



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

June 2008

Commodore's Comments

The SSA racing schedule settles during June into the Spring/Summer and TESOD Series for several fleets, and many SSA sailors embark on road trips to regattas across the country. The contrast between the two types of regattas offers an opportunity to observe some of the different levels of racing that SSA members seek. While some members use the local events to work on strategy and tactics, develop boat speed markers, and to train crew, the SSA Series and TESOD also serve as the primary racing experience for a large number of our members. During my time at SSA, I initially sailed mostly in the local events, and tended to crew with other teams for the invitational events hosted at SSA. As my confidence grew, I began to skipper my Soling in the invitational regattas hosted at SSA. During the past few years have started to travel to National and NA Championships with higher expectations of success.

Some SSA teams focus mostly on regional and national level competition. There are many examples of SSA members whose teams succeed on that level, yet they do not regularly sail in our Series events. While I am sure it is rewarding to succeed at the higher levels of competition (not from personal experience), there are other types of rewards top level sailors can enjoy. Those with the skills and experience necessary for national success might enjoy sailing with their local fleets to provide a reference of performance, and possibly to share some of their knowledge to improve the overall level of fleet competition necessary for healthy classes.

SSA offers sailors the range of racing levels that not only satisfy immediate goals and interests, but also serves as an incubator for development of the experience, skills, and confidence that supports growth into other levels of competition. Local fleets benefit when more experienced sailors offer an example of performance that motivates and improves others.

Significant News

- **Dark N'Stormy's is OPEN for Lunch** from 11-2pm on Tuesdays and Fridays in addition to racing weekends.
- **Junior Summer Program Starts June 16th**. Please be careful and respectful of cars dropping off and picking up sailors. Do not block the driveway or leave cars locked unattended.
- **Boat US Cooperating Group Membership.** SSA members are entitled to a full Membership in BoatUS for only \$12.50 - 50% off the annual dues! BoatUS Member benefits include rebates at BoatUS and West Marine stores, discounts at marinas nationwide on fuel, repairs, and overnight slips, on-the-water towing services, highly-respected marine insurance, and much more. Go to www.boatus.com/group/benefits for more info.

Upcoming Events

- **TESOD Series** - Registration is free and open to all one-design sailors with a completed SSA entry form on file at SSA. Forms available online.
- **Friday Night Dinners continue on the deck** with Dark N' Stormy's. Keep your eye on the weekly 'Breeze' emails for information and menus.
- **Leiter Clinic for Junior Women – Rescheduled for June 7-8.** See page 4 for details.
- **Join Dan Haas & TESODers for music on the deck June 24th 7-10pm**

Important Reminders

- **Pitch In!** Please pick up litter and gear around your boat in the storage lot. Everyone needs to pitch in to keep the lot clean and orderly.
- All boats, dollies, trailers need to have identification.
- RC Substitute List is available on the Members Only site under Members Needing Days Reports. Please notify the VC and the office of any substitutions. There is also a list of juniors for hire (\$50/day) available from the office.

SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 14, 2008

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

Absent: Roberto Lopez-Aparicio.

The February minutes were approved with one change to the finance report.

COMMODORE'S REPORT

- Joe replied to Bonnie Urban's letter regarding J-22 storage fee structure. The Board will consider any proposals for changes to fee structure when it plans the 2009 budget.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

CLUBHOUSE USAGE REQUESTS

- Thursday, April 17 – J22 Class Sail Trim Chalk Talk: Brad Julian. Approved with no fee.
- Monday, April 21 – Proofpoint Training: Bruce Artman. Approved with \$500 fee.
- Tuesday, April 22 – Chessie Junior Coach Meeting: Nan Walker. Approved with no fee.
- Friday, June 27 – Hallberg-Rassy Owners Association Dinner (non-profit): Ian Jones. Approved with \$100 fee.

OFFICE

- Duty Days:
 - 5 spots remaining with added events (HS & Penguin) included. Nan sent an email to all who still owe days.
 - 83 days/spots are still owed by members. This figure is based on all members doing 3 days (i.e., not including R-Z who still owe 1). There is a surplus of 78 member duty days built into the schedule.
 - Buy Outs: 32 Members = 73 days (only 2 still owe buyout fee - \$375 total).
 - Substitute List is posted on the Members Only website as report 'Members Needing Days'.
 - The Board voted to let members who help run TESOD races get credit for duty days.
- Lockers: 17 Lockers are rented for 2008 (5 less than last year). \$450 still owed (Morgan, Sircovics, Lamb, Klybor, Garn, Schwitzer-JC)
- Boat Storage Balance – Received all arrears payments
- Outstanding AR \$3627.66
- Sailing Instructions: 1000 copies were reordered

CLUBHOUSE PROJECTS

- Burgee Flag project - still awaiting new mounts from club member, Bob Skord.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- March Work Parties were successful with all but a couple outdoor painting projects completed. The roof and the

cranes still need to be painted; members who owe work party days and Mike will complete the painting this month.

