



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

February 2009

Commodore's Comments

It was with utmost sadness that I reported to the membership this past month about the passing of longtime member David Barnes. David had been a member of SSA since 1997, racing a Vanguard 15 and cruising his Pearson 30. David was also a passionate volunteer, contributing to countless projects at SSA, and also improvements to the public park at the end of First Street just outside our gate. The outpouring of support from the David's friends is evidenced on the website set up in his memory at <http://annapolis.wordpress.com> and we are honored that his family has chosen to hold his memorial service at SSA – a fitting tribute to a man who loved sailing and our club.

These days SSA seems almost as active in the winter as it is in the summer. We host active frostbiting almost every weekend for the Laser, Interclub, Jet 14 and Soling Fleets. Just this past weekend, we hosted over 80 sailors from as far away as Connecticut and Massachusetts for the Interclub Midwinter Regatta. All of this activity is great to see and it helps us make it through winter as we wait for the warm days of spring. It is all too easy to become overly confident in our sailing abilities and our activities around the waterfront. It bears mentioning, especially in the winter; please take a few extra minutes to prepare for the conditions. Bring a friend when checking on your boat or going sailing. Dress for the water temperature and always wear a life jacket, even on the docks.

Speaking of docks, I am pleased to announce that we plan to begin construction work on the outer basin pier in March. We ask for your understanding and patience as we work to improve our facilities with as minimal disruption as possible. The new dock will be 6 feet wide, and I for one look forward to the enhanced functionality and safety that it will provide for SSA.

Luke Shingledecker



David Barnes aboard SunStruck

Significant News

- **2009 Race Schedule is posted** on the website.
- **Junior Summer 2008 Registration** is now open to the public. Get your registrations in ASAP to secure a spot.

Upcoming Events

- **February 4th, - Duty Day Sign-up Starts.** Use the Members Only site or return the enclosed Form to sign-up for your preferred days. **Deadline for sign-up is March 15th.** *Contact Peter Hale to sign-up as Vice Chair or PRO positions.*
- **February 14th, 9:30 - 11:00.** – US Sailing 2009-2012 **Racing Rules Seminar at SSA.** Standing Race Committee will host a seminar on the new 2009 - 2012 Racing Rules of Sailing. RSVP online or contact Nan.
- **February 14th – Valentine Dinner with Dark N'Stormy's 6-9pm.** \$30/person Inclusive. See page 4 for details. **Must RSVP by 2/12th to attend.**

Important Reminders

- **Boat Storage Balance Bills were due** February 1st. A \$30 Late Fee will be applied to all balances as of 2/28.
- **Service Day Duty** can be fulfilled by a member and/or family member (age appropriate) or crew.
- **Duty Buy-Outs** must be accompanied with payment of \$75/day and written request.

SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 8, 2008

Present: Jen Cook, John Gebhardt, Mike Higgins, Bruce Irvin, David Koepper, Luke Shingledecker, Sean Smith, Joe Van Gieson, Nan Walker, Hal Whitacre Absent: Greg Leonard
The November minutes were approved with edits to the Office Manager and Facilities reports.

COMMODORE'S REPORT

- Bruce Irvin has replaced Luke as Standing Race Committee liaison.
- David Koepper has replaced Roberto, who recently resigned from the Board, as the club Fleet Captain.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Late fee invoices for the 2009 membership dues bills were sent out 12/3. 47 members are in arrears (compared to 37 in 2007). 3 are on payment plans. In January we will call those members still in arrears.
- More members than in past years are submitting only the \$25 boat storage deposit with their applications.
- The Members Only web site has been updated to include P&Ps, By-laws, and Membership documents, race committee Chair and VC lists, and committee interests, which should help identify potential new committee members.
- Nan has requested from JM Mullen Electric an estimate for track lighting addition to main clubhouse.
- Tracy Leonard has submitted a document of the Chesapeake Bay Magazine article for display in the clubhouse. We now need to talk to a printer about framing cost.
- Kris Wilson is working on a plan for mounting the burgees.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- New lighting in the snack bar seating area has been installed. They provide adequate light to read the notice board.
- The dock plumbing has been winterized successfully. The freeze-free faucet, located by the water fountain, will provide winter wash-down capabilities. Mike has provided a hose to allow wash down in the launching area.
- Frostbite RC boats and equipment are in good working order with no reported issues. We will be using four RC boats for frostbiting this season and the Favored End for the Ice Bowl in January. Mike plans to have the Favored End hauled out after the Ice Bowl.
- Mike has reviewed the 2009 boat storage applications that were due December 1. Currently we can provide storage for all applications with the exception of a few wet slip requests. We still have the normal amount of undetermined storage needs by members in arrears or failure to apply for this time of year. We appear to be in the same position as the last couple of years if most delinquent applications are received this month. Mike has started calling members who still have boats at SSA and have failed to turn in a storage application.

