TO LEARN TO WINDSURF (LTW) STAFF

Citing a desire to spend more time at his business and with his wife, LTW head instructor Tom Mae recently handed this volunteer job back to former head instructor Andree Gauthier who will finish up the 2007 season. Andree has expressed her gratitude for many of the LTW procedures Tom worked so hard to put in place over the last two years and has indicated her intention to continue almost all of these. (ed. note As an occasional volunteer instructor at TWC I'd like to personally thank Tom for the program improvements he put in place and all the time and energy he put into LTW at TWC) Andree has indicated she does not want to take on the head instructor position in 2008, leaving some big question marks about the 2008 program.

Thanks too, to paid instructor Ian Matthews who handed over his position to Simon Rickard and to new (2007) paid instructor Josh Wood!

BULLETIN BOARD-BOARD BULLETINS

BOARD STORAGE

Once again this year, the TWC membership is around 500 as it has been for the past two seasons. With the continued success of the LTW program, more new members are buying their own equipment and wanting the convenience of storing it at the club. Last fall we added the last of the storage containers allowed under our lease agreement, thereby increasing our available year round storage for this season to 275 slots, and as expected all the slots have been rented out. So.....

If you wish to be put on the waiting list for next season, should any slots become available, please contact me at . Since each slot is specific to the board length and width, please indicate the size of board you wish to store when requesting to be put on the waiting list.

Now I know that there is still lots of great sailing left this season, but I'd like to make a request as you think about the 2008 season. If you know that you will not be needing your storage or want to reduce the number of slots you have, please let me know, even if it's during the winter. Burrrrrrrrrrr!

Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe rest of the season.

Jerry Caplan

2007 TIPS PROGRAM (Tom Mae reporting)

During the 2007 season you may have seen someone wearing an orange "TWC TIPS" t-shirt at a clinic or on the water. These are members or friends of the club who contributed their time and energy, knowledge and passion for windsurfing to help us all develop as windsurfers. Topics covered a wide range of skills from Rigging (Steve Hill), Upwind/downwind Cruising (Duke Duyck) to Water Starting (Bryan Philips). Some of our visiting members were from as far as Hawaii- Womens' Tips (Norah Hunter) and Speed Sailing (Ted Hunter).

It has been great to see "members helping members" with such enthusiasm that it was enjoyed by all, from beginner to expert. The 2007 season included visits from "pros" such as Dan Thomson ("Gorge" freestyle guy), Pete DeKay (Windsport magazine) and Dave Marshall (, John Darling (Windsurfing Canada),

If you would like to help with this please email TWC TIPS and let us know what knowledge you are willing to share with other members.

THIS IS NOT A LEASH RULE (David Hayes reporting)

In this past season there have been a couple of incidences with our beloved companions or as most people call them, dogs. There has been the odd complaint about the K-9's running free and trampling equipment on the beach. I don't believe that the majority or in that fact almost any dogs that I have seen do such things. But since they are still animals and able to release their wild side every once in a while. The TWC is asking the members that if you chose to bring a dog down to the beach please keep an eye on it. We are not making leashes mandatory but if there is an incident with running across sails then the dog may be asked to be leashed. See you on the water. DH

LAUGH AT THE WEATHER!

Don't knock the weather, windsurfers couldn't start a conversation without it.

Kin Hubbard with help from editor

There is little chance that meteorologists can solve the mysteries of weather until they gain an understanding of the mutual attraction of rain and weekends.

Arnot Sheppard

It is best to read the weather forecasts before we pray for rain.

Mark Twain

If you saw a heat wave, would you wave back?

Steven Wright

Finally, when the northern latitudes of the planet were engulfed by another ice age, Canadians were the last to know.



BEYOND CHERRY BEACH

GALS MAUI BEAT (Norah Jackson reporting)

