



BCMS news

APRIL 2002

**The British Columbia Multihull Society
PO. Box 2751 Vancouver B.C.
Canada, V6B 3X2**

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About the cover:

Karl Uthoff's Catamaran "Bad Kitty" A slight set back to the plans of modifying the bows.

On The Back Cover

A little humorous reminder of the 2001 Cadillac Van Isle 360

Editor's Report by Bob Davis

From the looks of the cover it is hard to believe that we are ready to embark on another adventure aboard Bad Kitty. Karl and the crew have been hard at work for the past four months when the idea of participating in the Newport/Ensenada race was first talked about.

Karl had simple ideas to clean up the boat and leave the major modifications for next year. If you remember my reports from the Cadillac Van Isle 360, you know the problems we had on the West Coast. Bad Kitty could use more flotation on the bows.

When his back was turned, out came the reciprocating saw, and before anything could be done to prevent it, the deck was cut off. The first cut was made on Christmas Eve in my back yard beside my garage. I already had a lean-to for the storage of my own boat. We extended and enclosed the lean-to for the hull of Bad Kitty. We built a thirty-seven foot trailer in November to transport each hull from Shelter Island Marina to our home.

This was a big job. We knew it would take a great deal of effort and time, but the commitment was there. More next time about the rebuild and the actual

race. Check out the Race at www.nosa.org

We would love to hear from you while in

California at bcmscat@hotmail.com

We leave on April 12 and arrive back in

Vancouver May 3rd. The Race starts

April 26th at 12 noon

I will try to do updates on the bcms web

site. Cheers Bob



MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Bronwen McDonald

Welcome to new members Richard and Donna Britton. They are owners of a 30' Catalina named "Friendly Dragon", but are very interested in building a multihull for retirement in a few years.

Welcome also to Kurt Kolb, another new member, presently boatless, but interested in all aspects of multihull sailing.

We also welcome back a former member, Fred Feige, who bought "Amo Amas" from Mitch Levine. He is now looking at plans for building a Kurt Hughes 48' catamaran. Which.... considering that "Amo Amas" is a 24' Kristofferson trimaran, is certainly "doubleitis". Apparently, the 24' tri is for sale.

We have 91 members signed up for the year at present.

Memo to you - thanks for the e-mail address - have written to him this am. I realise this attachment says 2001, but it IS 2002. Am not sending it to everyone until you come and help me put it right, but at least you can make labels now. My apologies for my inadequacies!!!!!!!!!!!!

Port Browning Sail-in 2002

May 18-20

*The social event of the year!!
And You're invited!! All our
members and guests are invited
to the year's most fun Event at Port Browning on North
Pender Island.*



**Check out our website at
www.bcms.bc.ca for more details**

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM PAUDEEN

The next day we raised anchor and headed for Playa del Coco, bypassing the "Islas Murcielagos" (Bat Islands), because the wind was too gusty. We will have to visit these islands on the way back up as well - other cruisers have told us that the snorkelling there is outstanding. We caught two more dorado on that day passage. By now, we were actually getting tired of eating dorado! Playa del Coco is a small tourist town, with a decent (though expensive) grocery store and bakery. There were lots of Canadians and Americans living in the town and we found that most of the locals spoke at least a bit of English. There was one pub/restaurant where many locals and N.Americans went for happy hour, a hamburgers and fries. It was the best deal in town - pretty much the only place we felt we could afford actually. Costa Rican prices seem similar to California prices - a bit too much for budget cruisers like ourselves.

In Playa del Coco we saw our first "Howler Monkeys". Boy, do they howl! They aren't very big (or at least the ones that we saw weren't very large), but you can hear their howl for miles. apparently, they have a special cavity in their throat to augment the sound. They use their howl to try to scare off predators, and to define their territory to other males in the area. We noticed the Howlers because they dropped (threw?) some mangos almost on top of us. While looking up to see them better, we were lucky to realise what was happening just in time to get out of the way. Some of the critters had aligned themselves above us in the trees and were attempting to urinate on us! Since we were still in awe that we were actually seeing monkeys, we were not put off by this disrespect. We moved away from the line of fire and continued to gawk at them. We were told that we were viewing some females, toddlers and "teen-agers". We believe we know which group was doing the peeing! Since then, I have been very careful about where I stand to view monkeys.

