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# The Blue Duster



**Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club**

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**January, 2016**

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## From the Commodore

### Happy New Year!

As we welcome in 2016, we say goodbye to 2015. We have had an amazing year at the club. A new yard manager, Thank you, Ron Hayes!...new members.. welcome! Some new docks, a new mega yacht, and some very interesting times.

### Some of 2015 highlights include:

The Annual Cruise - Than you, Colleen and Gary Sullivan, and your committee! I have heard "It was the best!" You know, this will make it hard to match your success in the future. But never fear... it is a challenge that will be a pleasure to work on. Watch for information on this year's cruise.

Charity Regatta raised over \$16,000 for the Empty Stocking Fund, and over three years, has raised in excess of \$60,000 for charities in the Saint John area. I am excited about this year's Regatta, as we will be raising funds for Pro Kids. Let's put our thinking caps on, and come together to make this another amazing year, for the kids and for our club!

I am looking forward to 2016, and what that might mean for the club and our members. Stay tuned! Watch the website! Check out the Facebook page! Ask to be added to our email list! There are exciting times coming!

On behalf of the Executive, the staff and committees, I wish you a happy, healthy and wealthy 2016!

### Entertainment Update

The lineup for the Annual Wine and Food Pairing, is almost complete, and we have finally figured out a price. Only \$35pp, but bad news, it is sold out. We do have a waiting list, in case there are cancellations. If you are already booked, and not going to be able to make it, please let us know, as we have limited space, and a waiting list.

Jan 29, Marcel Caissie will be showing off his unique form of music... Will be a fun night!

Feb 5th, sign up for the Van Vino!! Details to follow, but it will be an evening of creativity, laughter and an all-around fun night! \$40pp, includes all your painting supplies! No experience necessary, just a love for trying something new. The bar is open to all that evening, even if you want to check out the event, but not participate!

More events on the way... Port Party (Everything Red), Pot Luck Party, Thank Gawd It's Spring, Murder Mystery... lots on the agenda!

If you have an idea for an evening of entertainment for the members, please contact us, and we will see if we can make it happen!!

### Handicapped parking

We want to thank Elwood Johnson for looking after having our parking lot lines repainted along with adding the logo for the two handicapped parking spots. The two spots closest to the Clubhouse are now reserved for those displaying permits.

### Buffets

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** Carved Slow Roasted Prime Rib of Beef Baked Shrimp and Salmon Casserole 26.00

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** Char Crusted Pork Loin, Sweet Chilli Plum Chutney Herb Crusted Chicken, Roasted Tomato and Onion Jus 23.00

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** Peppercorn Mushroom Beef Tips Broiled Salmon, Molasses Whiskey Cream 23.00

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** Sesame Garlic and Ginger Chicken Carved Honey Ham, Pommery Mustard Glaze Scalloped Potato 23.00

### Annual Meeting

The RKYC Annual Meeting is coming up on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 pm after the buffet. Come out and find out what's happening at the RKYC in the coming year and take a look back at 2015. Financial statements will be available at the end of the month.

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## America's Cup 45 Regatta in Bermuda

Submitted by Dr. Herb Mitton



... and it started with a call from Bermuda

Suzie: "Hi Dad, Remembrance Day is mid-week - so why don't come a couple of weeks early when the AC 45 Regatta."

Herb: "Suzie, I thought the America Cup was to be in Bermuda in 2017 and its match racing."

Suzie: "Yes Dad, but already five contenders and the defender are having fleet races here to establish starting position for the Louie Vuitton Series. There has been a regatta in Gothenburg, Sweden and one in England and now we're having a host regatta, a Saturday/Sunday series here in the sound in Bermuda."

Herb: "Sounds exciting, count me in."

On Friday afternoon we drove into downtown Hamilton to see what was happening. First view, a five story banner on a building for America Cup, lampposts decorated with the six country flags and banners with pictures of each skipper. Temporary buildings of shipping containers for boat facilities were stacked up an official clothing outlet, a Dark & Stormy Bar, and entertainment staging had been erected..



Front Street was closed to traffic and became a walk way with music, shops, and kiosks set up. The six AC 45 cats were swinging lazily on moorings along the water front and a large video display of past races was flashing. It was definitely going into early party mode.

Suzie had luckily gotten her boss's 22 ft cuddy runabout so we were on the water for the event. With races planned for Saturday afternoon, we packed lunch, swimsuits, sunglasses and drinks and we were off to the races. It was a great day. Sunny and hot with small white clouds and blue sky but alas no wind. We waited with at least a thousand other boats anchored along the course through postponement after postponement. As the afternoon slipped away they did do a little demo sail about the harbour but there wasn't enough wind to get up on foils. Fortunately the forecast for Sunday was twelve to fifteen knots of wind – the perfect wind and that proved true.



On Sunday we got a great anchorage on the left side of the course halfway up near the start line. Yes that's different. The side

midcourse start line allows the boats to turn to beam and immediately go up on foils. It's a fast start to midcourse, then round a buoy to starboard and head downwind to the windward gate. The date is two buoys they must go between but then may turn to round either one. Next they tack to windward to the windward gate. Again two buoys



where they can turn either way onto the downward leg. It's then to the leeward gate, back to the windward gate and a final run downwind to the finish. Total time... maybe twenty minutes.



Do they fly? Oh yes! Because the difference in speed in the water or up on foils is so great positions can change in a second. When up on foils, seven to ten feet out of the water, they are fast but unsteady. With spray flying they speed by. To capture

all the action, a helicopter was shipped to the island to get the ariel footage needed.

There were three races. We could see the start, some of the action at the



windward gate and the boats flying down on their tacks downwind. There is not much structure to the open catamaran hulls but those three story foils are impressive and the action of the boats getting on and off plane is "nail biting" excitement.

The next race I heard is in Chicago in the spring, and then I assume a homeland venue for Japan, New Zealand, and France all in preparation for the America Cup match racing in Bermuda in 2017.