



Annual Report 2023

15 December 2023

Introduction

The 2023 season started in late May and finished in mid October. Compared to 2022 there was a significant increase in membership, social sailing and lessons reflecting the Club 's recovery from the impact of the Covid19 pandemic. There were 14 new members and 34 members in all including 4 honorary members. Honorary members are boat donors and members who provided exceptional service in the past.

The Club launched 3 boats (Artemis, Conquistador and Allegro). Artemis was on a seasonal rental and Conquistador and Allegro were available to club members for rental, social sailing and lessons.

Blue Sky Sailing Club is a not-for-profit company organised in Ontario. Articles of incorporation require an Annual General Meeting and the election of members to serve on a management committee, which committee guides and conducts the organisation's business for the purpose of, inter alia, "Promoting the sport of sailing".

Management Committee

The 2023 committee comprised Bob Carpenter (Commodore), Jan Luthe (Vice Commodore), Theresa MacRory (Treasurer), Carol Tremblay (Secretary), Darin Mendoza (Events and PR) and Chris Fulton (Racing). In addition, Henry Van Brussel was an Honorary committee member who provides advice to the committee from time to time.

Committee members have agreed to stand for election again in 2024 and Jim Puddister is also nominated. The committee's recommendation is to expand the number of members as Chris Fulton will be away ocean sailing for several months of the year.

Volunteers and Donations

The club thrives because of donated help and volunteer effort. Particularly Theresa MacRory stored Artemis, Jan Luthe stored Conquistador, Heinz Schlueting stored Blaze and numerous members donated time and effort to provide lessons and maintenance work on the boats. Jan Luthe's work in attending to boat maintenance, launching and repair is highlighted and recognized by members. This year a major challenge was to get Conquistador up and running which included an engine change and then a cylinder head swap. The Club is grateful to Jan.

Financials

In 2023 the Club operations generated the most income in the last 5 years and a surplus of just under \$5,000. There will be some significant expenses during the winter as a furling headsail is added to Conquistador .

Income Statement

Revenue			Actual 2023	Actual 2022	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Initiation Fees	14	100	1,400	1,100	300		1,100
Memberships/Annual Dues	34	150	5,100	4,200	1,200		4,500
Social Sails			1,230	400	160		2,660
Boat Rentals			3,050	1,825	3,200	4,800	1,675
Club Events			860	50			1,165
Sailing Courses/Skipper Ck			1,600	2,400	800		720
Donation				57	108		
Other (e.g. boat sale, T Shirts, Community events)			201	-	185		36
Total			13,441	10,032	5,953	4,800	11,856
Expenses							
Docking			2,988	2,901	2,993	2,735	2,738
Insurance			1,363	1,417	1,383	1,977	1,977
Boat & Trailer Storage (Allegro)			360	360			-
Promo. Materials / Adv/ Web			679	604	276	219	514
Allegro - Supplies & Misc			129	428		642	524
Artemis - Supplies & Misc			244	513	113	66	1,123
Blaze - Supplies & Misc			357	27	108	644	2,386
Aloha - Trailer \$ misc			2,104	4,502			
Donated supplies			(197)				
Gas and oil			268	-			154
Bank Interest			-		10	7	-
Bank charges			233	216	185	173	114
Total Expenses			8,528	10,967	5,068	6,463	9,530
Net Operating Income			4,913	(935)	885	(1,663)	2,326

As a not-for-profit financial statements are not required to be audited but are maintained by the treasurer and open to inspection at any time. As dictated by accounting practice the assets are valued at simple cost and do not represent market value.

Sailing and Other Events

The year had a number of planned events and others which members planned at shorter notice. The events started in June and ran through the summer culminating in the cruise to the Sturgeon River and visit to Sturgeon Falls.

Those members who wanted to have picnic'd in the Manitou, sailed in flotillas and raced with next to no wind, stayed overnight in Kentucky Bay, visited Iron Island, hosted NBYC to "Docktails" prior to Canada Day, lunched in Callander, raced in a "homemade" Fall Regatta, enjoyed days at the beach in the Manitou Islands and simply enjoyed sailing with friends on almost every day that the weather permitted... and a couple when it didn't!

Events have also included a spring BBQ on terra firma and several pub nights during the off season, a Christmas dinner celebration and perhaps a New Year celebration for the first time.

Social Sailing

The Wednesday and Friday evening sails were popular with 2023 members and there were evenings with 3 or 4 boats out sailing together. There were more than 120 paid trips during the season. Social sailing is one of the Club's strong points and perhaps unique to Blue Sky Sailing.

Racing Events

The Club has been increasing its participation in racing gradually. It has had members enter races held by NBYC in Callander and members have been learning to race and to run races. This year the Club was well represented in NBYC events including the Canada Day race, the O'Shea Sprint and the Fall Regatta which was held in North Bay due to poor participation from the Callander club.

The two regattas run by Blue Sky Sailing this year were a success and there was close racing between the boats participating such that there is interest in developing more racing in the future. Races were dominated by Adam Fulton's J24 but the rest of the fleet enjoyed the events too. More details and results are on the website.

The six racing events that the Club took part in were the Canada Day race, the Milo O'Shay Sprint Race, Blue Sky Summer Sailstice Race, Blue Sky Fall Regatta and the Blue Sky Race Day

Forward into 2024

Items that the Management Committee thinks the new committee should focus on:

- Continuing to build membership by telling the Club's story in the community .
- Emphasising learning to sail so that there are more skippers to use clubs boats.
- Attempting to offer social sails more frequently.
- Finding an effective way of engaging volunteer participation and the development of member skills to help it run.
- Making sure that its boats are reliable, clean and desirable for renters and social sailors.
- Without excluding other events, continuing to develop its racing events and implement a weekly race schedule.
- Saving a portion of revenues into a reserve for major expenses such as new sails or re-powering boats.
- Improving information availability and transparency for members for documents such as minutes and policies.