Robin and Carl left us on the 28th of July to sail back to El Salvador. They were making a trip some and wanted to leave their boat in a safe, yet accessible anchorage. After waving good-bye we consoled ourselves by paddling around the point to an isolated, tiny white sand beach. We plan to reconnect with Abraxas when we travel back up the coast. Even still, it was tough to see them go - we always had such a blast together! We had caught up to other friends on Starship at Playa del Coco. They were on their way to have THEIR Toshiba computer to be repaired, and so they took ours into San Jose with them to have it looked at. So began the month long saga to get our hard-drive repaired. I must have called the Repair place 50 times in the next few weeks - Pedro (the repair guy) and I became great telephone buddies. I talked with Future Shop in Canada (collect) at least a

dozen times. The language barrier caused the first 2-week delay and then trying to get Future Shop to approve the repair caused another 2-week delay.

We spent a few weeks in Playa del Coco, doing some repairs on the boat and getting other boat chore completed. When our work was done, or at least, when we decided we'd had enough for a while (boat jobs aren't EVER actually finished!), we spent a few days touring Bahia Culebra (Snake bay). We didn't see any snakes, but while canoeing through some mangroves in the estuary, we saw our first white-faced monkeys. We were thrilled to see them in such a pristine area. They really are something to watch. We love exploring the mangroves - it is something that the old canoe does really well. We can get in and around the mangroves very well, and we are almost silent. This way, we can see lots of birds before they fly away.

From Playa del Coco we headed south to Playa Conchal. Here, we met up with Ken and Edith on Zephyrus. Both Ken and Edith are experienced divers, (and marine biologists as well) and Edith assisted me on my first true dive, going through the basics with me before we got into the water. After the dive, I had to admit that if Edith hadn't started pointing sea-life out to me, I might not have seen anything but Edith on that dive. I was so engrossed on my task of breathing (and not panicking) under water that all I could manage to do was to watch every move that Edith made. When she noticed me staring at her, I would make the "okay" sign to her, more to reassure myself than anything. I was very preoccupied with the gear, and Darren said he could see me clutching at the air hose to my buoyancy compensator like it was my lifeline. I did finally relax a little, and managed to see quite a few different fish and coral. Edith also pointed out to me an eel, and something that looked like the end of an eel resting under a rock. She later told me that it was the tail of a nurse shark - I'm glad I did not know that when I was down there! I truly enjoyed the whole experience, and was very appreciative of Edith's instruction. While Darren was quite capable of teaching me himself, sometimes it is just a bit easier to take instructions from someone other than your partner! Thanks also to our good friends, Sheila and Pat Gordon from Powell River, who generously lent us their dive gear for our 2 year cruise.

Later that day, D and I took a walk along the white sand beach before heading over to Scalawag for a seafood stew. Ken had speared some "soup fish" and had prepared a huge pot of stew for all of us. As we were walking down the beach we saw some small green fruit on a tree that looked remarkably like a crab-apple tree. I guess I don't even have to say what happened - we tried the fruit, which even smelled like crab apple. We did not eat it, only tasted the juice before throwing it away. About 15 minutes later, D mentioned that his throat seemed to be quite hot - I had noticed the same burning sensation in my throat as well. Neither of us felt our throats swelling, but it was as if we had poured a boiling hot liquid down our throats. The sensation spread to our mouths and lips. We quickly returned

to the boat and tried everything to calm the pain. We assumed it was an acid, but were unable to neutralize it with anything - we even gargled with baking soda. Our mouths burned all night, making it very difficult to eat any of the wonderful stew that Ken had prepared, and sending us back to our boat early since I was starting to feel nauseated. That night, my body purged the entire contents of my digestive system. Other than that, and the lingering feeling of having burned the inside of our mouths and throats for the next four days, we came out of the situation unscathed. We were very lucky! I learned later that we are not the only ones who have been deceived and bitten into the forbidden fruit. Here, the plant is called "Manzanillo" (*Hippomane mancinella*) which means "little apple". Not only are these apple look-alikes poisonous, but the bark and leaves of the tree contain a toxin that will cause your skin to itch and burn. Apparently, there are several warning signs posted on more popular beaches. Even still, D and I felt more than a bit foolish, and we were razzed by the other cruisers; "and you guys are SCIENCE teachers, you're supposed to know better!" Since our incident, we have been offered some fruit to taste that we were unsure of - we promptly turned them down!

