

DRY ROT

January, 2013.

Upcoming Events:

Pizza and Wing Night : Friday, February 22, 2013 @ 1830 at MBYC. \$15. Also included is the recently released video "On The Bay".

Annual Spring Breakfast and Graduation: Sunday, March 17. RHYC. 0900-1100. \$20 each.

64th Annual General Meeting: April 26, 2013 at MBYC.

Call the **Hot Line** at 905-388-1227 for tickets for the latest information or:

www.hamiltonpowersquadron.ca

SEABREEZE

These days I often wonder about the apparent lack of commitment and dedication in our society. I some times wonder where this wonderful country of ours is headed.

A short time before Christmas my faith in humanity was bolstered considerably by of all things the Hamilton Children's Choir. The senior choir had just returned back from China where they were voted one of the best, if not the best Children's choir in the world! Their music is stunning with its quality and originality. At one point the Chorus was assembled around the outside, circling the audience. They produced some of the most evocative sounds and textures that I have ever heard from the human voice. Only one word could be conjured...Wow.

The senior, intermediate and junior choirs presently consist of about 170 choristers. It takes countless hours of practice and dedication to reach this awesome plateau. I feel that we should be in good hands on seeing how these young people under the guidance of their teachers and parents were encouraged and raised to this high level of performance.

Mike Kott.

SQUADRON NEWS

The number of Boating students is down considerably this time around with the advent of on line learning and other factors. Gary Young did a great job in teaching our boating classes at Westdale High school, with all students passing their exams. Because of the relatively long time that the graduates would have to wait for their certificates, it was decided to host the graduation at our upcoming Pizza and Wing night on February 22/13

at Macassa Bay Yacht Club. HPS members are encouraged to come out to this fun evening for some good grub, conversation and to welcome our new graduates! Also included will be the showing of the recently produced video "On the Bay" by Garry Kaulbak; all this for the bargain price of \$15. Coming up later in the spring will be the Annual Squadron Breakfast to be held again at Royal Hamilton Yacht Club March 17th. Also on the horizon is the Hamilton Power and Sail Squadron's Annual General meeting which will be on April 26 at MBYC.

A Plea!

We are all being urged to receive our invoices on line via the internet. Large corporations like utilities and insurance companies etc. have found that the expense of regular mailings has become prohibitive. We too at the Squadron are burdened with the same costs. In the "good old days" postage costs were not a major issue in the scheme of things. Mailing out a paper newsletter today is the single most costly item on the Squadron's books. Now, these costs have reached the point that without significant increases in our membership fees we are facing extinction. Because of this staggering increase in postal expenses the HPS Bridge is requesting that all members who have internet access receive their Dry Rot newsletter electronically. If you are not on the HPS email list, please contact our Membership Officer Peter Boothroyd at pboothroyd@cogeco.ca and advise him of same. We do not intend to send large cumbersome files, only an email announcement advising that the newsletter is ready for downloading from the Squadron web site. You can then access the HPS web site and download the current PDF file as well as past issues which are archived. Our web site is at www.hamiltonpowersquadron.ca. Rick Crook our Squadron Webmaster has been doing a great job for some time now in keeping the HPS web site regularly updated with Squadron activities.

FYI Exciting news: The City of Hamilton is hosting a coming of Tall Ships on June 28-30. It is reported that five tall are coming to Hamilton Harbour. One of the ships coming is the S.V. Sorlandet, a fully restored 210 foot 1927 Class "A" square rigged tall ship. This ship is a sea based school which is providing High School to first year University education. The ship set off in September from Istanbul Turkey and is presently in Rio de Janeiro Brazil and will be touring the great lakes this summer.

Toronto International Boat Show and LEDs.

After a long absence I visited the recent Boat Show in Toronto. Brother in law John and I took the train from the Aldershot GO station to Exhibition place which cost only \$9.50 return for an all day senior's pass. It takes only an hour on the train and we thoroughly enjoyed the ride, the views and the chance to catch up on some family news. At the show

I noticed now that there were far fewer sail boats on display, other than dinghies and forty plus footers. There were a lot of larger power cruisers and smaller power craft including pontoon boats and PWC's.

An observation at the show was the profusion of LED lighting for both general interior and navigation lighting. Every chandler had a display of these relatively new lights. LED's have good points and a few issues. First, they are very efficient, run cool and require much lower current, about a tenth, to operate when compared to incandescent lighting. This is a real bonus for boaters as they place a much smaller demand on the limited amount of power available from the boat's batteries especially when at anchor. Nowadays LED's come in a huge array of configurations and colour temperatures. You are able to easily retrofit existing lighting, be it bayonet based or festoon type sockets. You are sure to find a LED light that will fill the bill. Be careful when retro fitting these lights as they are polarity sensitive and one must pick out the proper unit to fit your existing socket or base configuration. One type I found to be very inexpensive and which fits a variety of fixtures is the flat circuit board type, 3.5cm X 4.5cm, which has 20 individual LED elements. Each circuit board comes as a kit which has a variety of sockets that can be fit into many fixtures. The circuit board has an adhesive backing which can be pressed up into typical light fixture in a boat and it draws only 120 milliamps. The regular incandescent bulbs draw 1.5 – 2 amps, resulting in a huge saving of power. You can also purchase LED's by the roll, 1cm wide with a LED element every 2cm. These make very nice accent lighting like over a counter, or under the tread of steps. You cut the roll to the required length and use the supplied adhesive backing to hold the lighting strip in place. Some soldering is required and only light gauge wiring is required, as the current required is so small. One caution is to adequately fuse this circuit at the feed point, as a short circuit could easily cause a fire. You are also able to get dimmers (even remote controlled) for LED lighting. The varieties and selection are almost endless.

A challenge with LEDs is that to get more illumination intensity, the manufacturers simply increase the number of individual LED elements on a substrate. Also, the individual LED elements transmit the light output in mostly one plane, as the light is blocked by the substrate. Manufacturers get around this by mounting many elements clustered in an array facing the desired illumination span.

Be warned and make sure that your new navigation LED lighting meets the technical standards of the Collision Regulations. There was a new boat at the Boat Show (manufacturer's name withheld), that had all its sparkling new LED lighting on including its LED navigation lights. The navigation lights seemed nice and bright but the coverage arc of the lights was way off. We were able to see the port light while standing well aft at the port stern quarter of the vessel. The required 112.5 degree bow/abeam angle was far exceeded. The light should have had sector fences to limit the arc of illumination to the required angle. The light was basically a glorified clearance light with no accurate arc delineation.

M.K.

Hamilton Power and Sail Squadron 2013 Bridge

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Hot line: 905 388 1227: To reserve tickets or find out the latest information.

Are you moving? Please direct address changes to Peter Boothroyd @ 905-527-4087 or email pboothroyd@cogeco.ca

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