



**A monthly publication for the membership of Severn Sailing Association  
A Small Boat Racing Club, Established 1954**

**April 2009**

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**Commodore's Comments**

Springtime is here, and everyone should be getting ready for the sailing season. If you weren't busy frostbiting or lucky enough to be sailing somewhere South over the winter, it is time clean up the boat or take care of that long-postponed hardware upgrade. I hope you have many regattas on your schedule this year, both in Annapolis and perhaps a couple of away events as well.

SSA has also been getting prepared for spring. General Manager Mike Higgins and our work parties have been busy fixing up and cleaning up the clubhouse and grounds of SSA. Race committee assignments have been made, and the RC fleet has been made ready for another big year of racing. Construction of the new pier for the third basin has been delayed but will finally begin this month. We are doing our best to work out a plan that minimizes disruption of the sailing schedule and everyone's ability to use the club normally. Work should begin around the middle of April, so don't be surprised to see some heavy equipment at the club.

The Board of Governors has been busy preparing an online membership survey on potential clubhouse renovation plans. The survey will be ready within the next few weeks. You will get an email with a password and instructions to complete the survey. We apologize for the long delay since the survey was first announced at the annual meeting, but we are looking forwards to receiving input from the membership. This is the only membership survey we will have had in recent years, and I strongly encourage each member to take the time to respond.

Enjoy the spring weather, and have a great month!

Luke Shingledecker

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**Significant News**

**SPECIAL SPRING PRESENTATION SERIES**

- **Gary Jobson** will be providing SSA a gratis presentation 'Sailing: Speed and Passion on Friday evening **April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm.**
- **Carol Cronin** will present 'Sailing is the Easy Part: Putting it all together for your next big travel event. The top twenty things you need to know for a happy road trip/regatta experience... And why it's worth all the effort. **April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**

All presentations are free to SSA members. Space will be limited so **RSVPs will be required for admission.**

- **TESOD Starts May 5<sup>th</sup>.** Contact the office if you are interested in helping with Race Committee.
- **Duty Day Roster is complete** with a few open spots available. PLEASE check your account and mark your calendars. A **RC Substitute List** is available on the Members Only site under Reports 'Members Needing Days'. Please notify the office of any substitutions. Contact the office for an additional list of juniors for hire (\$50/day).

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**Upcoming Events**

- **April 3 - Gary Jobson Presentation – Sailing: Speed and Passion – 8pm.** Dark and Stormy's will be open for dinner 'TESOD style' prior to the event. **RSVP to the office as space will be limited.**
- **April 22 - Carol Cronin Presentation – Sailing is the Easy Part –7pm.**
- **May 5 - TESOD starts.**

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**Important Reminders**

- **Boat Identification** – All boats and trailers must have identification or will be subject to removal at the owners' expense. Contact Mike.
- **Junior Summer Program** Registration Balances and Paperwork is due 5/1.

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## SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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### Meeting Minutes for FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Present: Jen Cook, John Gebhardt, Mike Higgins, Bruce Irvin, David Koepper, Greg Leonard, Luke Shingledecker, Sean Smith, Joe Van Gieson, Nan Walker, Hal Whitacre

The January minutes were approved.

### SPECIAL STORAGE DISCUSSION

Steve Constants provided feedback to the Board about the 2009 storage rate fees. He indicated that there was concern among some members regarding the rate structure laid out in a document that was circulated among fleet captains. Steve has asked that the structure laid out in this proposal not be used going forwards. Before this meeting, feedback from the membership has been limited. The Board of governors made a decision on storage rates for 2009 and did not commit to a long-term plan to change rates. The rates for 2010 will be considered as part of the budget process, over the upcoming summer.

### COMMODORE'S REPORT

- David Barnes' memorial service was held at SSA on January 31. The clubhouse was at capacity with only standing-room available. There is interest in planning a living memorial on SSA's grounds.

### OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Sun. 2/15, 6-8:30 p.m. (Donna Powers) Catalina 27 Fleet 8 awards banquet approved
- Sat. 3/7, 6-10 p.m. (Kin Yellot) Nantucket Yacht Club Mid-winter Meeting
- Sun. 3/22 & Mon. 3/23 (Dobbs Davis) International Technical Committee of OCR approved to start Sunday evening
- 2009 Membership Dues: 17 members are in arrears (AR \$4691). 3 members are still undecided.
- 2009 Boat Storage Balance Due: Dry storage \$51,364 + Wet slip \$19,997 + Junior Associate members \$571 = \$71,932 (compared to about \$27,000 last year at this time).
- University of Maryland contract and payment are pending.
- Members only website is ready for the 2009 Duty Roster assignments starting 2/6. The 2008 database was saved.
- JM Mullen Electric new estimate to include fan is still pending.
- A clubhouse sofa was purchased. Another sofa is broken in the same place, so the Board approved purchasing another replacement. The slipcovers were not replaced.

- 13 members have RSVPed for the Racing Rules Seminar on 2/14, and many more are expected.
- Nan contacted Jon Anthony about speakers, etc., for seminars.

### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- The Interclub Mid-winters went well with heavy air on Saturday causing the RC to cancel racing after 3 rotations and many capsizes. All SSA RC equipment performed well with no complications other than the borrowed signal boat running aground in the middle basin.
- The Favored End has been hauled and stored at Annapolis Harbor Boatyard. New utility lines prevented storing it in the SSA lot. A new throttle positioning sensor was installed in the Aquasport.
- Mike installed life rings on all piers. Dan Lorian has dropped off a wooden ladder for us to evaluate. They appear to be very well constructed.
- Frostbite racing continues to run well, with no reported equipment issues.
- The exit gate is failing to open, so Mike locked the arm in the upright position and contacted Hawkins Electric for repairs.

### FACILITIES REPORT

- Outer Basin Wave Screen: A contract including the provisions discussed at the January Board meeting was signed. The \$750 fee for a state archeological survey of the area has been waived because it is a replacement structure. Permits have not been received but we hope to have the process completed in the coming weeks.
- Sink hole: Dan Lorian will be doing exploratory excavation to identify the culprit associated with the sink hole formation.
- Clubhouse Renovations: The committee is still in the process of developing a web-based survey to canvas members' opinions about the renovation alternatives.
- Facilities Committee: Potential co-chairs for four subcommittees (General Maintenance, Clubhouse Renovation, Safety, and Landscaping) have been sent emails to check on willingness to serve in leadership roles. Responses have indicated that candidates were not interested. The candidates have indicated a willingness to help in an informal role, but do not want to lead a group.
- The Board approved funding for ladders.

### FINANCE REPORT

- Membership dues are \$6K lower than last year at this time. We briefly reviewed the financial reports and will look at revenue in more detail next month.

## SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Nan is helping with the 2009 trophies selection and ordering.

## STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- PROs and Vice Chairs have been signing up for their duty days since mid-January. The sign-up for RC staff and work parties opens on 2/4 and will remain open through mid-March. After closing, any slots that remain open will be assigned randomly to members owing days.
- The SRC has scheduled a seminar for members on the new Racing Rules of Sailing to take place on 2/14 from 9:30 to 11 at SSA. Jim Capron, SSA member and current President of U.S. Sailing will be the presenter.
- The club's Sailing Instructions have been edited and updated to reflect the 2009-2012 RRS. They will be printed in quantity prior to Opening Day.
- A cover for the new RIB is now in place. While the fabric is not as sturdy as we would have liked, it was significantly less expensive than a custom cover.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- New associate members, membership changes, and resignations were approved.

## JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- Summer Program registration for nonmembers has started and all instructors, but not all coaches have been hired.
- Brent and Joel attended the National Sailing Program Symposium on Jan. 6-10.
- Dave Schoene will be the regatta chair for the Laser Radial/4.7 ACC's in June.