Kim sent news via email that she was indeed coming to visit us in Costa Rica. Two days later I was on a bus to San Jose to collect her from the airport and hopefully, pick up our computer from the repair shop. The trip to San Jose involved a 5 hour bus ride which necessitated an over night stay in the big city before returning to Darren and Paudeen the next day. Although I was somewhat doubtful that the repairs to the computer would be completed when I arrived, I hoped for the best and knew that Pedro would try to accommodate me if possible. After having waited an entire month, the actual repair took Pedro 1 hour (he had the hard-drive in stock!). That hour was completed while Kim and I were in the shop waiting to pick it up. He had just received the fax from Future shop the hour before we arrived. Next time, (since now I see that these hard drives are only designed to last just over a year) I will know how to get things done much faster.

The next few weeks were a whirl-wind of activity. We did so much in the two weeks that she was here, I think I will end for now, and include "Kim's Adventure Tour?" in my next letter.

Hope all is well,
Loving our time in Costa Rica (except for the apples!)
Tam and Darren

The Fourteenth Annual Round Bowen Race 15/6/02

The BOWEN ISLAND YACHT CLUB has also seen the Round Bowen Race capture the imagination of yachtsmen and is now one of the major local sailing events of the year. From humble beginnings 14 years ago, last year saw a record number of entries (176) and we see this trend increasing into this new millennium. The BIYC still encourages young and old, beginner or seasoned racer to take on the challenges of sailing around the lump of rock called Bowen Island. The length of the race is a modest 17 nautical miles but with the vagaries of wind and tide, coupled with the peculiar effect on the wind from the spectacular terrain, make this event a true challenge and every year is definitely different from the last.

We have always encouraged multi-hull participation and last year Reigh North of North Boat Racing brought over a contingent of ultra Twenty's. This was so successful that more are promised this year. We are hoping that this year we might see some of the multihulls and crews that have previously been entered in

the Van Isle 360, because previously the two events have been overlapped.

As a spectacle from the shore, or by all the participants, the sight of hundreds of yachts in the magnificent fjord of Howe Sound needs to be seen. Once every year it certainly creates a visual feast of magical quality when captured on film or in the memory. We believe that this is one of the reasons why those yachtsmen who try this event once, always come back the following year!

Apart from the actual sailing the BIYC hosts entertainment in the unique setting of Snug Cove. The race is followed in the evening by BBQ with live music and a prize giving party.

Today, with the increasing scale and size of this event, the complexities of handicaps, the number of entrants, press interest, concern for safety, communications and control, we are very grateful to have the sponsorship of MARTIN MARINE. For nearly sixty years Martin Marine has been an outlet for marine hardware and specializes in those hard-to-find items that are no longer stocked elsewhere. It is this commanding spirit that has kept this business going and has brought both BIYC and Martin Marine together to promote this unique sailing event.

For more information, [Registration Forms](#), [Race Instructions](#) and [Event Itinerary](#) please go to www.biyc.bc.ca You can also contact Brian Aldous at E-mail baldous@attglobal.net Phone 604 947 0592 for additional assistance. (multi literate!)

THE INTERNATIONAL YACHT CLUB

The banquet and awards night tickets are selling fast.

The banquet will be held after the races on Saturday night in the newly renovated Ocean Beach Hotel. The Ocean Beach Hotel is on Marine Drive in White Rock a few doors west of the pier. It is an easy walk from the White Rock dock.

The Hotel pub will be closed to the public and opened only to ticket holders until 10:00 PM. Last year Carmalla cooked up a feastfit for kings and the celebration was enjoyed by all. There will be a silent action and last year the sailors scooped many quality items at bargain prices.



To insure you get tickets you should purchase soon. Call Kevin at 604.538.7555 to buy your tickets.

For more information visit www.interyachtclub.com

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MULTIHULLS FOR SALE

1985-39 ft Roger Taylor design trimaran "TOROA". 25 ft beam. Draft 3ft , (7 ft with board down). Excellent condition. Complete boat has been examined and found very sound . 48 ft Gougeon design wing mast , new fittings, and paint. Hulls of cold molded mahogany / epoxy / fibre-glass. A very strong beautiful boat. Recently overhauled (1999) 20 hp Bukh diesel. Fully battened Main and Jib with lots of life in them. Dickenson oil heater. Full nets. Can \$ 55,000. obo. [Call Mike on 604 551-9231](tel:6045519231). Email: mikejan@island.net Currently at anchor in False Creek - Vancouver.
Photos/details: www.island.net/~mikejan

1994 Swing Wing Contour 30 Mk II for Sale. Fully loaded with trailer. Ready for summer cruising. Offered at \$80,000.00 (CDN) Phone: 604-527-7722 or e-mail at elander@intergate.ca

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Unfinished 28' Cross Trimaran, It comes with mast, sails, fittings, hardware, stove, sink, head, heater, dingy and more. I also have back issues of Multihull and Pacific Yachting magazines. Call [Rod at 604 931 6180](tel:6049316180), or e-mail rodmcc@telus.net.

