

MASTERS MATTERS

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President's Message

Safety on the water - please read the article on page 6 from Joe Windsurfer. Wow he is so lucky to have survived, what a story. Joe lost his board when the rig separated from the board and almost lost his life. Make sure you have a whistle and stay with your board and always sail with a buddy are the 3 key messages. Also, for those of you that like to paddle, please make sure you have a lanyard connecting your leg and the board. Every year paddle boarders die because they fall off their boards and cannot swim fast enough to catch up with their boards blown away in the wind.

As I said in our last newsletter, Suzanne has worked with Trois-Rivières for our 2018 Championship and has got us a great deal, the same as we got at Deep River. See more in Suzanne's article on page 2. Hoping to see you all at this awesome location. We had such a great time in 2005 (gosh was that 13 years ago). I purchased an RS:X back then but I have since graduated to the wonderful Kona which for us "young guys" works really well. Andrée used to lap me but now with a 7.8m I am only ½ lap behind with my 9m. Sometimes I can beat John Darling too! (Not often though.)

As you know we had a great turnout at the Kona North American championships in Clearwater in October 2017 with 5 masters attending out of 50 competitors. We are hoping for just as good a Canadian presence in October 2018 when we return to Clearwater for the Kona Worlds (Oct 26 to 31). I see we have 3 Canadians registered already.

Stephanie did a great job with our Spring Get Away in Port Bolster. We had a good group in this great setting. The highlight I think was Stephanie's smoked salmon on the deck each evening in lovely weather. Wind was light on Saturday so everyone went out paddle boarding. On Sunday the wind picked up and we all got out ok. Olivia Mew came out and gave some great coaching which we all appreciated.

I am also pleased to announce that Olivia Mew is going to try for the Pan Am Games next year. She recently qualified Canada for women in RS:X at the North Americans in Mexico. So let's hope we do well next year at the Pan Am Games and put RS:X Canadians back in the Olympics. The Canadian male RS:X is Gabriel Verrier-Paquette. See attached <http://panamsailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/STATUS-OF-COUNTRY-QUALIFICATION-2019-PAN-AM-GAMES-JUNE-1-2018.pdf>

See you all on the water soon. By the way, the TWC continues to hold Wednesday night racing at the club each week with good attendance. Last week we had 2 gusting to 3 knots and still got 16 racers out! Good days (5 knots or more) we get 25. The RS:X team did well of course with lots of pumping. So if any of you are in town and want to race, I am sure we can fix you up with gear. Just call me at 647-966 6191.



CMWA Championships 2018 - A Return to Trois-Rivières

By Suzanne Roberge

If memory serves me well, the last time the CMWA held an event in Trois-Rivières, it was in 2005. And a lot of us were there in 2013 for the Kona Worlds. So it is time to go back and enjoy what the Club Multivoile 4 Saisons has to offer! Dominique Vallée and her team are busy organizing another great event. If you have not done so yet, please register early on our website at <http://windsurf.ca/events/annual-championships/>. The price goes up after June 30th so there's one more reason to register now. The weekend festivities will start Friday, August 3rd with a reception for the participants. August 4, 5 and 6 will see course racing and other depending on the wind. If the wind is too light to race, we will be able to demo some of Dominique's stand up paddle boards!



Kona News

As of today, there are 7 Canadians registered for the Kona Worlds in Clearwater, Florida from October 26 to 31, 2018. Go Canada Go!! Let's hope a few more people register. Visit this website for more information - <http://2018worlds.konaone.com/>

Kona now has 3 websites. The original URL of konaone.com is now used for the "Kona Club" which is a new concept to promote windsurfing and the Kona class. Good idea, especially for clubs that want to include windsurfing in their sailing programs. Clubs can buy Kona kits at a reduced rate and must be serious in their mission to promote the sport and the class. That means organize clinics once in a while, local races, etc. Just to make sure the boards get used and get people to come and try windsurfing.

<http://class.konaone.com/>

Old website where the events list is located and information on racing and the class.

<http://www.konawindsurfing.com/>

And this one that seems to combine everything related to the Kona brand.



Bonaire

By Stephanie Todd

Bonaire has become a Canadian winter destination thanks to Sunwing Airlines that offer direct flights from Toronto to Bonaire from December - April. Unfortunately for us those times don't fit in our schedule as we like to come at the end of April for a month. I do know some of our other members were able to take advantage of the flights and enjoyed their visits to the beautiful island of Bonaire.

