

THE HISTORY OF THE SAIL PAST

The first Royal “Review of the Fleet” was recorded in 1415 when England’s King Henry V reviewed his ships prior to sailing to France which ended in the victory at Agincourt. Since then, 46 Royal Naval Reviews of the Fleet have taken place, the latest one being on June 28, 2005 to commemorate the bi-centennial of the battle of Trafalgar.

The Yacht Club ‘Sail Past’ comes from the same naval tradition as the Royal Review of the Fleet.

The Sail Past tradition is believed to have begun at the Royal Yacht Squadron, founded in 1815 and located at Cowes on the Isle of White and has since been adopted by many sailing Clubs around the world.

On June 2, 2024 The Niagara on the Lake Sailing Club

will host it’s annual Sail Past. This event officially marks the beginning of the sailing season.

This year’s **SailPast Marshall** is **Paul Kocsis** aboard his Yacht “**Psychosis**”.

The Program

12:30 hrs. Skippers Meeting in the Riverside Club House - To receive Instructions and review procedures.

14:00 hrs. Review of the Fleet by **Commodore Kathy Brown**.

The Commodore will be at the front wall (flagpole) by the clubhouse. The fleet will sail by in review and Commodore Kathy Brown will take the salute on station.

16:00 hrs. Riverside Club House - Presentation followed by a Wine & Cheese Reception

Dressing Yachts

Notwithstanding, Reed's Nautical Almanac statement on Flag Etiquette that "...vessels only dress in harbour..." it has been the tradition at NOLSC to dress the yacht for the entire sail past review. It is intended to continue this tradition and all members are encouraged to Dress for the Sail Past.

In North America the following sequence of flags is prescribed by the New York Yacht Club for "Dressing the Yacht" from stem to transom.

AB2, UJ1, KE3, GH6, IV5, FL4, DM7, PO 3rd repeater, RN 1st repeater ST (Zero), CX9, WQ8, ZY 2nd repeater.

Failing the above format, use any colourful bunting, race pennant, or the like.

Also, note that the Canadian ensign may be flown from the mast head when yacht is dressed. Otherwise, the ensign should be flown from the afterpart of the vessel.

The NOLSC Burgee, officer's flag and owners private signal may be flown from the starboard yard-arm in that order.

Rendezvous and Start Line

Yachts to assemble in classes in close proximity to the middle of the river mouth off Queen's Royal Park (the gazebo).

Rendezvous Order

The Fleet will be led by Vice-Commodore of the Fleet **Rick Sherk**, aboard the yacht '**Bad Habit**' or designate, followed by Vice Commodores of House and of Operations, Treasurer, Secretary, Board Members then Past Commodores.

Fleet shall proceed in line, keeping station about **two boat lengths apart**. Engines will be used to maintain station. Minimum speed is to be three knots to prevent yachts from overlapping each other.

Fleet will be dispatched using **VHF Channel 68** by sail past Marshall Paul Kocsis on the following signals from Sailing Vessel "Psychosis II"

13:50 Warning Signal (Horn Blast)

13:55 Preparatory Signal (Horn Blast) and VHF Hail

14:00 Start Signal (Horn Blast)

Fleets will follow their Fleet Leaders as instructed by the Sail Past Marshall **Paul Kocsis**.

Signals for the Fleet will be:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Blue Flag Leader | Sharks |
| 2. Black Flag Leader | Up to 30' in length |
| 3. Orange flag Leader | 30' and over |
| 4. Yellow/Blue Strip Flag Leader | Power Cruisers |
| 5. ALL OTHERS | including dinghies and kayaks |

Each Division will follow immediately and go between Psychosis II and the junior Sailing Area, forming a line ahead in

the order arranged by the Fleet Leader.

Sailpast and Salute

All participants should sail past the Commodore, remaining at an interval of two boat lengths of open water and salute in the following manner:

- A) Yachts wearing ensigns will dip same;
- B) Others will luff the jib

The salute shall commence one boat length before the wall, and continue for one boat length beyond. Where possible the Skipper, Crew and Guests should face the saluting base, stating at attention. **Only the commodore will salute by hand.** (The dip of the yachts ensign or luff of a job is the salute from the saluting vessel).

Dispersal

Having cleared the saluting area, each participant should proceed towards the club, keeping clear of the saluting and sail past areas until the review is completed.

Dress

All yachtsmen are expected to wear suitable dress for the SailPast (Blue Blazers, Whites and ties)