



## HONORARY COMMODORE'S REPORT 2012

David and Carol Hansman

North Bay, Ontario

W282 **Banshee**

W10865 **BEOWULF**

Wow, what a busy year in Wayfaring! Right from the start, with Marc Bennett & Julie Seraphinoff's Mk4 featured in the Toronto Boat Show, there was so much more and new going on in 2012.....

- More events this year than 2011.
- More new Mk4 boats and new representation for Wayfarer sales in North America thanks to the partnership of Nick Seraphinoff and Peter Rahn .
- More than 80 members, including several new ones, with representation from the east coast to the west coast (and even some overseas).
- More members on the executive from a broader geographical area.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is an association that is working, is vibrant and has a future!

***"As fast as the fastest but no faster"***. That was the verdict four years ago in the UK concerning the Mk4, and it appears that people in our part of the world have finally come to terms with that concept.

From our personal perspective, our Mk4 W10865 is, without a doubt, faster than our "woodie" W282. Banshee has been competitive over the years but she is also overweight by 67 pounds. Imagine carrying that much extra around with you; will you not naturally be slower? Banshee also has hardware from 2 years to 30+ years old. The lines, rigging, hardware and sails on W10865 are all new and tuned to the boat performance; the benefits are obvious. So, by our own example, we should be faster than ever before when sailing Beowulf, our Mk4, no excuses.

We were thrilled to see Peter and Alex Rahn back on the scene this year with impressive results in their new Mk4 including wins at the Nationals and the North Americans. That team always was competitive in W286 and were winners a number of times in the past, and now they have even more wins to their credit – our hardy congratulations to them. Welcome back!

When we look around the results some more – we have the great team of Paul and Mark Taylor winning the 2012 Storer Trophy for best aggregate scoring, doing so in their speedy Mk1 W7673. Kit Wallace wins "most improved" in 2012 sailing a beautifully restored woody W994. Shades and Chich (we all know who you are!) are hugely competitive boats and once again won a share of races in 2012. Mike Codd and Kirk Iredale in venerable W4600 were always in the hunt and George Blanchard would be proud of that. Face it folks, these guys and gals are good no matter which boats they sail! A boat still needs a good crew to sail it, make the right decisions and be where the wind is. That is, and will always be, the deciding factor in racing.....end of story.

But that is not the end of our story for Wayfaring in 2012. The Chesapeake Cruise was fantastic according to all those who participated. When we see the pictures and read those reports, we are jealous; the two of us so much look forward to our chance to be able to get involved in that one. So too, the Rock Hall river cruise race in June which attracted many boats and the numerous photos tell that fun tale. A few weeks later, in July, the International Rally at Wellesley Island in July gave those Wayfarer and CL16 sailors a great selection of warm weather, good winds and fantastic scenery to enjoy. Participation was the only prerequisite – you had to be there to enjoy it.

In our 2011 report, we said that 2012 must be looked at from the perspective that in 2013 our association, in conjunction with the USWA, will be hosting the “Worlds”, returning here after nine years. Thinking back to that week of racing in August of 2004, when we last hosted the Wayfarer version of the World championships, we had more than 60 boats participating, including many excellent crews from the UK, Ireland and Europe. The 2013 organizing committee at MSC, the host venue, along with our CWA and USWA executive committees, have been busy putting the plans, budgets, schedules, accommodations, advertising and sponsorship packages for this Worlds project together. The North Americans this past August were used as a bit of a dry run at MSC which, according to Rob Weirdsma, was most helpful in sorting out some of the logistical issues. However, if we can repeat the boat showing of 2004, MSC is going to be absolutely bulging at the seams with Wayfarers. We can hardly wait!

As most of you who read the Whiffle will know, work has taken your Honorary Commodore team to the other “down under”, Chile, where the two of us have been located for most of 2012. This left us only a very small amount of time to be back in Canada to enjoy our Wayfarers. Not by coincidence, we did get manage to be back in Canada for two special occasions – the North Bay Wayfarer Weekend and the North Americans at MSC. Both events were shorter than normal but entirely enjoyable none the less. As those who were there will recall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of racing the North Americans at MSC was cancelled due to high winds and a shortage of safety boats, but Mike Codd’s experiments on Sunday morning with boat weighing methods turned out to be quite entertaining.

Here in North Bay, we had broad range of wind and weather for the 50<sup>th</sup> NBWW anniversary events which included the Long Distance (Cruise) Race, the Canada Day race (which was shortened by a storm but which, thereafter, provided some of the most thrilling on-plane sailing we have ever experienced) and the Don Rumble series. This year, the annual Trout Lake Poker fun event was deferred. Our usual hosts Fred and Anne McNutt (long time CWA honorary members and family of the original CWA Honorary Commodore Don Rumble) had their attention on matters more important as Fred was in the midst of radiation treatments. However, we are pleased to report that Fred is back on track having successfully completed both the radiation treatments and unrelated orthoscopic surgery to repair shoulder problems. Fred assures us he will be fully fit to return to his RC duties when the 2013 version of the North Bay Wayfarer Weekend takes place.

Our best wishes to everyone for good health and continued happiness as we wrap up a busy 2012 and head into a very exciting 2013. We look forward to seeing everyone during the course of the year.

*Dave and Carol*