

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

**January 2008**

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**Commodore's Comments**

As the temperatures plunge, the holidays attract our attention and thoughts of racing sailboats may fade for a while. Although our thoughts may be directed elsewhere, the club's committees have been busy.

The Sailing Committee is about to finalize the 2008 SSA racing schedule after meeting earlier this month, although there has been a predictable log-jam, and unpredicted requests for shuffling, of event requests for October. SSA will have a less intense invitational schedule in 2008 - the Soling US Championships will be our only major event - and no lot clearing events are expected.

The Standing Race Committee met in December and reviewed the status of our RC fleet, as well as the number of qualified PRO and Vice-Chair members available to support the 2008 schedule. The board anticipates a recommendation to purchase a new RIB, and the SRC is short 8-10 Vice-Chairs for next year. This is a chance for members to contribute to the club: volunteer to become a Vice Chair and attend the US Sailing Association Race Management Seminar to be held at SSA February 16th.

The Facilities Committee is gathering estimates for clubhouse renovations, as well as replacement piers for the first and third basins. A long-range plan for capital improvements and a concurrent funding plan prepared by the Finance Committee will be completed once those estimates are submitted. The club entrance curbing and apron replacement on are the city's to do list.

Things were quiet at SSA for lately as frostbiting took a break for the holiday, only to resume for the annual Ice Bowl on January 1 - looks like we are off to the races again.

Happy New Year  
Joe

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**Significant News**

- **Junior Summer 2008 registration opens for SSA members in January.** Brochures will be sent out the first of the year. Information and registration forms will also be available online.

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**Upcoming Events**

- **January 1<sup>st</sup> – Ice Bowl.** Noon Start, See Page 3.
- **January 12<sup>th</sup> – Junior Club Winter Party 6-9pm.** All SSA club member and junior members are invited. Contact Brent to see what you can contribute.
- **January 26-27<sup>th</sup> – IC Midwinters Regatta.**
- **January 31<sup>st</sup> – Boat Storage Balances are Due.**
- **February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine Dinner.** Bring your favorite sailor to SSA for a special affair. More info and menu to follow.
- **February 16<sup>th</sup> – US Sailing Race Management Seminar.** SSA will host a U.S. Sailing Basic Race Management course. See page for details and to sign up.
- **Friday Night Dinners with Dark N' Stormy's will continue through the winter.** *Contact David & Betka to make a reservation at 410-422-0039 or email [info@livetoeat.net](mailto:info@livetoeat.net).*

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**Important Reminders**

- Boat Storage Balance Bills will be sent out the first of the year. Balances are due in full by January 31<sup>st</sup>, thereafter a \$30 Late Fee will be applied.
- 2008 Storage Stickers will soon be applied. All boats/trailers need to be marked with identification i.e. name on trailer tongue, boat cover, or transom to receive a sticker.
- Brent Ostbye, Jr. Program Director will be out of town for periods in both January and February to participate in the US Sailing National Sailing Symposium and Traveling Opti Team Events. His new assistant Molly O'Bryan-Vandemoer will be tag teaming the office during the winter months.

## **SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 6, 2007**

Present: Joe Van Gieson, Hal Whitacre, Ramsey Alexander, Roberto Lopez, Ali Meller, Sean Smith, Ted Morgan, Mike Higgins, Nan Walker.

Absent: Luke Shingledecker, Greg Leonard,

The October minutes were approved without changes.

#### **COMMODORE'S REPORT**

- The agenda for the Annual Meeting was reviewed along with the minutes from the 2006 Annual Meeting and both were approved by all.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The Aquasport was experiencing some starting trouble but it seems to be fine now.
- We did have a couple of hoist breakdowns due to high usage. The repairs were promptly made.