As a result of more flights and more tourists the landscape is changing as new resorts and apartments and condos are built. The good news is that nothing goes above 2 stories here and much of the island is protected by a non-profit organization Stinapa. They protect the National Marine Park which extends from the high water mark to a depth contour of 60 meters along the entire coast of Bonaire, including Klein Bonaire and Lac Bai. They also manage the Washington Slagbaai National Park which is 5,643 hectares of nature sanctuary. So if you are not into windsurfing there are lots of other things to do on the island. Diving and snorkelling as well as biking or hiking. There are plenty of stores in Kralendijk to shop at. And restaurants galore!

Despite the fact that we have been coming to Bonaire for 15 years we have never ventured into the National Park. Why? Because the easterly trade winds blow pretty well all the time which allows us to windsurf out of Bonaire Windsurf Place daily. This year, we sailed everything from a 6.5 to a 4.0 on 100L to 81L boards.

We can't say enough about the 2 great windsurf shops that sponsor our Canadian Masters Association with a 10% discount on board rentals. Both Bonaire Windsurf Place (BWP) and Jibe City are giving our members a coupon that they can present at respective locations in order to receive their discount.

So this year with all the high winds we had, our jibes are improving, especially mine after the best lesson from "Ro", Ronald Meyer at BWP. On the water for over an hour, first on a 5.0 then a 4.5 because the winds picked up and he could see I was struggling holding the 5.0 on my 90L iSonic. I highly recommend the lessons at BWP as this is my 4th since coming to Bonaire. Most of their staff are Masters as well so they really understand our needs.

Foodies on the Bay is right next to Lac Bay Villa (another sponsor of the Masters!). It became a fav place to grab a drink, lunch or dinner when we didn't feel like cooking. They have \$10 nights from 5-7 and you certainly get more than you really need. Kite City Food Truck has the best fish on the island. One of our crew of friends from here arranged a sunset gathering and the Food Truck opened back up for us. What a great way to watch a sunset... drinks (bring your own) and fish cooked and served in a multitude of ways.

I could go on and on about how great this place is but come to Bonaire and see for yourselves!



D2 News

By Joe Windsurfer with intro by Éric Bouillet

“Joe Windsurfer”, this is how Joe defines himself as the “average windsurfer Joe”.

Joe is a real gentleman, very well educated person, discrete, sincere... Passionate about windsurfing for so many years, he has a couple of boards that he's used to sail on his lake.

Joe has been curious for a while about the D2, but then became seriously obsessed by getting a D2. Finally he decided to acquire that Reix Competition I had repaired, repainted and stored in my garage, waiting for a new owner... You remember, that Reix I found 10 years ago abandoned on the shore of the St. Lawrence River, tossed against the rocks... Don't you? You can imagine the extent of the damages she had suffered. Unable to find the original owner, I elected to bring it back home and one day started to renovate it. Now she was beautiful again ready to sail and compete...

So Joe became the new, proud owner of that beauty...

On this Sunday, May 20th 2018, Joe's heart was certainly beating faster as he was putting her down on the beach sand, so impatient to go. First time ever for him sailing a D2, first time ever for the board to return on the water since I found her abandoned on the rocky shores of the river...

Very few witnesses to observe the scene that day, no other windsurfers, but Joe's GoPro only to recount us all the following story... Water is cold (about 12C), wind/currents strong (15-20 knots+/-3-4 knots), sun is shining (outside temp about 20C)... Joe starts and leave the beach.

What happened after is all about Destiny...

A quick summary is that I was **out alone on semi-cold water** (about 15 degrees C or 59 F) doing a first run with my newly-acquired D2/div2/Division 2 board. The wind was side-shore and my first session of the year at La Crête/OKA Parc.

The good news is that I was wearing a wetsuit (only the farmer john portion of a 2 piece BARE), booties and did have on my good safety jacket.

The bad news is - I did NOT prepare for the unexpected!!

The board was a 1982/1983 REIX Competition board that had been found on some rocks near Montreal by Éric Bouillet, who is the President of the international id2ca organization. They are trying to get a comeback on these boards - racing/fun/etc.

When I purchased the board, I asked if the mast base connection was solid. Eric had replied YES. It definitely connects well with a modern Chinook mast base.

Basically what did happen was - the mast base DID separate from the board in the middle of the lake. When I was attempting a tack. André Lefrançois at work says why not a jibe/gybe??