## OLD BUSINESS

- The Chesapeake Bay magazine display will be ready by Opening Day.
- Luke has obtained job descriptions from Nan and Mike. Jen will work on developing performance criteria for evaluations next December.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Mike will talk with Jim Urban about designing a landscaped memorial for David Barnes.
- Initiation of a safety committee is in discussion/formation with Peter Hale.
- Mike will send an email to slip holders about removing their boats for 3-5 days while the middle basin pilings are replaced.
- Luke will put together an email about Facilities Committee progress.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, March 9 @ 6:45 p.m.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### NEW MEMBERS

Gary & Joan Hurban  
(Associate)  
Fleet: Lightning, Laser

Michael & Lesley Powers  
(Associate)  
Fleet: Laser

### CHANGES

Doug Loup (Supporting)  
Susan Sircovics  
(Supporting)

### RESIGNATIONS

Doug Clark (Non-Resident)  
David Hammett (Associate)

## Duty Days

All members have either signed-up for their required duty days or if they did not sign-up, have been assigned randomly to open Race Committee or Work Party dates. Be sure to check in the "Members Only" section of the SSA website -- click on your name, then on "Duty Days" at the bottom of your page for the days you signed up for, or were assigned to. Remember, if you miss your assigned Duty Days and do not provide a substitute, you will receive a \$150 fine per missed day.

## FLEET NEWS

### Laser Fleet

We have reached the conclusion of another great Laser Frostbiting season!! Fifty-six sailors competed in thirteen Sundays of highly competitive racing. It was all made possible by everyone volunteering for race committee duty once during the season. Thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered. Gavin O'Hare (EYC) was our overall Frostbite champion. Brendan McAndrews (SSA) was second and Matt Cottrell (PBSA) was third overall. Twenty-four sailors qualified for the Frostbite participation trophy, by participating (in racing or RC) for 6 or more out of the 13 days. This year's trophies are lovely mugs for your favorite frosty beverage. Complete results are available on the Laser Fleet website:

<http://www.severnsailing.org/fleets/laser/frostbiting/>

SSA will be hosting the 2009 Laser Atlantic Coast Championships on May 2-3<sup>rd</sup> for the Standard Rigs, and June 6-7<sup>th</sup> for the Radial/4.7 rigs. Each weekend there will be 2 days of racing, continental breakfast, food and beverages after racing on Saturday and Sunday and a regatta T-shirt included in the entry fee. We will also have goodie bags and a raffle with items from our fabulous sponsors- APS, Helly Hansen, Spinsheet, The Boatyard Bar and Grill, and Sailregattas.com. Check out the regatta website at [www.laseracc2009.org](http://www.laseracc2009.org). Registration for the Standard rig event is open on [www.sailregattas.com](http://www.sailregattas.com)

## Lightning Fleet 329

Joan Hurban, Gary Hurban and Allan Terhune are down in the sunny south participating in the Lightning Southern Circuit. For those of you who might not know, this is a nine-day sprint, starting in Savannah GA on Saturday and Sunday, followed by a drive to Miami FL for two days of racing in Biscayne Bay, a one day drive to St Petersburg FL for three days of racing on Thursday through Sunday. Jonathan Lange joined the fleet at St Petersburg.

Allan won the regatta in Savannah, a 40-boat fleet, and Miami with a 48-boat fleet. Joan was 23<sup>rd</sup> in Miami and husband Gary was 29<sup>th</sup>. Allan was also 3<sup>rd</sup> at St Pete (58 boats) and won the overall prize by 30 points over the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place boat. Last but certainly not least, new member Gay Hurban placed second in the Masters Fleet at St Pete. It was a great Circuit for Fleet 329.

A great bit of news, Ainsley Thomson, daughter of Alister Thomson, has been granted a boat from the ILCA boat-loaner program. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the program and has been very successful in providing young people the opportunity to sail quality boats at no cost to them. Ainsley will be a great addition, and we who have known her for several years are possibly more excited than she is (well maybe that's a stretch).

The fleet had another party, hosted by Jason Werner and Heather Dodd, and all but two of the fleet skippers were able to attend. Everyone is excited about the new season which will feature great racing from SSA plus the District Championship held in Solomons MD on June 13-14, the Atlantic Coast Championships held at Toms River YC in New Jersey on July 25-26 and the North American Championships at Sodus Bay Yacht Club at the east end of Lake Ontario. The final regatta is the Frigid Digit, the last major Lightning regatta on the East Coast.

