

KITSILANO YACHT CLUB



The Hailer
February 2017

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Fleet News - The Lightning Fleet

In the January issue of the Hailer, Fleet News highlighted Pacific Reach paddlers. This month, we are taking a look at the Lightning Fleet.

Lightning Fleet 90 English Bay, (KYC was the 90th Lightning fleet), was established in 1945 and has sailed continuously at KYC since then. Currently there are 7 Lightnings at KYC. The Lightning Fleet races on Thursday nights, starting at the end of April and ending the second week of September. Depending on the amount of daylight, and, of course, the wind, the fleet tries to get in at least three races each evening. There is a winner declared each Thursday night and the results of the entire season are announced and trophies awarded at the Annual Awards Dinner in November. Because the Lightning Fleet is very active, they are also frequently the winners of the Sandbar Trophy. Two Lightning skippers, Menno Bos and Chris Duncombe, share this honour for 2016. Ury Segal is the Fleet Captain for the KYC Lightning Fleet, and you can contact him if you'd like to participate in the fleet activity.

From Wikipedia:

The **Lightning** is a [sloop rigged sailing dinghy](#) originally designed by [Olin Stephens](#) of [Sparkman & Stephens](#) in 1938 and was first sailed on [Skaneateles Lake, NY](#), United States. More than 15,000 Lightnings have been built since then. There are over 500 fleets of Lightnings worldwide, many of which participate in [dinghy racing](#).

Awarded [ISAF](#) International Class status, the Lightning is sailed in more than 13 countries and in the [Pan American Games](#), and the class provides a professionally managed association that is among the largest in all of [one-design](#) sailing. A World Championship is held every two years.

North American, South American and European Championships are held each year as are innumerable regional and District championships.

There is room in the [cockpit](#) for four to daysail, but a crew of three is employed when racing. On most racing teams, the [skipper](#) helms the boat and handles the [mainsail](#). The front crew on a racing team handles the [jibupwind](#) and is responsible for [spinnaker](#) pole handling downwind. When racing, a middle crew is relied upon for trimming the spinnaker downwind and has boat balance as a primary responsibility upwind.

From the International Lightning Class Association website,

<http://www.lightningclass.org/resources/buyingLightning/aboutLightning.asp>:

What is perhaps unusual in the boat is that the designers, Sparkman and Stevens, gave the Class association not only rights, but ownership of the design and the name. All royalties for many of the boat's components, including the hull, mast, and sails go to the International Lightning Class Association, who also regulates the design and the Class activities. This fact is probably the biggest single reason for the continued success of the Class. It is also the reason the boat gets but limited "press" in the various journals or shows. Class ownership means limited manufacturer control and fewer paid advertisements.

From the 1999 Kitsilano Yacht Club Year Book (with some 2017 updates):

Lightnings, otherwise known as the beloved square yachts, have been around English Bay since the mid-forties. Vancouver is a long way from the centre of Lightning action (in the eastern states 50 boat fleets are not at all uncommon), but we still know how to go out and have a good time! Here are ten reasons why you should try sailing a Lightning:

10. No slippery ramp launching
9. No wet suits required
8. A crew of three guarantees good conversation while sailing
7. There is lots of room on board for superb on board catering
6. The middle crew is rookie friendly.
5. A giant spinnaker means exciting runs and reaches, be we usually go decades between capsizes
4. They are not expensive. A well maintained older boat at less than \$8,000, will do well anywhere.
3. The second biggest class organization in the world. Check out the website, <http://www.lightningclass.org/>
2. A big, comfortable and dry cockpit – just right for a day sail over to Caulfield Cove
1. It's hip to sail square!



- Design: Sparkman & Stephens, 1938
- Over 15000 built
- More than 500 fleets worldwide
- Length: 19'0" (5.8m)
- Beam: 6'6" (2m)
- Displacement: 700 lb. (318 kg)
- Draft (board down): 4'11" (151.3cm)
- (board up): 5" (12.8cm)
- Mast height: 26'2" (7.9m)
- Sail area (main & jib): 177 sq.ft.
- (spinnaker): 300 sq.ft.
- Crew (racing): 3

[Racing News](#)

Calling all Fleets! The Spring Series starts March 19th!

Janet Stamper Series - Spring 2017 – Starting March 19th

Race Day 1 – March 19th

Race Day 2 - April 9th

Race Day 3 - April 23rd

Race Day 4 - May 07th

Race Day 5 - May 28th

Member boats of the KYC FREE. Non-members boats \$15 per day or \$50 for each Series.

Sailing Instructions

SIs can be found on the KYC [website](#) by logging on and going to the Racing drop-down menu and then selecting Spring Racing Series.

Janet Stamper was the Cal 20 Fleet Captain in 2002. Janet was one of the founding members of the Vancouver Cal 20 Association in 1988 and served as Fleet Captain for many years. Her dedication to racing and love of Cal 20s has been instilled in many. She had been an instructor in the original Jib Set Sailing School / club and she had raced Cal 20s in our one design class here in Vancouver and in multiple events in California, Hawaii, and Victoria. She was a member / executive of the RNSA and participated in those events with her C&C 36, Excalibur.

