



"Limey" to our friends!

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The Commodore's Log

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Battening Down The Hatches ...

While we really want our reader & (usually) much loved boater to remember the steaming hot, torrid, swimming & ice cream days that were the summer of 2002, the staff at Limi thought you should be apprised of the nature of marina life in the cold, wet & flurried days of October and November. 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey' aptly describes this year's unusually cold conditions as we 'battened down the hatches' of your precious yachts and our precious marina!

Ever wonder why we encourage you to book your haul-out early? Read on!

Each year in these months we monitor the forecasted temperatures like hawks, ready to act in a hurry should Mr. Frost be about to pay a visit. No staff member at Limi ever gets the Thanksgiving weekend off as we rush to haul & winterize all the boats & remove the docks from the water before November 1st. You see, beginning on that date Parks Canada lowers the water level in our Reach to their winter levels. We can lose up to three feet of water & gain six feet of beach! Any boats or docks still in the river will have to stay there till Spring, & withstand the devastating, always damaging, ice grip of the winter months and the unpredictable, even worse break-up in the following Spring!

This year's unusually cold October forced us to turn off the outside water supply on October 21st, a full three weeks earlier than last year and the earliest date ever! That means no more



pressure washes to remove those pesky Zebra Mussels and Rideau River bathtub ring (as Duncan from Channel Island so colloquially describes it!).

Last year a cold snap in October froze the entire contents of the Honey Wagon (now that's cold!). No more pump-outs possible! If your tank was still full, there its contents stayed. The Honey Wagon had to be lodged in the workshop for a whole week to thaw out before the contractor could be called to empty it!

Be honest! Did you go boating after Thanksgiving? If not, plan to have your craft hauled in the early weeks of October next year. It could save you thousands! For those tardy enough, or those ever-optimistic boaters who are always hoping for just one last trip on a warm day (that almost never materializes), No

Marina can warranty winterization procedures when the chances are that the engine & water systems have already frozen before the owner's chosen haul date!

Be wise...haul before the snow flies!

For Nautical History & Trivia buffs:

The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea states: 'A nautical batten is a thin wooden strip used primarily to secure tarpaulins over the hatches of a vessel as a precaution against rough and stormy weather'

When tall ships & great sailing navies dominated the seas, a ship could carry as many as one hundred heavy cannon ... but the cannon balls occupied valuable space aboard the cramped vessel. To solve the problem, balls were stacked pyramid fashion on brass trays, called 'monkeys'. During long periods of cold weather the balls would shrink (thermal contraction), shift and fall off the brass monkey.

Red Sky at Night

Sailors Delight.
Red Sky in the Morning
Sailors warning!

In keeping with Limi's broom-straw philosophies & eclectic environment we offer the following benchmarks to the Summer of 2002:

- Gillian was *really* busy this summer ... in September the battery died in the frog at her office door!
- Chandlery wasn't as busy as usual ... duck battery is still going strong!
- Must have sold lots of worms this season ... in October only one dozen had to be released to live another day!
- Fooled a lot of you this summer when Real put new batteries into Billy Bass. Only the addicted noticed!

And did you notice the frenzied activities of the little Red Squirrel who has claimed the main dock to store his food cache, and the Kiosks as his winter home? He spent weeks & weeks clipping the tips of the seed loaded branches of the Cedar tree at the main dock. Dropping them to the ground he scurried down the tree and moved them into a hole he'd created under the dock. Got ahead of himself so bad clipping & dropping at one point that we had to sweep the dock clear. The ensuing pile (a foot or so high) that we left on his doorstep was deftly and speedily stashed away. Real figures he's got the equivalent of a forty-gallon barrel of seeds stashed away there! Then he started storing them in the Chandlery, Gillian's Office, the Heads & the Snack bar, and shredding the toilet paper and paper towel to make his nest!

The Other Coast



Courtesy 'The Othe Coast' & The Citizen

Lost & Not Found!

When it comes to just leavin' stuff around, Limi customers seem to be second to none! The following items were dutifully stored in the Bait House by diligent but naïve Limi staff who thought their owners were sure to come looking for them. They're still in the bait house, awaiting disposal next spring if nobody claims them:

- One child's right foot sandal, black, size 10 ... bet mom was hoppin' mad when that disappeared!
- Three ... yes three hats: An '1876 Budweiser' baseball cap, a 'Tracker Boats' cap and a black sun visor. Sure hope there weren't too many woodpeckers around!
- One short blue dog leash, obviously shed by a mutt definitely not on a short leash but on no leash at all!
- One long shaft padlock ... hope whatever was supposed to be locked wasn't stolen.
- And one rather elegant cake slice, left behind after the Pig Roast.

Last call folks ... claim this stuff before May 2003 when it becomes nautical history!

Get Educated

Boating Safety courses are being offered by the local school boards this winter. Call the Algonquin Careers Academy at 722-7811 for fees & the schedule. Locations vary between Nepean, Ottawa, Kanata, Gloucester & Dunrobin so there should be one near you.

Battery Brickbats!

It's a little known fact that 'Murphy' likes hanging around marinas & boats. Each year 'Murphy' sets a different target. Last year it was propellers. Every second boater hit a muskrat with kidney stones (*never* a rock of course) and suffered the indignity, 'down time' & cost of a prop repair.

This year Murphy targeted batteries!

Now you need to understand that Murphy can only be successful when he has the co-operation of our fair boaters. If you're out of the navigation channel he'll guarantee you'll hit the only rock for miles around. If you don't maintain your batteries he'll guarantee the boat will refuse to start at any or all of the following times:

- It's 5pm on a Sunday evening & you're about to leave Burritt's Rapids for Limi after a wonderful weekend of boating. All marinas are now closed. You press the starter and your heart sinks when all you hear is that sickening click! So now you're forced to beg for a boost (which may not work), pay an exorbitant price for a tow ... or spend the night at Burritts Rapids!