## Thistle Fleet

Several Local Thistlers traveled to St Petersburg Florida for the annual thistle midwinters championship. Local Fleet member Greg Fisher won the regatta going away. The fleet is looking forward to the 50+ Atlantic Coast Championships held right here at SSA. Also everyone is excited about our may spring open and we look forward to our annual spring party. contact Joe for more details. Once again let me know if you are interested and I can get you on a Thistle for the Spring Open.

## Snipe Fleet

Spring is upon us and the Annapolis Snipe fleet is gearing up for a busy season. At the forefront is the 2009 US Women's Snipe National Championship, which will be hosted by Annapolis Snipe Fleet 532 and Severn Sailing Association. Think the Women's Nationals is just for Snipe sailors? Think again. Many of the best female Snipe sailors are also accomplished sailors in fleets such as the Yngling, Laser Radial, Europe dinghy, past collegiate phenoms, and many more that I'm sure I'm forgetting. The Snipe fleet would like to extend the invitation to all female sailors to compete in this event. Don't have a boat, don't worry, we'll find you one. This is a great opportunity to compete against some of the best female sailors the US has to offer. If you're interested in

competing in this event, please check out the event site at [www.obyc.com/wmsnipe09](http://www.obyc.com/wmsnipe09) for the NOR or email to [snipe@severnsailing.org](mailto:snipe@severnsailing.org).

In other news, the Annapolis fleet held its annual meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Besides ironing out planning for the 2009 US Women's Nationals, the fleet is also considering hosting the 2010 US Nationals as they rotate back to District 1. The class hopes that SSA and its fleets will support the Snipe fleet with our bid and hosting yet another national championship level event that SSA is renowned for.

Last, congratulations to Eric Reinke & Bridget Creney who finished sixth in the competitive 41-boat fleet at the Don Q regatta in Miami earlier this month. Annapolis attendance at Miami and the Winter Circuit was down this year, but the Don Q was still the brutal slugfest of some of the best Snipe sailors in the country that it usually is.

## Changes We Can Believe In John Gebhardt

On Valentine's Day, SSA members packed the club house to hear Jim Capron, SSA member and current President of U.S. Sailing tell us about the changes to the racing Rules of Sailing which became effective on January 1 of this year and will govern our behavior on the race course for the next four years.

Jim concentrated on several changes which will change our behavior on the race course and recommended that everyone join U.S. Sailing and read carefully the new rule book which you will get free with your membership. He also recommended Dave Perry's new book, "Understanding the 2009-2012 Racing Rules" for more good examples of how to apply the new rules on the race course.

According to Jim, the major "game changers" are:

1. Rule 17.2, (Boats on the same tack; proper course) has been deleted. Now, a boat clear ahead or to windward can sail anywhere she wants as long as she keeps clear of leeward boats.
2. Rule 18 (Mark Room) has been changed substantially. The zone has been enlarged to 3 boat lengths and a boat clear ahead or with an inside overlap when the leading boat enters the zone must be given room to sail to the mark and round the mark in a seamanlike manner. In general, this will require outside boats to give more room than before.
3. If there is a leeward gate, an inside right-of-way boat no longer has to gybe as soon as possible to round. She can sail as far past the mark as she wishes in order to round the far gate or just to get more room.
4. Rule 19 (Room to Pass and Obstruction) There is no longer a "zone" around an obstruction. A boat can get an overlap at any time as long as the windward boat can keep clear. Boats on the race course are no longer "continuing obstructions". This means that a boat can stick her nose in a tight gap on the starting line and if the windward boat can keep clear, she must do so.
5. Rule 20 (Room to tack at an obstruction) is clarified so that if a boat is hailed, she must either tack or say "you tack". No exceptions.

His message to us all - "Join and support U.S. Sailing, learn the new rules, and get out on the race course and have fun." Go to <http://membership.ussailing.org> to join US Sailing.