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Sail #178 Located in sunny Cariboo
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General Meeting

Wed April 17th 7:30 PM

Vancouver Maritime Museum

Slide Show

See You There!!

2002 / 2003 Directors list

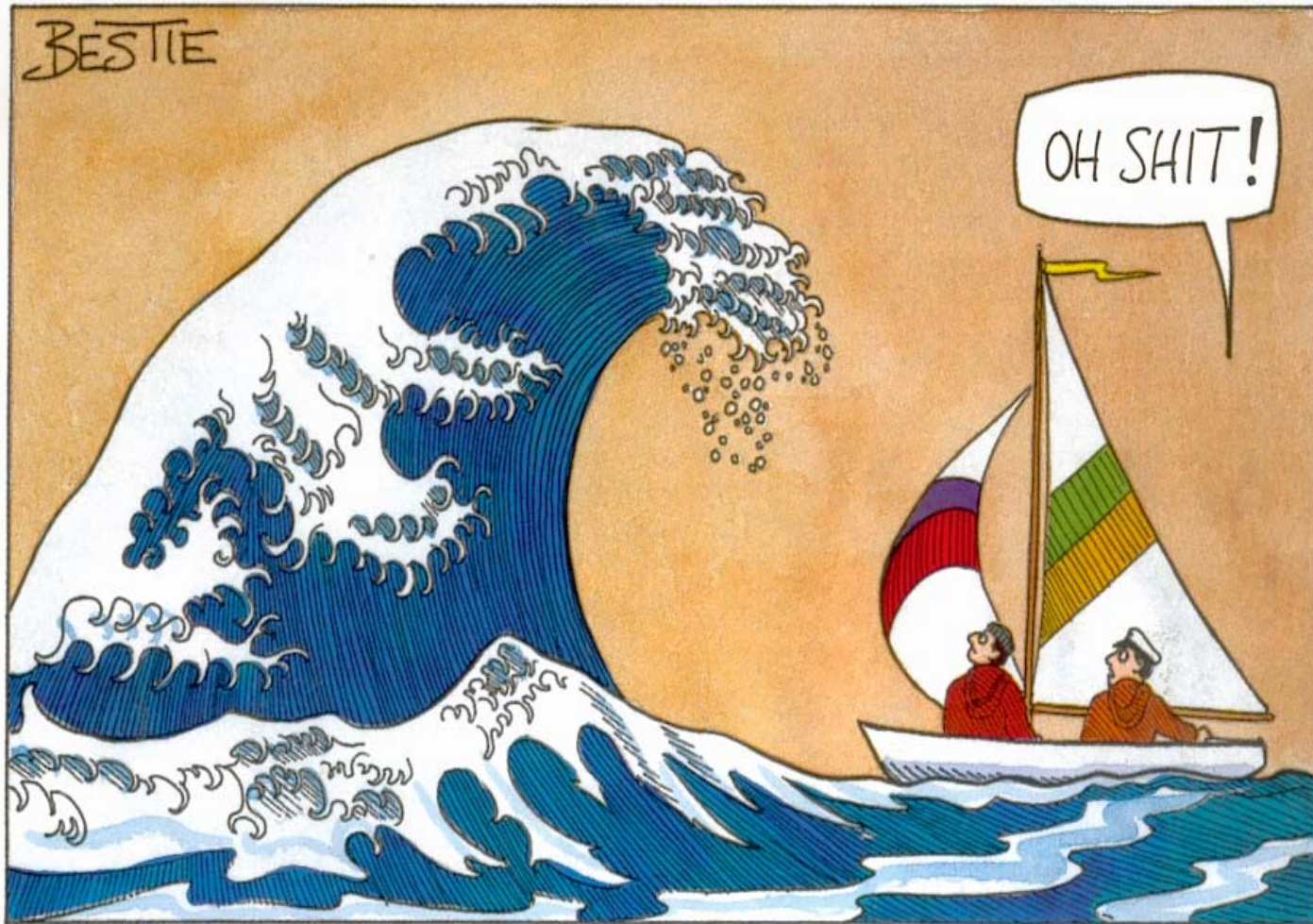
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Newsletter Fax Number 604 583 9396



KARL WAS A KEEN YACHTSMAN AND KNEW
ALL THE APPROPRIATE NAUTICAL TERMS