

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

**February 2008**

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**Commodore's Comments**

The 2008 Racing Schedule is final, included in this eSSAy, and also available on the SSA website. Now that the 2008 racing calendar is final, it is time to sign up for work party and race committee volunteer assignments. In recent years, there has been a trend towards "opting out" of volunteer duty by paying the buy-out fee. While SSA recognizes that family, health, and business issues can be legitimate reasons for buying out of volunteer days, we urge all members to take this feature of SSA to heart. The volunteer nature of the club is what keeps us going. Participation in work parties and race committees not only serves the primary functions of the club, but also offers opportunities to meet and work with other members who share many of the same interests and goals each of us hold dear. You can sign up using the form you will receive in the mail with your 2008 SSA membership card, or go to the SSA website "members only" page.

The SSA RC fleet will include a new 17' Zodiac RIB this year. The BOG approved a recommendation from the SRC to purchase the vessel in order to improve safety on the racecourse. An RIB was selected because of improved ease of sailor retrieval, and the ability to approach stranded sailboats with minimal hull damage.

Finally, in the continuing frostbites events, John and Molly Baxter, Dan Pletsch and Maggie Lumkes from the Larchmont NY fleet won the 2008 Interclub Mid-Winters with a 27 point margin over the local second place team of Brian Bissell, Alexis Rubin and Matt and Lori Schubert. 72 sailors formed 18 4-member teams and sailed in collegiate A-B team race format. Also, Ben Fransen' team won the Soling class in the 54<sup>th</sup> competition of the Ice Bowl, and Warren Richter's team won the J-22 class.

Joe

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**Significant News**

- **Junior Summer 2008 registration** is now open to the public. Get your registrations in asap to secure a spot in the best program in town.
- **2008 Race Schedule is now posted on the website.**
- **Duty Day Sign-up is officially open.** You can use the Members Only site or return the Form included in your membership letter to sign-up for your preferred days. *Deadline for sign-up is March 14<sup>th</sup>.*

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**Upcoming Events**

- **February 1<sup>st</sup> – Boat Storage Balances were Due.**
- **February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine Dinner** (\$32.75/person) Bring your favorite sailor to SSA for a special affair. Reservations required. *Contact David at 410-422-0039 or [info@livetoeat.net](mailto:info@livetoeat.net).* See Menu on page 4.
- **February 29<sup>th</sup> – Wine Tasting Dinner** (\$45/person) Sample six wines with complimentary dishes.
- **February 16<sup>th</sup> – US Sailing Race Management Seminar.** SSA will host a U.S. Sailing Basic Race Management course. Must Pre-Register. Contact the office with your US Sailing # to receive the \$15 rate.
- **Work Party Days** – March 1-2, 8-9, 15-16., 22 & 29<sup>th</sup> (9:30am). Sign-up via the Duty Roster online.
- **Tobacco Auction** – March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am for filling remaining Regatta Chair and Vice Chair positions.

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**Important Reminders**

- **Boat Storage Balance Bills were due** January 31<sup>st</sup>. A \$30 Late Fee will be applied to all unpaid balances.
- Service Days Duty, can be fulfilled by an SSA member, their spouse, family member (age appropriate) and/or crew.
- All Service Duty Buy-Outs must be accompanied with payment and written request.
- Junior Program Discount – only Associate, Voting, Emeritus, Honorary and Honorary Life members receive the 35% member discount.

## SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 11, 2007

Present: Joe Van Gieson, John Gebhardt, Hal Whitacre, Luke Shingledecker, Greg Leonard, Jen Cook, Mike Higgins, Nan Walker.

Absent: Bruce Irvin, Sean Smith, Roberto Lopez

The November minutes were approved without changes.

#### COMMODORE'S REPORT

- Joe sent a letter to the MDE stating our position regarding EYC's proposed solid wave screen.
- Joe reviewed the ground rules for BOG meetings (stay on topic; debate issue and answer questions in order to move toward a vote, etc.) Ideally, committees should submit proposals for action to the BOG.
- Barbara Vosbury has moved on from being SSA's primary bookkeeper to the executive administrator of the Star class.

#### OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- There have been a lot of requests to use the clubhouse this winter. Requests should be made to the BOG one month in advance.
  - o The NOAA Christmas party request was canceled.
  - o FOX TV requested to use the club on 12/17 for an interview about Canadian Finn sailor Larry Lemieux's rescue of a 470 sailor during the 1988 Olympics. The BOG approved not to charge a usage fee.
  - o The Junior party takes place on Saturday 1/12 from 6-9 p.m. No fees charged.
  - o Cameron McDonald, a nonmember, requested to use the clubhouse from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday 1/31 and 10:30-12:15 p.m. on Friday 2/1 for a RnRetreat life coaching workshop for 10-15 people. The BOG approved the request.
  - o J Bergquist requested to host an Alberg 30 class racing seminar on Saturday 2/16 from 5:30-9. The BOG approved the request.
  - o Sean Smith requested to host the annual chowder competition on Saturday 2/23 starting at 6 p.m. The BOG approved the request.
- CBS News, the Middle East Broadcasting Network, and CBS News Path used the club facilities to broadcast during the Annapolis Peace Conference. They have been billed for a total of \$2000.
- The Box of Rain and Parade of Lights parties were both very successful events.
- 37 members are in arrears for dues and 201 members have applied for boat storage. Boat storage balance bills will be sent out on Jan. 4.
- January begins the electronic notification of the eSSAy. 52 members have requested to receive the eSSAy via mail and 10 others do not have email addresses. We may want to add a link on the members only section of the web site for people to indicate if they want to receive the eSSAy via mail.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- Chesapeake Design is ready to replace the club roof as soon as weather permits.

#### eSSAy

February 2008

- Currently we can accommodate all boat storage requests. Mike is following up with members who have not yet submitted applications.
- Frostbiting is going well thus far. The RC equipment has functioned well with the exception of some starting problems with the Aquasport. A professional mechanic is helping Mike solve the problem.
- The Parade of Lights security did a good job of keeping non-members off SSA property. Mike was concerned about the number of unattended children on the grounds and docks.

#### FACILITIES REPORT

- The committee unanimously approved the contract bid for the roofing work. Work is scheduled to start the week of 12/11.
- Shane is working up clubhouse renovation cost estimates. Sean has contacted Drum and Loyka to provide him new (revised) electronic copies of the lot/building survey in formats that he can use in his architecture software. We should expect to hear from Shane in early January.

#### FINANCE REPORT

- Greg presented the balance sheet and FY08 budget.
- Dues collection is about \$16,000 ahead of last year at this time.

#### SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Three fleets have new captains: Alon Finkelstein (J/22), James McKenna (Jets), and Joe McCorkell (Thistle).
- The Board approved a Snipe fleet request to host a clinic on Saturday, May 17, at the clubhouse.
- A third draft of the 2008 schedule is out for review. The sailing committee will meet in December.
- The committee received the following invitational requests:
  - o IC Midwinters January 26-27
  - o Lightning Districts June 14-15 (new)
  - o Snipe Colonial Cup May 31 - June 1
  - o Snipe Frigid Digit September 27-28
  - o J/24 East Coast Championship October 24-26
 These events have been placed on the draft schedule and have not received any conflicting comments.
- Roberto spoke with Vince regarding race committee participation for the 2008 J/24 ECC. The J/24s are looking at Sandy Grosvenor and other SSA members to be the PRO and RC.
- The NOOD is scheduled for April 25-27. Stars, J/22s, and J/24s want to attend. The Solings have not yet replied. The committee recommends that SSA participate in the 2008 NOOD with 3-4 fleets and support the RC activities for a fee. Our RC fee was raised from \$1500 to \$1800 in 2007. The committee suggests no fee change in 2008.
- The Soling fleet requested to host the US Nationals on October 16-19. In 2008 the sail and powerboat shows occur one week later than usual. This creates a potential conflict if the Thistle and Lightning regattas occur the same weekends as the boat shows. Therefore, the proposed schedule is
  - o Thistle Oyster Roast on October 4-5
  - o Lightning Frigid Digit on October 11-12
  - o Soling Nationals October 16-19.

**STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT**

- 2007 required a higher than normal number of adjustments in PROs and Vice Chairs, but there were no major problems. Although the joint SSA/EYC-hosted Lightening NAs was well-managed, some SRC members were concerned about SSA members' level of involvement.
- Four Vice Chairs were approved to move up to Chair status. If all accept, there will be enough PROs for 2008.
- The SRC requests that the BOG encourage greater membership participation in race management, especially as Vice Chairs, and especially from fleets (V/15, Star, J/24s) that are under-represented.
- The SRC will host a US Sailing Basic Race Management Seminar on February 16 at SSA.
- The SRC plans to submit a recommendation for a RIB purchase to the BOG.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- Approved for associate: Bruce Farr, Darren Jiron, John Mulcahy, Susan Ziemann
- Approved request to change from voting to supporting: Tim Cusack, Peter Lauria
- Approved request to change from voting to emeritus: Davis Buckley
- Approved request to change from student over 21 to associate: Elaine Lamb
- Approved resignations: Jason Currie, Kathy O'Brennan, Guillaume Seynhaeve, Jenifer Smith, Tim Williams. All were in good standing.
- Further action: Adam Goldstein's request to change from student over 21 to non-resident is problematic because only associate and voting members can request a change to non-resident. Joe will talk with Adam about options.

