

SAIL PAST – YOU’RE INVITED

Steve Reid - Sail Past Marshall

Sail Past is approaching and we want to make it a significant occasion. The activity of Sail Past is steeped in tradition and from time to time its good to acknowledge and embrace the past. This year, as in all things COVID, we’re doing Sail Past a bit differently. Traditionally Sail Past is an occasion to recognize the change in command of the Fleet by the Admiral and the Senior Officers, in modern times it’s become the recognition of the new sailing season. This year we will celebrate the end of a sailing season that got a late start, but we still want to recognise our Commodore and Flag Officers. Mark the dates Friday, September 10 and Saturday, September 11th.



It starts off on Friday evening with a fun and casual BBQ. Saturday can be seen as being divided into two events, one formal and one social. The formal part, Sail Past, takes place late morning and early afternoon. The social takes place in the afternoon and evening with a reception and dinner and dancing.

The actual Sail Past being the formal part of the weekend, begins with the piping of the Club Officers and their guests up to the balcony. That will be followed by addresses by the Commodore and dignitaries and the Blessing of the Fleet.

To show our respect for the formality of the proceedings it is customary for us to be dressed in the club’s colours, Blue, White, Yellow. Men should be in white trousers or Bermuda Shorts and Blue Blazers/Jackets, Ladies in white skirts/shorts/slacks with blue jackets or sweaters.

Immediately following the formal activities onshore, the Flag Officers and their guests will depart to take up their stations out on the water. Once we receive word that they have successfully anchored, the fleet will be dispatched in stages to go out and Sail Past. Elsewhere in **The Signal** you will find detailed instructions, as well we will post them on the website, so you can download them there.

Following the on-water part of the festivities, when we are all back at our docks, the Flag Officers and guests will conduct a less formal review of the fleet by launch where we can conduct our own less formal salute from our boats.

Because Sail Past is an extra special occasion let’s make it a more traditional and formal affair. We ask everyone to please get in the spirit and show your enthusiasm and club spirit, let’s get our boats rigged and ready for the season ahead and get the most boats out ever to Sail Past!

Etobicoke Yacht Club

Sail Past 2021

Instructions and Guidelines

Everything you need to know...

To participate in our 2021 Sail Past on September 11th, the biggest club event of the year. All members are urged to take part in this fun and traditional event.

Dress for the day...

Blazer and white or grey slacks/shorts are appropriate. Club colours (Blue, White, and Yellow) are always acceptable. This is the formal part of the weekend. You can change into more comfortable or theme specific attire after the actual Sail Past.

The ceremony on the lawn...

Be sure to assemble on the lawn before 11:00 AM on Saturday, September 11th. The best view is between the gazebo, the clubhouse and the docks so get there early.

At 11:00 hours, the Commodore, Vice Commodore, Past Commodore, Rear Commodore, Directors, and distinguished guests will be piped to the clubhouse balcony. The Commodore and Flag Officers and Dignitaries will be piped up to the Balcony where the Commodore will introduce the guests and address the members.

The skippers' meeting follows the ceremony...

Following the ceremonies there will be a Skippers' Meeting, conducted by the Sail Past Review Marshall, to announce the Sail Past procedure, the fleet groupings, the fleet captains and the fleet flag to follow. Details can be found below.

When to leave the dock...

The Sail Past Review Marshall will use VHF radio channel 8 to announce when each fleet should leave the dock, see agenda below. Please monitor channel 8 for the announcement and refrain from transmitting on channel 8 during this period. Your fleet will form up in the basin. Follow your fleet captain (single file) out to the Sail Past course.

Safety, Etiquette and Pointers...

- The basin would be impossibly crowded if everyone left the dock at the same time so listen on VHF 8 for your appropriate time.
- Refer to the attached Fleet Order for your appropriate departure time.
- Know your fleet captain's boat and flag
- Watch for traffic as you back out of your slip.
- Be courteous to others and slow down, especially between the main slips.
- Above all, do not rush. There is no award for being first. If you miss your fleet simply merge into the next one.

Where to find the Commodore 'V' formation on the lake...

The Commodore's fleet will anchor near race mark #1 and form an inverted 'V' with the Commodore at the head of the 'V', the Vice Commodore on the Starboard and the Past Commodore on the Port. The *Charles McKeon* will be anchored approximately 300 feet to leeward of the 'V' formation. The approximate location of the mark is 43° 36.475 N, 079° 27.977 W. No other boats should anchor near this formation.

Following your Fleet Leader through the course.

Fleet leaders will lead boats in a single file towards mark #1, starting approximately ¼ mile to windward of the Commodore's formation. The goal is for all boats to start on a starboard down-

wind leg and then easily harden up to a Starboard beam reach to pass between the Commodore's formation and the *Charles McKeon*.

