

GARDEN BAY SAILING CLUB

Carol Ships

The Annual Pender Harbour Carol Ship Parade will be taking place on December 15th. As mentioned in last month's letter it would be great if we could have a good turn out by members of the GBSC. At the time of writing we have *Frendy, Peregrine, Jenny L, Encore and Wings I, from the Club*, we need more boats.... there is still time. For more details contact Charlie Park at 604-883-0453

Skipper's Profile David Pritchard

David was born in Southern England, to parents who were farmers. The River Mole ran through the farm, and happily for Dave it always seemed to have water in it. As soon as he was able to use a few tools Dave built a canvas covered canoe from plans in a boy's magazine. After that he was often to be found exploring the many pools and meanders that the river made through the countryside. This success in boat building then resulted in a kayak, which in turn was followed by a self designed water ski boat, which was powered by an ancient 15hp outboard. The boat had a bit of a twist and "was so underpowered that only my skinniest friends could get up on skis".

In his early 20's David moved to Toronto. After reading "Voyaging under Sail" he had dreams of sailing off around the world. This dream was begun small when he built a Mirror dinghy in a friend's basement. In this boat David explored much of the lake country north of Toronto, and he eventually took it to

Northern Manitoba when he was transferred there.

With the appearance of kids, the Mirror was replaced by an 18' day sailor and then a 24' Paceship. The latter had been sold to him on the basis of being fast and having won a recent regatta.....It was a dog!

When David moved to Vancouver in 1980 the dreams of ocean sailing were once again reignited, and he "forked out \$4000 that I could ill afford for a 26' Haida sailboat of 1969 vintage". In her he and his family explored much of the Gulf Islands, and it is notable as being the only boat he has sold at a profit!

The offshore bug was still alive when David bought a Bristol Channel cutter, but due to the pressure of the technology business, where he worked, he decided to sell and concentrate on his career.

But being boat-less did not mean that David did not go sailing. He eventually got what he was looking for when he was asked to crew on a 67' steel sloop in the Atlantic Rally from the Canary Islands to Saint Lucia. It was a great experience except when one night, as helmsman, he unintentionally gibed the boat while flying a spinnaker, much to the skipper's dismay. A few years later David did another ocean trip on a Hunter 49' from Puerto Vallarta to Hiva Oa in the Marquesas.

Another move, this time to Bowen Island in the early 1990's, saw the sale of the Bristol Cutter and the purchase of a F27' farrier designed trimaran. This was a quantum move and David was soon to be seen actively racing with the Bowen Island Yacht Club. He also took part in a couple of Swiftsure Races, while living on Bowen.

The need for speed soon saw David moving up to a Farrier F31R, which one

year he had sailing at over 20 knots in the Cowichan Bay Regatta.

The running of Fisherman's Marina, resulted in his trimaran sitting unused for most of the year and with a sad heart David sold it and bought a "very beaten up Martin 242", which he now races when ever the time permits, with great success.

David is another of the many members of the Garden Bay Sailing Club who has added much to the weekly sailing scene. David is also to be thanked as he has also provided Fisherman's Resort and Marina as a very gracious venue for the Annual Malaspina Regatta BBQ.

Next meeting

It is always hard to schedule things in the busy month of December, but lets try to have our next gathering on **this Saturday, December 8th**. If we race the meet will be held after the Race, and if not, we will meet around 12 noon. This will be the final chance this year. I look forward to seeing a large turn out to celebrate the year's sailing. Call either David Twentyman 604-883-1199 or Tom Barker 604-883-2689 to find out if there is a race that day.

Season's Greetings

Another year is coming to a close and I believe that we can look back on a very successful year of sailing. We have discussed a number of new ideas for 2013 and I look forward to seeing them fulfilled. It would be remiss of me if I did not take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and Good Fortune in the New Year.