**JR. COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Molly O'Bryan-Vandemoer has been hired as head coach. It is a 10 month position that starts January 1. She plans to go to the 420 Midwinters.
- Some sailors will participate in the Orange Bowl, but we are not sending coaches.
- Brent anticipates a high return rate from last summer's instructors.
- The junior program brochure will be sent out January 3.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Roberto to call Vince re our concerns with the lack of SSA member help for the J-24 ECC's. Also using Dark and Stormy and picking up trash. Ownership of the regatta.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Given Barbara Vosbury's departure, we discussed the possibility of Nan taking on bookkeeping responsibilities. Greg will talk with Steve Constants about how we could implement internal controls if Nan enters the data.
- John will set up a Sharepoint plan for the BOG to try out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, January 14 @ 6:30 PM.

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES****NEW MEMBERS**

**Greg Cukor (Associate)**  
5913 Meadowood Road  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
410-433-3476 (h)  
410-340-9646 (c)  
410-340-9646 (w)  
gregcukor@netscape.net  
Fleet: J22

**Catherine Guider (Associate)**

1035 Norman Drive, Apt 202  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
410-280-9400 x223 (w)  
443-454-2274 (c)  
savjai@gmail.com  
Fleet: 505, Laser

**David Sliom (Associate)**

1029 Kensington Way  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
443-321-3637 (h)  
240-481-0264 (c)  
301-763-4143 (w)  
dave@dancingbearsailing.com  
Fleet: Laser

**RESIGNATIONS****Buck Downes (Associate/Laser)**

**Adam Goldstein (Student over 21)**

**Rick Harris (Supporting)**

**Mike Mergenthaler (Non-Resident)**

**Jack O'Brien (Associate/Laser)**

**Race Management Seminar – Last Call**

SSA will host a U.S. Sailing Basic Race Management Seminar at the club on Feb. 16. -- see details in the January "eSSAy". The Seminar is an excellent way to learn the basics of race management from the experts. The all-day course will be taught by U.S. Sailing Instructors, with an optional U.S. Sailing Club Race Officer certification test at the end. The cost is \$15 for U.S. Sailing Members; \$45 for non-members, and will include lunch. Space is limited, so contact the club office to register as soon as possible.

**Fleet News****Snipe Fleet**

While the winter months are quiet for most every fleet, the Annapolis Snipe Fleet is no exception, but diverts our attention to social activities and getting ready for the 2008 season. The Snipe fleet's annual Christmas party was a success, thanks to hosts Holly & Gavin O'Hare. Good times were had by all with Brian Bissell as Santa Claus for the gift exchange. Adding to the festivities, the Snipe fleet was joined by several members of the V15 fleet.

In other news, the donation & loaner boat program that the Annapolis Snipe fleet has been conducting for the past year as a test program for SCIRA USA (the national Snipe governing body) was recently approved unanimously by the national board, allowing the program to be used by Snipe fleets nationwide. The Annapolis Snipe fleet and its members were commended by the board for their initiative and leadership in developing a program for fleet growth that can have national significance.

Finally, several fleet members are keeping their skills sharp during the winter months, with Ian Mutnick, Scott Tarpley, & Jon Anthony participating in IC's and Gavin O'Hare, Bryan Fishback, Eric Reinke, Russ Wesdyke, Brian Hetherington, Hal Whitacre, & Kim Couranz getting out in the Laser. Coming up next is the winter fleet meeting in February and the winter circuit in Florida beginning in late March.

## 2008 Ice Bowl

On Sunday January 6th at the 11:00AM skipper's meeting for the postponed Ice Bowl the seven Solings and five J-22's had sunshine and a glassy calm - but a light gradient southerly soon broke thru the inversion and the race was off under spinnaker - almost on time! The Soling fleet went up the river almost in line abreast with the four boats nearest the north shore - Tom Davies, John Standiford, Tom Price and Ben

As they entered the narrows off Sherwood Forest Stu Walker's position to the far left - (outside in more wind at the bend) to the right looked good - and he was about to take the lead when he smashed into the Sherwood Forest shelf. As the wind died (spreading out into Round Bay), Ben Fransen pulled away from the leaders to the right . But Peter Gleitz held left and almost caught Ben as they rounded the upriver mid-Bay mark. Ben led the fleet, now well bunched, on the long slow reach across to the island while the J-22's were closing rapidly in a strong new southerly sea breeze.

