

The Centreboard

The Jericho Sailing Centre Newsletter - Spring 2006

Cat Tales



For the past 15 years Clyde the Cat was Jericho Sailing Centre Association's Rodent Control Officer. A 70 year old ex-military building between a wooden pier and a large wharf on wood pilings is an attractive cold weather retreat for a rodent population of hundreds and if the food is good, they don't mind staying over for the summer. The Jericho Sailing Centre, BC (Before Clyde) was overrun with rodents which chewed through waterlines, chewed through wiring, chewed through everything and decorated all decks with their droppings. Various traditional rodent control attempts failed due to the sheer volume and the JSCA, with no shortage of appreciation for natural solutions, produced the most traditional rodent control program of all: a cat. Actually two cats- Bonnie and Clyde. After many escape attempts Bonnie was finally successful but Clyde kept on returning to us from places such as Marpole, Burnaby and Langley. On his last great escape attempt Clyde climbed unnoticed into a motorhome visiting Jericho and wasn't discovered until the occupants were across the California border. After that adventure, and a servicing at the vet, he pretty much settled in and didn't leave the Jericho Sailing Centre. He was very popular with Jericho members and staff and would often leave rodent offerings for proof of his prowess. His dedication and commitment earned him "Employee of the Month" honors for 14 straight years. Most rodents don't need a face to face meeting with a cat to persuade them to keep away; the feline scent is enough, so in his later years, after making peace with the rabbits, Clyde just let his cat air do the talking. Clyde disappeared without a trace last October and many a member has speculated and feared the worst. I note however that Clyde's disappearance coincided with the seasonal cessation of full time cafeteria service at the Sailing Centre and realizing Clyde's growing fondness for curly fries (with mayo rather than ketchup) and his desire to keep up his rotund appearance, prefer to think he has rolled on to a facility which offers year round cafeteria service. We did receive a report of a cat matching Clyde's description at a nearby pie shop and I'm sure his legendary appetite will lead to more future "Clyde sightings" by our members at restaurants all over, but for now-Clyde has left the building.

JSCA's New Rodent Control Program

It's going to take two kittens to fill the giant shadow cast by our former rodent control officer, Clyde. For 2006 Hobie and Pacific will join the JSCA staff. Born in a barn in Delta, these two natural mousers don't horse around; they are young and keen and promise to keep the Jericho Sailing Centre rodent free. We know our members will love them and treat them with courtesy by respecting our dogs on a leash rule but please refrain from feeding them-especially curly fries-as they are professional cats and we want to keep them healthy.