Hey grrrrrls, gee, wish you were all here right now! It's so much fun! We did the 1st Navman Speed event yesterday, was totally fun, no stress, no buoys or starts to deal with, just blasting as fast as possible! Was a good morning, found some sort of flat spots, but then the tide came in and things got a little bumpy to go fast on. Ted did super-well (of course) and placed 5th overall for the day, and 2nd in his division. I was 3rd (so what's new) in the Women's, got beat by a hair by Ashley Baxter, the 16 year old heart breaker you may have seen as a recent cover girl for one of the windsurf magazines. (she's actually quite a nice girl) We had a great day, used a 4.7 Race sail, Ted was on his 5.5. Ted is so close behind the guys using "specialized equipment" like weight jackets and asymmetrical fins, would be scary for him to strap those things on. And, we have a lovely hot tub to relax in at the end of the day, wow is that nice! We also enjoyed driving our little red truck again, after 2 weeks of sweating over fixing it, as well as using all manner of noxious chemicals (a brand new coat of red primer paint, epoxy, fiberglass, and the most hideous stuff, a black gooey rubber gunk called Bed Liner we slathered all over the inside of the box) I can feel my liver and lungs protesting! anyway, it's done now, and we don't have to pile boards and stuff all over Helmut/Joey's little Honda! Lol



BEAVERTON EPIC

For years, S. Ontario shortboarders have headed to Beaverton's Centennial Park for epic sessions on NW winds. Here's a few shots of TWCers Graham Drinkwalter, Jon French and Bill Mackenzie enjoying an August 2007 session at "THE TON".



HATTERAS 2008...BOOKING NOW!

With TWC's 2007 Hatteras trip setting records for attendance, wind and fun, there's an even better selection of soundfront houses available for 2008 and we're hoping to have Dave Marshall back as instructor/coach for both weeks in April, 2008! Dates are April 12-19 and/or April 19-26, 2008. Cost is the same as it's been for the last several years...\$300cdn for the week's accommodation with refunds typically in the \$55-60cdn range. Since we've booked more spots than ever before, we've started taking registrations earlier this year and some 2007 guests are already registered for 2008...one house is already full! If you're interested, check the Club Trips/Hatteras pages on TWC's website for registration forms. In addition to 2008 spring trips, there is contact information for 2007 fall Hatteras trips on the TWC Trips/Hatteras web pages.

MARGARITA GROUP 2008

TWC members and guests who go to Margarita in the spring of 2008, may save as much as 15% by booking as part of the group. Groups of ten or more can save 15% on air and accommodation. This will be the third year that a group of TWC members have headed to Margarita in March, organized each year by TWC member Wes Skonrowski. Dates being considered for the group trip are March 5-19, 2008 as Easter will bring hordes of vacationing Venezuelans to Margarita later in March 2008.

Approximate costs are ;

Air (Toronto direct to Porlamar and return) - \$ 965 Cdn ea

Two weeks accommodation in El Yaque

(two bedroom apartment with breakfast shared by 4 or 5 people) - \$1000 Cdn ea

A group of ten or more could cut these prices by 15%. Contact Wes Skonrowski wes5000@hotmail.com for details or to book.



RACING AROUND!

NEW BOARDS, NEW SAILORS, SAME OLD WEDNESDAY NIGHT WIND...A WILD RACE SEASON!

(Paul "Still Champ for a few more precious weeks" Carr reporting)
Exocet Kona and Warp 380, BIC Hybrid, F2 Race 380 boards...and several new regular racers have all made their debuts during the Wednesday Night Battle for the Cup season. In spite of David Hayes' heroic efforts to make his RS:X competitive in the generally light Wed evening winds, longboards have been the most popular choice with the new 2007 Warp 380 longboard showing promise. Nick Cox is organizing TWC support for a World Longboard Association to encourage manufacturers to manufacture and sanction raceboards suitable for light wind racing. Get in touch with Nick if you're interested.

This has been a wild race season so far. With 3/4 of the season complete, our leader is former champ Ian Matthews, with Nick Cox (another former champ) chomping at his heels. We have had outstanding fleets with a wide range of experience levels. The many new faces and youth sailors have been pushing their way up the standings, while some veteran sailors have been responding to the challenge with a renewed push to the top.

This year's racing wrap-up will be on Wednesday, October 3rd (location TBA) starting at 6:30 p.m.

See you at the beach!



YOUTH WORLDS 2007: KINGSTON, ONTARIO (David Hayes reporting)

This is what a year's worth of training came down to. The regatta that mattered more than anything else to me this year was the ISAF Youth Worlds 2007 in Kingston Ontario held July 14th-21st. In the schedule the athletes get their brand new equipment two days before the official racing begins. The first day I got my gear was the perfect Kingston day with sunny windy conditions. The problem with getting brand new equipment prior to the regatta is that the gear could possibly be extremely slow or imbalanced or the other side could occur and you may luck out with a great set of gear.