Maintain a continuous single line of boats with a safe distance between the boats, approximately 3 - 4 boat lengths and at an approximate speed of 3 knots. For sailboats it is appropriate to motor sail in light wind or to power without sail if required to maintain the speed and distance. This provides the Commodore adequate time to return a salute to you and your crew. There is no prize for barging or rushing so maintain proper speed and distance. Please avoid making unnecessary wake.

Flag Etiquette...

The display and location of flags has considerable importance and shows respect for the meaning of each flag. Flags and pennants tell a story to those who observe them, so a code of conduct or etiquette has been developed over the years to determine how flags and pennants should be properly flown. Order of Importance, sometimes referred to as the "Points of Honor":

1. the gaff, if the vessel is equipped with one
2. the flagstaff at the stern
3. the bow staff
4. the starboard halyard just below the spreader
5. the mast head
6. the port halyard just below the spreader

The highest point of honor is always reserved for the national flag. Since none of our boats have a gaff rig, that means that the Canadian Flag is flown from a flag staff at the stern. If your boat doesn't have a flag staff you may fly the Canadian Flag from your back stay, but no higher than 2/3 of the way up. If your boat does not have a back stay you may fly the Canadian Flag from the leech of the main sail but again no higher than 2/3 of the way up.

No other flag is to be flown from the back portion of the boat. A Club Burgee is to be flown from a staff at the Mast Head or from the Starboard spreader, or on Power Boats from a staff at the bow. Any other flags or Burgees are to be displayed from the Port spreader or if you do not have a halyard on the port side, it is to be flown under the Club Burgee on the Starboard side.

No other flags, signal, house, special flags should be displayed while on the water for Sail Past, the time for these is once you are back at your dock.

How to salute the Commodore...

It is customary to salute the Commodore by dipping the Canadian flag and/or luffing your jib. Crew and guests should stand in the cockpit or on the foredeck facing the Commodore. Once you have cleared the 'V' formation sail well away from the formation so the rest of the boats can safely complete their salute. **Do not sail back through the formation**, this only causes confusion for the balance of the boats lining up for the salute.

Dressing the boat...

Dress your boat after returning to your dock. This is a great time to hoist your boat decorations and to show off those special flags, burgees and trophies. Weather permitting, the Commodore will tour each set of docks via the water and you will have an opportunity to cheer the Commodore in an informal matter.

Your patience, cooperation, and imagination will insure a successful, fun and memorable Sail Past. If you have any questions, please contact the Review Marshall.

(continued on next page)

Agenda...

11:00 Commodore's welcome; Introduction of Guests; Blessing of the fleet.
Members assemble below the balcony on the south-west corner of the clubhouse. This will be followed by the skipper's meeting.

The following times are approximate and may be adjusted...

The EYC Sail Past Marshall will announce a 5 minute warning and a departure for each fleet. Listen on VHF 8 for your fleet announcement Start Time (usually 12 noon but this will be confirmed at the Skippers' meeting on the lawn).

The following times are approximate, please listen on VHF channel 8 for your departure time

Start Times - the Commodore's fleet and the *Charles McKeon* leave the basin

- + 30 min - 1st fleet (Officers' fleet) Pennant #1 leaves the EYC basin.
- + 15 min - 2nd fleet (Power) Pennant #2 leave docks
- + 15 min - 3rd fleet (Sail 36' +) Pennant #3 leave docks
- + 15 min - 4th fleet (Sail 29' - 35) Pennant #4 leave docks
- + 15 min - 5th fleet (Sail 28' and under) Pennant #5 leave docks
- + 15 min - 6th fleet (Dinghy and Drysail) Pennant #6 leave docks
- + 15 min - Sail Past Review Marshall leaves dock

Note, the last vessel to sail past the Commodore's formation will be the Review Marshall so be ahead of this vessel or you may miss the procession.

The names of the Fleet Leaders will be announced at the Commodore's welcome...

Upon return to your dock, dress your boat as the Commodore will cruise up and down each slip to review the dressed fleet at their docks. If you are at the club after dark, leave your anchor light turned on to add to the ambiance.

The formal Sail Past and Commodore fleet inspection is followed by the Commodore's Reception, dinner, an evening of dancing, and more fun. See the Social announcements for additional details.

Schedule.

- 10:45 Colour Guard and Dignitaries and Guests form up by Playground
- 11:00 Piper will lead Officials Group along sidewalk to Club House steps. Officials proceed up steps to Balcony.
- 11:05 Welcome by Commodore and introduction of Guests and Commodore's address
- 11:15 Comments by Guests
- 11:25 Blessing of the Fleet
- 11:30 Address by Sail Past Marshall and Instructions to the Fleet
- 11:35 Introduction of Fleet Leaders and Fleet Flags



Beginners in CANSail 1 group learning about balance on choppy water on a windy day.