Our Cal 20 Spring and fall Series was originally named the Bill Brassington Series and, after 25 years and the passing of Janet Stamper, we retired the Bill Brassington Series with the blessing of Bill's daughter and created the Janet Stamper series. The trophy was commemorated on her behalf by our fleet and the Vancouver Optimist Society. This year will mark the 9th annual running of the Spring / Fall Janet Stamper Series.

The Janet Stamper Series is a Cal 20 event held in conjunction with the KYC Spring and Fall series. It would be a great opportunity for other fleets to develop and hold their own series in conjunction with this event.

Know your Club

The Club bylaws stipulate the Club shall have two ranks of officers, Flag Officers and Honourary Officers. Flag officers are elected, for a one year term, at the KYC Annual General Meeting, held each October. The Flag Officers are Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Fleet Captain, and Staff Captain.

This is the second installment of Know your Club and the focus is on the Vice Commodore.

Our Vice Commodore is Mark Kelly and he officiates in the absence of the Commodore and assists him/her in his/her duties. S/he shall also be responsible for the sail training program.

Mark has been hard at work on the sail training program and has the following update:

MacSailing is looking forward to providing our sail training in 2017. We will be updating the website to reflect the new schedule over the next month. There will be a variety of courses on keelboats and dinghies for adults and watersports programs for kids.

Kits Chronicles by Barbara Dill

The Dock

In the early days, there was no dock. Boats, even Stars, were launched from the beach and tethered to moorings for the sailing season. Access to these moorings was provided by Frank Fraser. As the plaque on the wall of the KYC clubhouse and the historical marker at the foot of the stairs relate, Frank was a significant figure on Kitsilano beach in 1934 when KYC was established.

Frank operated a marina just to the east of KYC. He championed the formation of the yacht club and was a founding member. Frank's employees ferried sailors out to and back from their moored boats.

Construction of an 80 foot long, wooden dock was completed in 1938. There was a hand operated crane, but most boats continued to be kept on moorings.

The dock has always been subject to storm damage. Although a rock groyne had been built designed for protection, in 1947 the dock was totally destroyed as a consequence of "a howling gale, towering seas and battering logs". After the dock was replaced, the crane was electrified using parts salvaged from the service elevator of the old Vancouver Hotel. The dock was extended 280 feet in 1963.

A major storm on March 31, 1975 caused a massive log boom located west of Point Grey to break up. The released logs battered the middle section of the dock, demolishing it and leaving

the crane isolated on a platform at the end of the dock. The dock was repaired due to the efforts of member volunteers and was ready for the start of the sailing season.

The dock requires continual maintenance and members have stepped up many times to repair and improve the dock and float.



Club News

Obituary

Life Member Cliff Harris passed away suddenly at home in late December. A service for Cliff will be held on Friday, March 17th. If you would like more information about the service, please email the Club Manager and he will pass the email to the Staff Captain who will get in touch with you.

Mark Your Calendar – Saturday, March 4

On Saturday, March 4, Kitsilano Yacht Club is pleased to host Geoff Moore as he presents the North U Rules & Tactics Seminar. Check-in is at 8:30am and the seminar runs from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

You can't play the game if you don't know the rules. The North U Rules & Tactics Seminar covers the racing rules, (new & old), and related tactics with a case-based curriculum so you'll understand your rights, obligations and tactical options whenever boats meet. Dave Perry's North U Racing Rules & Tactics Workbook is included with the course.

Price* includes lunch

Member CN\$115

Skipper CN\$135

Crew CN\$115

Jr/ Student CN\$70

* Plus GST & PST

REGISTER TODAY AT NorthU.com or call 203 245-0727.

Membership Renewals due February 28, 2017

Membership in Kitsilano Yacht Club expires on 2/28/2017. We hope you will continue to support us by renewing your membership as soon as possible.

To renew online, login to your account on the [KYC website](#) and prompts will appear to assist you to renew your membership.

Do you have a refrigerator you no longer need or want? Perhaps remodeling or upgrading your appliances? If you have a fridge in good working condition, and could donate it, KYC is looking to replace the fridge that is between the kitchen serving counter and the back wall of the bar area. If you have a fridge that would meet our needs, please email Colm at manager@kitsilanoyachtclub.com .

Message from the Staff Captain

If you have any photos of the club or vacation photos you would like to share, please pass them along to Colm and they will appear in the next Hailer.

Here are a couple of pictures as opposite as it is possible...

A picture taken just before our paddlers headed out for a training session....



Photo courtesy of Doug Thomas

...and a picture of Menno paddling off Majahuitas Beach - Banderas Bay Mexico in early February.



Photo courtesy of KYC's landlubber Staff Captain

Contact Us

Do you have suggestions or comments you would like to share? Your feedback is welcomed whether we are doing something well or if there is something we could be doing better. Feedback is important as it helps us to make positive changes and, we need to hear from you. Our General Manager, Colm Webb, would like to receive your comments.

Colm can be reached at manager@kitsilanoyachtclub.com or 604-730-1646. Colm can also take your feedback confidentiality if you wish.

KYC in the snow!

Many thanks to Colm for sharing some of his pictures...



On the way to the club



The path to the club





The sun did eventually come out



And Vancouver sparkled

The Last, Silly word....

Two canoeists were paddling down the river, when they hit a concrete wall. One looked at the other and said, dam!

Courtesy of Green Wave Forum