Everyone elected to round the island clockwise (the right decision). In the near dead calm to the south of the island Ben, clinging to his lead, jibed to round first at Mark #2 . As downdrafts of the just arrived sea breeze overflowed the island, Ben stayed close to the northern island shore (leading the fleet in single file astern) and pulled away as he emerged in the ten knot sea breeze for the island's eastern side. Leaving Stu (aground again!) and John Standiford (pushing off after leaping overside!), the first five boats swept around the mid-Bay mark and disappeared down the Bay.

Tom Davies harried Ben all the way to the finish, but could not get past These two were well ahead as they finished with Tom Price third and Peter Gleitz, grounding in the narrows and holding off a charging Stu Walker all the way to the finish, fourth. Joe Van Gieson was sixth and John Standiford seventh.

So the oldest boat in the fleet - Joe Van Gieson's old boat - won the 54th running of the Ice Bowl - and the second oldest boat - Dave Lavis's, sailed by Tom Price - was third - and the three newest were 5-6-7!! And newly wed Tom Davies - out for the first time since the wedding - was second - his usual position - and showed no ill effects!

## 2008 IC Midwinters

PRO Mike Waters and his expert Race Committee team did a super job by getting off 22 races in the 2008 IC Midwinters sailed January 26th and 27th at SSA. Despite fickle and light air on Saturday and a shifty northwesterly on Sunday square lines and square courses were the norm. 18 four person IC teams competed in this collegiate style A/B format regatta which has become a great mid season marker for all the IC Northeast fleets.

John and Molly Baxter, Dan Pletsch and Maggie Lumkes from the Larchmont NY fleet won the regatta with a 27 point margin over the local second place team of Brian Bissell, Alexis Rubin and Matt and Lori Schubert. Cutting your losses was the key to success; the top teams avoided more than two or three double digit finishes although even the winners finished out of the top ten twice.

Everyone enjoyed the crock pot soup and friendly atmosphere provided by SSA IC Fleet members. More than most regattas this event is as much a social happening as it is a regatta.

## Sign-Up for Duty Days

The Open Period for members to sign-up for their 2008 Race Committee and/or work party duty days will run from January 31 -March 14. The 2008 racing and work party schedule, and a sign-up form is included in this "eSSAy." Voting and Associate Members with last names beginning with A-Q have a 3 day obligation this year; those with last names beginning with R-Z have a 4 day obligation, but can either sign-up now for 4 days, or sign-up for 3 and be placed on a "Substitute" list, subject to call if needed during the season for their 4<sup>th</sup> day. Supporting Members have a 2-day obligation; Junior Associate and Winter Members 1 day. Members can sign-up for their duty days via the internet on the Members Only portion of SSA's website - [www.severnsailing.org](http://www.severnsailing.org) - or by e-mail or regular mail to the club office. Members who have not signed-up for their duty days by March 16 will be randomly assigned to open slots on the schedule. Sign-up now, and get your full choice of dates!

Our racing schedule needs SSA Race Committee Chairs (PROS) and Vice Chairs to serve in those capacities if at all possible - pick your dates and contact Peter Hale at [peterandsusanhale@atlanticbb.net](mailto:peterandsusanhale@atlanticbb.net) to do so.

A buy-out option is available for those members who for various reasons cannot serve this year, at \$75 per day. Please contact the club office in writing, and include a check for \$75 for each day you wish to buy-out. But remember that SSA is a volunteer organization, and your participation on Race Committees and/or work parties is expected and needed.

## Valentine's Dinner

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>



### Menu

Borscht, Half a Lobster with Filet Mignon

served with Spaghetti Squash and Sugar Snap Peas

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Coulis

Champagne Included

**Reservations Required** \$32.75/person

Contact David & Betka at

410-422-0039 Or [info@livetoeat.net](mailto:info@livetoeat.net).

## Wine Tasting Dinner

Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> \$45/person

### Menu - Includes Tasting or 3 wines

Tabouli, Hummus, Baba Ganoush, Olives and Pita

Garlic Shrimp and Couscous, Petite Beef Wellington

Pavlova with Fresh Fruit and Cream