

SAILPAST

JUNE 28, 2026

WHAT IS SAILPAST?

Sailpast is one of Kelowna Yacht Club's most cherished traditions, marking the official opening of the boating season. Members gather for a complimentary breakfast and ceremony before taking to Okanagan Lake, where vessels pass the Commodore's flagship in a formal salute.

HISTORY OF SAILPAST

The Sailpast tradition is rooted in centuries of Royal Navy history. It began at Cowes, England, over 200 years ago, where the aristocratic membership introduced the naval custom of formally reviewing the fleet, vessels sailing past and dipping their colours in salute while crew stood at attention. Over time, yacht clubs around the world adopted the ceremony, evolving it to honour the Commodore in place of the Admiral, a tradition that continues at clubs like KYC to this day.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Danny Foster, **Commodore**

Tod Alstad, **Vice Commodore**

Ryan Archambault, **Rear Commodore**

Michael Newcombe, **Past Commodore**

Cinzia Zotta, **Staff Captain**

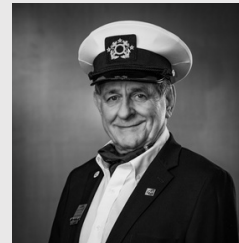
Mike Barker, **Fleet Captain**

John Ibbotson, **Director**

Eric Stansfield, **Director**

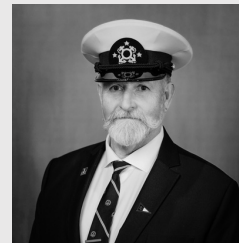
Eva Aylward, **Director**

Thom Killingsworth, **Executive Director**



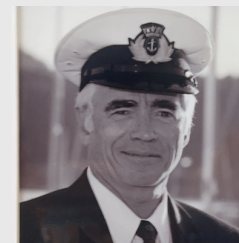
MICHAEL NEWCOMBE, Past Commodore

Having served as Commodore for 2024 & 2025, Michael Newcombe will be the Master of Ceremonies for today's event.



DANNY FOSTER, Commodore

Danny Foster serves as our current Commodore. For Sailpast he will review the fleet from the Commodore's Flagship.



DOUG HARDHAM, Protocol Officer

Past Commodore Doug Hardham serves as the protocol officer and oversees the ceremonial traditions and protocols for KYC.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Krystal Withakay, **Sylx Artist & Knowledge Keeper**

Kris Watt, **Piper**

Kelowna Cruises, **Commodore's Flagship**

Ken Hagen, **Photographer**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Breakfast in
Member Lounge

9:30 AM

Flag Raising

9:35 AM

Board Procession &
Ceremony in
Member Lounge

10:00 AM

Proceed onto the
Water

10:30 AM

Sailpast Commences

SAILPAST PROTOCOL

Following the ceremony, please proceed to your vessel and head to the designated muster station. Sailboats under power can remain with the sailing fleet. Boats can then line up (see Order of Sailpast) and proceed past the Commodore's flagship.

When your vessel comes abeam of the Commodore, please either dip your Canadian Flag or, for sailboats, gather in your jib (head sail).

To dip your flag, means to lower it by turning it forward from an upright position to 45° or horizontal.

The ship's captain offers a salute to the Commodore and all crew sit or stand at attention facing the Commodore until the Commodore acknowledges the salute.

SAILPAST FORMATION

Boats should remain a maximum of two (2) boat lengths apart. You will then pass about 30 feet from the Commodore's flagship at an approximate speed of five (5) knots with no wake.

IF YOU HAVE A VHF RADIO, PLEASE MONITOR CHANNEL 72.



ORDER OF SAILPAST

1. **SAIL FLEET** beginning with the Sail Fleet Captain's Boat, flying a red & blue flag.



2. **POWER FLEET** beginning with the Staff Captain's Boat, flying a yellow & blue flag.