- Lights Party hired security has been arranged and will begin at 5:30 through the end of the parade.

FACILITIES REPORT

- The Annapolis City Port Wardens Board approved our application for replacement of the outer basin wave screen at the November 25 hearing. Revisions to the plan are in progress based on the design that was negotiated in order to obtain PWB approval.
- The plan still needs approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Board of Public Works.
- Sean will confirm the cost estimate on contract for the pier, pilings, and deck work. The Board of Governors will vote in January on the plan.
- The Clubhouse Renovations Subcommittee will meet in January to start the alternatives analysis of the options for renovations.
- At the Annual Meeting, several members volunteered to join the Facilities Committee.

SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- The 2009 racing schedule has been developed.
- No fleets will be on probation in 2009.
- Of the three open fleets, only the Johnson 18 fleet has written a letter requesting continued open fleet status, which the Board approved.
- Jon Anthony should work directly with Nan on scheduling a racing seminar series.

STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- RC boats are being used very extensively for Frostbiting. On most weekends the Aqua Sport, Parker, and RIB are in use. While the RIB had not been intended for Frostbiting RC, the SRC supports using it but noted that this will result in higher maintenance costs and earlier replacement.
 - o The new RIB is performing well. Warranty work on a small fiberglass defect is being scheduled, and a lifting bridle has been re-ordered. A cover will be purchased to protect from UV on the tubes.
 - o The Aqua Sport engine gave problems throughout the season. In spite of extensive repairs, it is still not running correctly. The throttle positioning sensor will be investigated, but if the "black box" needs replacement (\$1,000+), it may be time to replace both the engine and boat. The Aquasport, at 25 years old, is expected to last another 5 years or less.
 - o The Parker and Favored End are in good shape. Favored End will be used as the RC boat for the Soling New Year's regatta, then pulled for bottom paint and repair. The Favored End is expected to last another 5-10 years.
- Equipment is generally in good shape, except for the propane cannon. Mike will order a replacement.
- The SRC created a new category "Approved PROS Emeritus" to recognize competent members who have become inactive. Two VCs were approved to move up to the Approved PRO list.

- A seminar for members will be scheduled over the winter to review the changes in the RRS. The SRC will edit the Sailing Instructions accordingly.
- The SRC reviewed the 2009 draft schedule and found no problems from a race management perspective.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- Program pricing and enrollment levels were discussed at the November 12 Jr. Program Board meeting. There will be increases in all program fees for 2009. In addition, the SSA membership discount may need to be decreased in order to maintain the program's financial goals. Some Board of Governors members commented that since the 2009 membership dues have already paid, and some senior club members belong in part for the junior program discount, this is the wrong time to announce a change.
- High School sailing fees are being restructured to eliminate separately charged initiation and annual junior membership dues. These dues will be included in the base price. Additionally, fees will be slightly increased to meet program goals and as a result of AYC's dramatically increasing their High School fee for this past fall season.
- Finalization of the 2009 Jr. Program brochure, including dates and fee schedules, is ongoing. Mailing date for the brochures is early January.
- Discussions have been had with Mike in regards to trading storage locations for the V-15s (on the grass, street side of the clubhouse) and the Jr. Program whalers.
- The Jr. Program has posted a bid to host the Laser Radial/4.7 ACC's for 2009 and the Sailing Committee has approved the request for June 6-7. The regatta will attract between 70-100 boats.

OLD BUSINESS

- The BOG will discuss how to solicit members' input about Facilities Committee proposals once proposals are ready.
- Member labor will be used to repair rotting boards on the cottage so that the rain barrel can be installed.
- John presented a database proposal to address two issues: (a) SSA has three databases that are not networked, and (b) concerns about the club's current IT security. The Board discussed it but tabled a vote pending more information about SSA's needs and potential solutions.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jen will contact John Quay to explain the Board's decision on mid-year voting membership status.
- David will contact the Byte and Comet fleets to request their letters about maintaining open fleet status.
- Jen will contact Jon Anthony to ask him to work directly with Nan on scheduling a racing seminar series.
- Hal will provide feedback to the Jr. Board about the potential change in senior club members' discount for the Jr. program.
- John will talk with Roberto and John Potter about SSA's databases and present a demo database in January.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, January 12 @ 6:45 PM.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

Steve Cooper
(Associate)
Fleet: J24
Glenn Harmon Jr.
(Associate)
Fleet: Johnson 18
Scott Williamson
(Winter)
Fleet: IC

RESIGNATIONS

Rick Bowe (Voting)
Phillip Brooks (Supporting)
Robert Kyle (Non-Resident)
Kevin LePage (Non-Resident)
Rob Mumma (Associate)
Scott Tarpley (Supporting)

CHANGES

Alden Shattuck (Emeritus)

Sign-Up for Duty Days

The Open Period for members to sign-up for their 2009 Race Committee and/or work party duty days will run from February 4 -March 15. The 2009 racing and work party schedule, and a sign-up form is included in this "eSSAy". Voting and Associate Members have a 3 day obligation this year; 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 – or by e-mail or regular mail to the club office. Members who have not signed-up for their duty days by March 15 will be randomly assigned to open slots on the schedule. Sign-up now, and get your full choice of dates!