#### **OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The Lights Parade will be on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will charge the same amount as last year, \$5 for members and \$10 for guests with a 4 guest maximum. We will provide the main dish, beer, wine and soda. Members will contribute side dishes.
- So far 213 members have paid their dues.
- 104 boat storage applications have been received.
- The Laudeman and fleet trophies are ready. Plaques for the RC and Ham Palmer awards are in the works.
- Wireless phones for the office have been purchased so Nan and Mike can be more mobile.
- December 5<sup>th</sup> will be the Box of Rain Christmas party. SSA will donate \$100 to Box of Rain.
- The Laser fleet will hold their annual fleet party on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The SRC will hold a US Sailing Race Management Seminar on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **FACILITIES REPORT**

- The committee has contacted a second renovation contractor to obtain estimates for the renovation alternatives to the main clubhouse because the first contractor could not give the committee what they needed.
- Dan Lorian has been contacted to give us estimates for possible floating docks for the outside pier of the third basin. He will also give us estimates on replacing the third basin wave screen and the wave screen/dock bordering the first basin.
- Sounding measurements have been acquired and compiled for the river bottom in front of the Soling bulkhead. This is the beginning of a database to keep track of the water depth in this area.

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

- No Report

#### **SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT**

- All fleets did well with participation numbers this year. There is a slight upward trend with the numbers.
- The member vs. guest ratio is about 2/3 members and 1/3 guest.
- It is recommended that all the club fleets be approved for the 2008 season. All approve.
- It is recommended that all open fleets remain as open fleets for the 2008 season. All approve.
- There was discussion about moving Opening Day to an earlier day than in the past. It will stay as it has been.
- Frostbite requests for Sunday have come from the Lasers, IC's and the Solings. The requests are approved. The J-14's are requesting to hold informal frostbiting on Saturdays. The request is also approved. The 420's would like to frostbite and will come back with a formal request if they can find parents to help out.
- There was discussion on the need for SSA J-24 fleet members to take a stronger ownership of the J-24 ECC regatta if it is to be held at SSA in the future.
- The 505 regatta was a great success and all had a good time.
- The committee has established a policy for granting requests for championships and major invitationals.

#### **STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT**

- The committee recommends that the Annual RC Award be awarded to Mark Hasslinger.
- The committee recommends that the Ham Palmer Award be awarded to John Potter.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- Approved for Associate: Dan Bowman, Vince Franco, Edward Shumaker
- Approved for reinstatement to Supporting: Christina Hammock
- Approved for upgrade from Student over 21 to Associate: John Criezis
- Approved for change from Non-resident back to Voting: Terry Hutchinson
- Approved request to change from Supporting to Emeritus: Robert O'Brien
- Approved upgrade from Winter to Associate: Russell Paret
- Approved Resignations: Don Daniels, Dixon Duffett, Robert Trenkamp and Doug Stewart. All were in good standing.

#### **JR. COMMITTEE REPORT**

- The High School Sailing program has been very busy with both the Varsity and the Jr. Varsity teams. The 420's are looking for parents to help run a frostbite series.
- The Fall Opti program had 5 to 6 participants. The team competed in the Opti ACC's in Norfolk and in the AYC Halloween Howl.
- The program has purchased 14 new suits of 420 sails.
- The program is in the process of hiring a head coach/assistant director.
- The Jr. Board is reviewing the 2008 budget.

## OLD BUSINESS

- EYC wants to put a solid screen four feet inside the existing wall. Roberto suggests we get a lawyer draft a letter to further state our position that we will not support a solid wall.
- There was a motion to reestablish our 'no' vote to the wave wall. It is seconded and approved by all.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Bonnie Urban has sent a letter concerning the fee structure for boat storage. Ted stated that the J-24 and the J-22 fees are much lower than market rate elsewhere.
- Bert Collins is requesting compensation for his boat damage while being moved for the J-24 ECC's. The BOG would like to find out if the J-24 fleet is taking any responsibility for the damage. We are also waiting for repair cost estimates from Bert.