Was informed by Eric and iWindsurf forum that this was known issue - in 20 years of windsurfing, I have NEVER had this issue... Not with Fanatic Ultra Cat, BIC Dufours, BIC SL200 and definitely not with boards that have mast tracks.

I managed to grab the board once, but let it go when going for the sail. That was a MAJOR mistake - forget the sail at this point - get on the board or get a good solid grip. I considered getting rid of the life jacket and dashing after the board. Was worried about being in the middle of the lake with nothing.

So, the board continued on its way and I was left with the sail. Basically I swam for two (2) hours until I was rescued... More on that later.

What I did not have was - NO phone in water proof bag (both in the van).
Did not have a whistle - also in the van.

As I said, I did NOT plan for the unexpected and was ALONE on the water.
The alone part surprised me - there were kites on the beach when I left and NO boats on the water during the first long weekend of the season. Basically the kites stayed close to shore and boaters were all preparing for the upcoming season. It had been a rough spring - with lotsa rain.

I am SURE I had some premonition because once started, my thought was to go across to the other side (3-4 km across) and then tack in the shallow waters - in case anything went wrong.

What happened with the wind and current I was headed more downwind and would have to go into the bay. So, I was thinking, "Is that really necessary? What can go wrong?" and I tried a tack, but with the rounded belly of the board was having some issues...
The sail came out...

Two major issues as far as I am concerned - where I should have known better.
They are not about safety equipment, but more about the plan of action!!

- 1) If testing a new setup - use on-shore winds , smaller venue, etc.
i.e. **TAKE IT EASY.**
- 2) IF board and sail separate - **go for the board** and hold on to it for dear life.
i.e. this is your safety vehicle.

The other BIG lessons are **safety**...

If alone - bring whistle, phone, VHF, beacon, everything you got.

On older boards (1980's) tie the sail to the board. A couple of times I immersed my head in the water to save the sail. That is NOT recommended and may have been why I was starting hypothermia.

When I was rescued by Caroline (a sailing instructor of Club de voile Deux-Montagnes, Vaudreuil) I could barely get in the inflatable dinghy and was shaking profusely. I waved them down when I thought their eyes may be directed in my direction. Simon Deschênes (a 14 year old sailor) helped drag my ass into the dinghy. I draped a windbreaker over my shoulders and Caroline called ahead to Guy at the club. The sail was rescued and so was I. Guy met us at the dock and I was checked for hypothermia and asked if I thought I needed an ambulance. I did not think so. By pressing my skin and seeing the colour come back in 2 seconds Guy felt I was just starting hypothermia. I was offered a hot shower and hot tea. Both items were helpful in getting my core temperature back. Actually had to go in and out of the hot shower for about an hour before I could stop shivering entirely. Then I sat in the sun out of the wind to completely warm up.

People at the club were SO friendly and helpful. Caroline, Guy, Guy Deschênes, his wife, Simon and Daniel - thank you so much. I asked the club how I could thank them through the club. The Deschênes actually gave me a ride back in their van to La Crête - once Simon finished his lesson. At the park I could not get a ride at the gate because there was an emergency. The kites at the park had actually called 911 - they saw me go, but never come back!! It turns out - I was the emergency :-). Everyone seemed so happy to see me - and I was even happy to see my co-workers on Tuesday after a long weekend :-).

What about the board ??

Many e-mails to boat clubs, windsurf forums, windsurf shops, etc.

It is not about the money - it's just because that board was about reviving DIV2. For that reason Éric of id2ca, who sold me the board, is more concerned than I about retrieving it. I would sail it again when it turns up - but either permanently attaching base or at least make it better and attach it to the sail!

Today, the next Sunday, my wife and I went to check out where board may have gone. Drove north side of the 40 just west of the BIG bridge/Pont-Île-aux-Tourtes? - until we hit water. Talked to Daniel and Guy Deschênes at Club de voile Deux-Montagnes, Vaudreuil - my rescuers. Drove around Île Cadieu stopping at a few places and looking about. Went to Senneville avenue to try and see from the other side. WOW - really do need a boat and lotsa time. Daniel seemed to think it would end up in Laval. I am almost guessing more South shore. Oh well - I tried.