Our racing schedule needs approved 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 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.

2009-2012 Racing Rules Seminar February 14.

Will you know when you are in the "zone", and the rights you have? If not, don't try a mark rounding this season until you learn about the changes in the new Racing Rules of Sailing.

To make it easy for you, SSA will host a free seminar for members on the 2009 - 2012 Racing Rules of Sailing on Saturday, Feb. 14, 9:30 - 11:00, at the club. There are important changes in the Rules this year, and you need to be aware of them before you start racing this year. Jim Capron, SSA member and President of U.S. Sailing, will lead the session. Grab a copy of the new Rule book (available through U.S. Sailing, APS, etc.) and we'll see you on the 14th! RSVP online from the homepage or to office@severnsailing.org so we can plan seating.

Fleet News

Thistle Fleet

We are excited to announce the schedule for 2009. We have several opportunities for SSA members and general sailors to try out the fleet. Just let me know if you are interested. Also of note, we have added about 5 boats to our fleet in the last year, that combined with the 10 or so that we already have will mean we should at least average 10+ boats on the line for 2009 events. That will make for a tough race to win the fleet Championships in 2009. We also have 3 great events that many out of town boats will be attending including The Atlantic Coast Championship, Crab Regatta and the Oyster Roast. I hope to see you in a thistle at least once in 2009.

Lightning Fleet 329

Steve Constants has retired as Fleet Captain after a three-year stint. Steve was instrumental in growing the fleet and organizing the very successful Lightning North American Championship in 2007. We appreciate all his efforts and know that he will be happy to just race. Jamie Brickell is the Fleet Captain for this year.

The first of a series of social events to be held this winter will be on January 31 and will feature a discussion on spinnaker trim by Allan Terhune, aided by the latest ILCA video on the subject. In case you missed it, Allan is the current Lightning North American Champion.

We are hoping that the fleet will send several boats to the Lightning Southern Circuit in March. The Circuit consists of 2 days in Savannah, GA for 2 days, then 2 days in Miami, FL and, finally, St Petersburg, FL for 3 days. Lots of driving, but wonderful racing!

Fleet 329 is in the Dixie District, and the Dixie District Championship will be held at Solomons Island on the Patuxent River on June 13-14. This regatta is the qualifier for the North American Championships to be held at Sodus Bay on the south shore of Lake Ontario between Rochester and Syracuse NY. For those not going to the Southern Circuit, the first regatta at SSA will be the weekend of 4/18-19. We are all looking forward to a great season of racing and social events.

2009 InterClub Midwinters Regatta

The IC Midwinters were held at SSA on Jan 24-25, with 21 teams competing. Sailors from Rochester, Manhasset Bay, Larchmont, Newport, Boston, and Hyannis were treated to some classic Northwesterlies after a passing front on Saturday, with winds building into the mid-20's.

The SSA crash boat teams got a workout rescuing capsized boats, and racing was postponed after the first round was complete in the classic collegiate format for which this regatta is known. A light Southeasterly filled on Sunday, and an additional round was completed, with 6 races in total for both divisions.

The winning team members were John and Molly Baxter (A division) and Danny Pletsch and Emily Whipple (B division). Many thanks to Alex Stout, Ted Morgan, and the Laser Fleet for providing great RC support! Look for a complete regatta report and pictures in the next issue of SpinSheet.



SSA Valentine's Dinner

Saturday, February 14th



Menu

Starter:

Cream or Oyster Soup or Vegetable Antipasto
Entrée

Filet Mignon with Shrimp w/ Red Wine glaze Or
Baked Maine Lobster with White Wine Sauce
Twice Baked Potatoes and Fresh Vegetables

Dessert

Chocolate Mousse with Berries and Cream
Champagne Included

\$30.00/person

Red & White Wine available for sale by the glass or bottle

Must RSVP by Feb 12th as there is limited seating

Contact David & Betka at
410-422-0039

2009-2012 Racing Rules Seminar

Saturday, February 14

9:30 - 11:00

SSA Clubhouse

RSVP to office@severnsailing.org



www.ussailing.org