-You've finally persuaded you're In or Out Laws to spend a wonderful day on the river with you & your family. Everything but the kitchen sink is finally loaded on board & M.O.L.'s nerves are close to being in control. Ready to show off your yacht & your boating skills you press the starter ... Click!

You're got an early start to a day's fishing in a remote spot, & boy they're biting. The live-well is full, so might as well head back to the marina. You raise the anchor, press the starter and

You get the picture! Murphy is at work again

The Posthumous Pig

Batteries have also been a sore point this fall for the Limi staff trying to bring your craft to the ramp for haul-out. One out of three boats has refused to start because the battery's flat! Off they trek to the workshop for the booster pack and, after a twenty minutes delay at least, one engine coughs to life and they can cripple the craft to the ramp.

To stymie Murphy, avoid those embarrassing & downright inconvenient events, and to avoid extra charges next year at haul-out we suggest the following:

- Have only good, *marine* batteries on your boat. The CT automotive 'special of the week' is just the type Murphy loves!
- Where possible have a second and even a third battery on board. Use one battery only for starting (the 'cranking battery') and the second only for all other uses. There are battery switches specially designed to achieve this.
- Install a battery charger
- Replace all batteries every three or four years. Just like in your car, they don't last forever!
- Check the batteries once a week for water & corrosion. Clean the terminals & top-up the cells with distilled or ionized water if necessary.

All this falls under the routine maintenance any boat needs if you want boating to be as trouble free, as possible and to keep Murphy at bay! Too many boaters visit their craft only occasionally and rarely check out the systems unless they fail. Many then, unsuccessfully, try to blame the marina!

Boats & boat engines, especially those older than ten years (which is most of the boats at our docks), have to exist in an extremely harsh environment and therefore need much more care and maintenance than your car.

More about this in future newsletters, and we'll try to schedule a boat & battery maintenance clinic next summer.



Rump Steak Anyone?

September 14th saw the coming & going of our Fifth Annual Pig Roast and the coming & going of one hundred and thirty pounds of head-on pig!

We must unabashedly admit that the management of this fine marina has finally got this event down pat ... even Murphy was no-where to be found! One hundred & thirty or so guests, a pound of pig apiece, copious, extraordinarily delicious side dishes provided by our faithful boaters and a generous smattering of your friends who haven't yet taken the plunge and bought themselves a boat, seems to be the foolproof recipe for this annual party that kept some of you hopping till the band's fingers froze and they could play no longer!

As usual the rollicking music was provided by Long Island Lockmaster, George Buys, and his band.

Mean ol' Pres Gillian ordered an outright ban on Limi staff winning the traditional 'Texas Mickey'. It was won again by an (almost) teetotaler, Linda G's Mom, The gift certificate was nabbed by veteran boat builder Bob B. The Small Craft Guide to the Rideau & Ottawa Rivers went to Robert R. who now has no excuse to get lost, and the extra prize, generously donated by Henry (who was demonstrating his boat cleaning products earlier at the Boatyard Sale), was nabbed by Herb G. Herb had better show up next season with a hull so shiny you could pluck your eyebrows by it!



Long Island Marine pie baked by Doreen & Gary L.



Dashing through
the waves to wish
you happy
holidays from
everyone at Long
Island Marine

As winter sets in and boating becomes a future dream again, let's have some fun and remember how good a summer on the water can be. Here's to summer of 2003!

Boat Ownership Has its Privileges!

Reprinted excerpts from 'Lakeland Boating', October 2002. Courtesy Lakeland Boating & Daniela Johnson Rongstad

When you're aboard a boat there are no bathtubs to scour, no hedges to trim and no dishwashers to load. It's a place to relish fax-less days and pager free nights. It's a place to lie back, close your eyes and listen to nothing but the seagulls screeching and the ice cubes clinking. Along with helping to preserve your mental sanity, owning a boat offers some other important perks:

Clothing and accessories.

Boaters get to wear very cool clothes-deck shoes, funky sunglasses and visors. Plus we have a good excuse to buy a different pair of flip-flops for every day of the week! And we get to buy all kinds of fascinating accessories, like anchor dappled can coolers, shark shaped wind socks and a bevy of household supplies that float!

The View

Everyone knows the view from a boat is like no other. But just imagine how *you* look on a boat with lake winds tousling your hair & golden tanned skin. And most boaters viewed from land appear both thinner & younger than they actually are. Those graying temple hairs? Virtually invisible!

Nix those Chores

As a boat owner you can get out of a lot of things you perhaps 'should' be doing. You can't wash the kitchen floor while on your boat, nor can you fold the laundry, walk the dog or dust those shelves. And you can get out of other stuff too ...

Learn New Skills

Of course, after buying your first boat you'll need to learn how to dock,

maneuver in wind and tie cool knots. You'll also master waving at other boaters from the bow without losing your footing and the fine art of balancing an entire pitcher of Margaritas on a tray as the waves rock you silly!

Wish lists

As a boat owner, you won't have to think long about your holiday wish lists. Tennis racket? No thanks. New set of muffin pans? Nope. But you *will* take a chart-plotter, thank you!

As you can see, reasons to own a boat are plentiful, so stock up on bikini tops and ignore the vacuum cleaner. It's time to go boating!

... & its costs!

Ever wonder who can afford those sleek, expensive looking Poker Run boats? Is one on *your* Christmas wish list? Start saving!

Small boats start at \$200,000 & go to over \$1million. Gas consumption tops \$200 per hour, and maintenance is in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year! On top of this you need a *big* truck to tow the boat, & the engines are usually only good for about 50 hours on the water! And does it fit down the chimney?!