A buddy suggested I mention that it took some time to recover. At least a couple of days - from the effort and initial hypothermia. In terms of the wife - yes, she is more wary about my going out alone. Suggests getting the VHF first, etc. Co-workers ask the following Monday - you're alive?? My new song is "Stayin' Alive" from the Bee Gees! I am ready to go out again - just waitin' for wind!!! (with whistle and phone if alone)

MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Except from Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide

Basic safety items to have when windsurfing:

One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board

One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long

One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance

NOTE: Kiteboarders and sailboarders should not wear a lifejacket or PFD that is fitted with an automatic inflator.



Spring Windsurfing Weekend

By Stephanie Todd

We could not have asked for a better weekend, well maybe a little more wind but that didn't dampen the mood of the 13 participants. We had sunshine and warmth.

Many did some paddling on Friday evening then enjoyed BC smoked salmon on the executive deck along with some other goodies and beverages of course. This was followed by our usual social in the white cottage while Stephanie and the boys served up homemade pizzas.

Saturday morning after the main group had gone to the Golf Course for breakfast as Casey's was not open, I started the prep of the hearty vegetable bean soup. After they arrived back, I pulled out some retro sails and we decided we would rig them and maybe sail with them if we had any wind. Unfortunately the wind did not appear so we went paddle boarding along the shores of Lake Simcoe. The sails did find new homes with John Darling and Peter Fodor so I was happy about that.

I had an opportunity to paddle in the morning with Olivia Mew, who had volunteered to come up to the cottages to give us some tips on rigging and sailing. She did spend time in the morning when she arrived helping others rig sails and tune them. Most of the day was spent relaxing by the water or paddling. Joe and I went for a swim after our paddle later in the day. The water was not too cold...well more like refreshing!

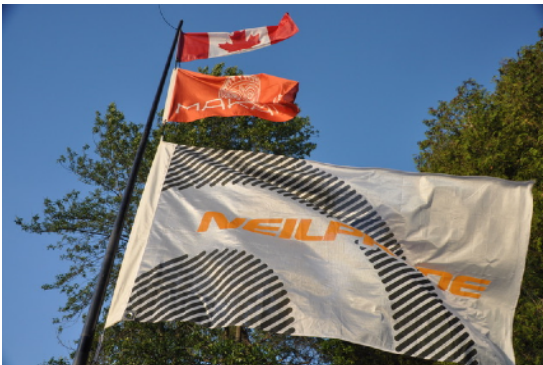
It seemed like all we were doing was eating when we were not paddling but the Executive Cottage was the meeting place for appetizers and drinks while we watched the sunset. This of course was followed by a smorgasbord of delicious food and desserts. We celebrated our newest sponsor by taking some group pictures. Some stayed up later than usual but all were fairly bright eyed the next morning when we took off for breakfast at Casey's. Raj and his wife are always so happy to see us. We just have to keep coming back there to support the local community.

Sunday the winds were off shore but we all got out and Olivia made a point of sailing with each of us to watch our technique and give us a couple of tips on improving our sailing. Her feedback was invaluable! By 2 p.m. people were starting to pack up their gear and clean up the cottages.

Thank you, Olivia, for coming up and paying it forward to the CMWA, who will continue to help support windsurfing at the national level. We certainly wish you all the best in getting Sail Canada to send a male and a female athlete to the Pan Am Games.

Thanks especially to Joyce, Bob and Nick for helping out with the cleaning of the cottages before locking up and having our traditional pint on the executive deck before heading home.

Looking forward to the fall event on September 7-9, 2018. Check the website to register, www.windsurf.ca. Looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and maybe some new additions to close out the CMWA event season.



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2018 Championship
Suzanne Roberge & Éric Bouillet in collaboration with Dominique Vallée

Upcoming Events 2018

July 14-15 – National Capital Regatta, Britannia Yacht Club, Ottawa, Suzanne Roberge, roberge811@sympatico.ca or www.byc.ca.

August 3, 4, 5 & 6 – **CMWA Championship**, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Suzanne Roberge roberge811@sympatico.ca.

September 7-9 – **CMWA Fall Windsurfing Weekend**, Port Bolster, Ont., Stephanie Todd, surfit@sympatico.ca. Registration form (to come) – www.windsurf.ca/events

October 26-31 – Kona World Championships, Clearwater, Florida. <http://class.konaone.com/Event/2536/2018-kona-worlds>

The next newsletter should be published in the Fall 2018. We welcome all contributions. Please e-mail your articles and pertinent pictures to roberge811@sympatico.ca.

Sponsors



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