I went out on the water to tune up with some of my training partners from other countries and they were passing me like a Ferrari would pass a truck. It was very frustrating because I knew I was much faster in the breeze than they were. To say the least it was not looking good for the regatta as my main goal was to place in the top five. The next day was the practice race day and my coach Alain Bolduc arrived that morning. We had a little chat and looked through my gear and found the source of most of my problems. The fin was as stiff as rock and sat very loosely in the fin box resulting in very poor energy transfer, explaining the truck-like speeds. I threw a new harness on and went to challenge the best youth in the world, right in my back yard. The practice race was cancelled due to strong winds and storms. To say the least the competitors were not pleased because as soon as we arrived back on shore, it cranked to 25 knots under sunny skies.

The first race day was light wind and since I was the heaviest in the fleet it was hard to keep up. My coach Alain Bolduc pointed out, "I did not want the start". I was only there for the experience. After a shaky first day I went home recovered and bounced back the next day. It started off looking like the same shifty, ugly light wind but on the way out to the course I felt the first puff of the day. The rest of the day was very breezy, between 18-25 knots true southwest Kingston conditions. It was the best day of racing I have ever had in my career. I placed second in the first race because I undershot the first layline and shot out a "bullet", winning the second race. I jumped up 10 places in one day on the result page. This was the first time a Canadian has ever recorded a first place finish in windsurfing at this event. As soon as the wind got over 15 knots my board speed upwind was the fastest in the fleet.

The rest of the regatta was up and down but it all came down to the last day. I was five points out of third place and the last day there was only one race to be scheduled. I woke up to a windy day. It was my day to make the move that I had been training hard for the last 6 months. It all came down to the start. I had to win the start to win the race and get a podium position. After an aggressive start, I made some great tactical moves on the first upwind to find myself in second place coming into the upwind mark. The person in front of me was in 14th position so I was not worried that he was ahead of me. As I approached the upwind mark I heard every racer's nightmare. The race committee at the top mark yelled, "Canada OCS!" To my dismay I had jumped the start gun, disqualifying me from this final race. At that point my dream of being on the podium vanished before my eyes.

All in all I am extremely happy with my result (finishing 6th overall) as I matched the best finish a Canadian windsurfer has ever achieved at this event. I know I gave it my all and no one can ever take that away from me. As for the next journey, I am making a push for the 2008 summer Olympic games in China.

See you on the water!



HELP SPEED UP SPEED SAILING!

Did you know the top speed on the 2008 TWC Speed Sailing Ladder is presently held by a member of...Barrie Windsurfing Association (BWA)? ...and that only one TWC sailor has submitted an eligible speed (must be a TWC member sailing somewhere in Ontario) for the 2008 Speed Sailing Ladder? Where are all you speed demons?

Yeah we know...it's been a tough summer to find wind, work and family have been keeping you busy and...

This year, 2007 Speed Sailing champion Jeff MacIntosh is encouraging sailors from TWC to team up to do friendly battle with the speedsters from our sister club in Barrie and thus we've listed Bob Moritz's (BWA member) speed even though he's not eligible for the Hope Trophy. So charge up that GPS and get out there when it's windy! Speed Sailing season ends at the end of October.



25TH MAMMOTH MARATHON

Part of Mammoth Race Weekend

Sunday September 9, 2007

Registration - 9:00 a.m.

Skippers' Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Race Start - 11:00 a.m. Sharp

LTW Course for LTW Students

Short Course - Outer Harbour

Long Course - Around Toronto Islands

Registration Fee - \$25.00, Event t-shirt - \$10.00

Biggest Ever Prize Draw and Presentations -
4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by; Boardsports, iwindsurf, F2, Neil
Pryde, Silent Sports, Windsport

*OSA Course Racing on Sat. Sept. 8



DAN LES' SOLUTION TO
LONGBOARD TIPPINESS



TWC FALL CALENDAR

Sep. 8-9 Mammoth Race Weekend including 25th
annual Mammoth Marathon distance Race, OSA#3

Sept. 26 - Wed Night Racing ends

Sept. 30 - LTW ends

Oct. 1-7 - Weymouth Speed Week

Oct. 5 - Wed. Night Race Wrap Up

Oct. 20-27, Oct 27-Nov. 3, CMWA Hatteras Weeks - open
to TWC members

Oct. 31 - Speed Sailing Season closes

Nov. 10 - Annual General Meeting and Dinner Dance

Nov. 14 - Deadline for 2008 Hatteras registration



LIGHT WIND PLANING