Meeting adjourn at 8:27 pm

Next meeting will be Tuesday December 11 @ 6:30 PM.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### NEW MEMBERS

#### **Bruce Farr (Associate)**

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Annapolis, MD 21403  
410-224-4281 (h)  
443-454-2454 (c)  
410-267-0780 (w)  
bruce@farrdesign.com  
Fleet: Laser

#### **John Mulcahy (Associate)**

1306 Kelly Court  
Herndon, VA 20170  
703-437-4432 (h)  
703-967-0372 (c)  
571-203-2751 (w)  
jmm63@law.georgetown.edu  
Fleet: Jet 14

#### **Darren Jiron (Associate)**

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Vienna, VA 22181  
703-938-9615 (h)  
202-253-2382 (c)  
571-203-2729 (w)  
Darren.jiron@finnegan.com  
Fleet: Jet 14

#### **Susan Ziemann (Associate)**

6243 Bellona Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21212  
410-433-1678 (h)  
443-287-4507 (w)  
410-960-1948 (c)  
szoe,am@jhmi.edu  
Fleet: Laser

### MEMBER CHANGES

#### **Davis Buckley (Emeritus)**

**Tim Cusack** (Supporting)

**Elaine Lamb** (Associate)

**Peter Lauria** (Supporting)

### RESIGNATIONS

#### **Jason Currie**

(Associate/Laser)

**Kathy O'Brennan** (Non-Resident)

**Guillame Seynhaeve**  
(Associate/Laser)

**Jenifer Smith** (Associate)

**Tim Williams**  
(Associate/V15)

## Standing Race Committee

The Standing Race Committee is looking for members interested in race committee management to join the ranks of our Vice RC Chairs. Experience isn't required, just an interest in learning the ropes of race management, and a willingness to serve as a regatta Vice Chair.

If you are interested, please contact Peter Hale, Chair of the SRC, at [peterandsusanhale@atlanticbb.net](mailto:peterandsusanhale@atlanticbb.net) as soon as possible, as work on race committee assignments for the 2008 season will begin shortly. You should also seriously consider participating in the US Sailing Basic Race Management seminar which will be hosted by SSA on Feb. 16 -- see enclosed flyer for details.

Finally, congratulations to Alex Stout, Ted Morgan and Jon Anthony who have been approved by the SRC to join our ranks of Qualified RC Chairs."

## Junior News

December has been a very busy month for the junior program. We have hired Molly O'Bryan-Vandemoer to serve as our full-time head coach. Molly comes to us after her superb college sailing career at Hawaii, a stint as assistant dinghy coach at Navy and an Olympic campaign in the 470. Molly will work hard to accomplish the Junior Program's vision of providing quality one-design racing instruction as well as teaching children to be active, responsible participants in an athletics club. For more information on Molly, check out [www.teammolly.org](http://www.teammolly.org).

Molly's first assignment is to travel to 420 Mid-winters with a team of SSA sailors. This winter we will also be sending Optimist sailors to compete in the winter Florida circuit. Bo McClatchy, Chip Swatta, Jacy Haff, Matt Schoene and Lauren Schoene will be participating at the Orange Bowl in Miami sailing Laser Radials. Contact Brent if you are interested in attending any of these events.

Our summer program brochure will go in the mail on January 3rd. SSA members have priority registration for the month of January. Please send applications ASAP. Last year, Harbor Rookies courses began filling up the first week in February.

## The 2008 Ice Bowl

All is in readiness - Race Committee - four members - headed by Peter Tasi as usual - the big SSA committee boat to be used - better for the committee and better to tow those who go aground off the bottom. (By the way we do not penalize or disqualify for accepting assistance in getting off.)

Skipper's Meeting - 11:00AM - Start 12 Noon off Weem's Creek. Party at the club afterwards - everyone

together in one big party. J-22's etc. and their contributions welcome.

I have the Ice Pitcher (even engraved up to date!) Can anyone find the Sam Merrick Trophy (for outstanding downwind performance)??? - Henry is still awaiting its awarding to him!!! Please look around and bring it.

**US Sailing RACE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR**  
**Saturday, February 16, 2008**  
**Hosted by Severn Sailing Association**  
**311 First St., Annapolis, MD 21403**

Severn Sailing Association (SSA) is hosting a US Sailing Basic Race Management seminar at SSA on Saturday, February 16, from 8:15 - 5:00. This seminar is designed for those with some RC experience, or an interest in race committee management.

It will cover RC objectives, responsibilities, sailing instructions, RC jobs, equipment, setting the course, starting system, starting penalties, before the start, during the race, finishing, and scoring.

Taran Teague and Bruce Bingman will be the instructors. Taran is the US Sailing Area C Race Officer, and a Certified Race Management Instructor, National Race Officer and Judge. Bruce is also a Certified Race Management Instructor, and a Regional Race Officer. Both have broad race management in the Annapolis area, and around the country, and together campaign a Mumm 30.

The seminar fee (\$15 for US SAILING members; \$45 for non-members ) includes: morning coffee, lunch and workshop materials. **Fees will be collected at the door. Advance registration is required; the number of participants is limited.**

Participants should bring their copy of *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2005-2008* ("RRS") – you will receive a copy of *Join the Race Committee Team* at the seminar. To prepare, please review and answer the Basic Seminar study questions, available at <http://www.ussailing.org/racemgt> under the study questions tab. Participants should print and bring your completed study questions to the seminar.

The Club Race Officer certification test, given at the conclusion of the seminar, is optional. To be certified as a US SAILING Club Race Officer, you must attend a complete basic seminar and pass the test. You will also need your own copy of the current US SAILING *Race Management Handbook*, available from the US Sailing website, and meet the program's other criteria.

**To register, contact the Severn Sailing Association office, at [office@severnsailing.org](mailto:office@severnsailing.org), or by phone at 410-268-8744.**

## **Fleet News**

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### **2008 Interclub Season**

After taking off 2 weeks for the holidays, The InterClub season begins again on Sunday January 6th. We will be sailing most Sundays with a few special events throughout the season. Saturday January 11th we are hosting a team race chalk talk followed immediately by team races off the SSA docks. January 26th and 27th are the IC midwinters which always attracts many of the top sailors from New England. Will continue throughout the winter sailing every Sunday until opening day with the exception of February 9th and March 8th when we will be team racing on Saturday. Please contact Jesse Falsone or Ian Mutnick if you would like to join in on the action.

### **Evolving InterClub Fleet** by Jesse Falsone

Competing for members in the winter has become a very difficult task. Given that in Annapolis you can basically frostbite in any boat, it's easy to see why many people opt for the comfort of a keel boat in the AYC frostbite, or the simplicity and solitude of a Laser at SSA.

InterClubs have been continuously sailed in frostbite regattas since 1946, and before the IC, it was the "B" One Design since 1932. In New York and New England, the IC still reins supreme because it's just too cold to keep your keel boat in the water. Moreover, IC sailing is a proud tradition with some 4th generation sailors now filling the ranks of New York clubs like Larchmont and Manhasset Bay.

The Annapolis IC Fleet is set to embark on a new course to keep its own traditions alive by instituting a team race format for much of the season. Having tested the waters with team racing over the past two winters, there seems to be unanimity among members that team racing is great fun in these boats, which are highly maneuverable.

Our goal is ultimately to build club teams that compete regularly during the season for a championship. At the moment, we have been putting teams together based on who shows up to race. If team racing sounds like fun, you should contact Jesse Falsone ([jfalsone@csc.com](mailto:jfalsone@csc.com)).

Boats can be made available to those people who need them. We are encouraging parents to sail with their kids, which seems to be a rarity these days. I have found that kids stay engaged in team racing and find that it is exciting. They also learn that it is crucial to work together to achieve a successful outcome. These are good lessons for kids, and team racing is a great way for them to learn to race sailboats. Come experience a new challenge, and reconnect with your kids on the water.