- David Barnes's estimate for building the JR grass area deck is around \$1300. Mike has arranged for Frieda & Jim Wildey to build the deck with volunteers and him. He will ask David to research zoning issues.
- The Board denied a request from Jim Alsop to leave his 420 trailer at SSA during the week in an attempt to sell it.
- The first two SSA regattas were successful with all RC equipment and boats operating well. The Aqua Sport was finally successfully repaired and overhauled.
- Mike is still juggling some boat storage spots in an attempt to squeeze everyone in and to give preferred storage spaces to the most active sailors.
- All else appears to be operating well at SSA

FACILITIES REPORT

- The Clubhouse Renovation Subcommittee met to review new cost estimates for three renovation design alternatives. Major facilities under consideration for reovation include the men's room, women's room, and Junior clubhouse. Other anticipated clubhouse maintenance issues, such as the deck and siding, were also discussed and itemized for inclusion in an alternatives summary. The itemized lists are currently being reorganized into comprehensive tables for review by the BOG and club membership.
- The Facilities Committee met to review the concept plan and cost estimates for a new floating wave attenuator/pier to replace the outer wave screen/pier for the 3rd (outside) basin. Bids have now been received for an in-kind replacement of the structure, as well as two different versions of floating wave attenuator/pier structures. Facilities Committee representatives are planning a visit to see the details of a similar structure that was constructed at the Tred Avon Yacht Club several years ago. Responses to follow up questions are currently being requested from the contractors involved in the bid proposals.
- The Facilities Committee is coordinating with Mike to compile a list of the facility maintenance projects completed this spring, and their cost estimates.
- The Board approved a new policy for clubhouse usage. This policy is intended to streamline the application process for future clubhouse use requests. The Facilities Committee had previously revised the policy in response to a recent BOG review of an initial draft.

FINANCE REPORT

- Operating revenue is \$14,000 ahead of last year at this time.
- Operating expenses are generally in line with last year at this time.
- Balance Sheet: The State Farm CD has been updated to 2010. Greg plans to purchase another CD in a third bank on 4/15.

SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- There may be a request to host the women Snipe Nationals in 2009
- Trophies: Spring, Summer, Fall Second & Third place trophies are in. Summer & Fall are stored at Roberto's. More First Place trophies are due to arrive.

STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- PRO and Vice Chair Assignments: Most PRO and Vice Chair slots were filled before the SRC "Tobacco Auction" meeting March 22. We have a number of new Vice Chairs this year (Charlie Krafft, Jen Cook, Rod Mincher, Herb Larrabee, Jeanne Langdon, Pat FitzGerald, Greg Cukor, Jim Schmicker, and Eric Johnson), most of whom participated in the U.S. Sailing Race Management seminar held at SSA in early February.
- RC Staffing: Our Race Committee staffing for the 2008 season is complete. The Membership did a good job signing up for duty days this year utilizing the "Members Only" software on the SSA website. Almost all RC slots were filled before the cut-off, but there were significant number of "extra" duty days available after our regatta staffing was completed. Some are being assigned to a substitute list to cover unexpected staffing problems which always develop as the season progresses, and Nan and Mike are working on developing some special projects for the rest.
- RC Boats: The Race Committee fleet was serviced before the season got underway – the Aqua Sport required extensive engine work to correct a starting and running problem. All are in good running shape at present. The RC equipment was inventoried and is ready for the season.
- RC Handbook: The SSA Race Committee Handbook is being updated, and will be posted on the SSA website shortly.
- New RIB: The delivery of the new RIB has been delayed, due to delays shipping the console from the UK. It should be delivered before the end of April.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Approved for Associate: Bill Ljungquist, Donna Powers, Alister Thomson, Justin Van Deirse

- Approved changes: Jeremiah Lyons (from Supporting to Associate), Mary-Pat McNulty (from Voting to Supporting), Amie Boothe (resigned to reinstated Associate)
- Resignations: David Anderson (Associate)
- Note: Margaret "Peg" Wallace passed away 3/18/08
- The total number of members has remained at about 400 since 2001.

JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- No report

OLD BUSINESS

- Roberto will talk with the J-24 fleet about into AYC's potential role in the 2008 J/24 East Coast Championships.
- Roberto will send the Policies and Procedures and By-Laws URL to John Potter to link to members' page.
- Sean will incorporate the SRC's long term projections for RC boat estimates into the facilities cost projections.
- John will research salary and benefit market rates in the marine industry.

NEW BUSINESS

- Joe will edit the University of Maryland contract.
- Mike will prepare an estimate for constructing a wooden deck to cover the JR clubhouse's open space area.
- Nan will put a locker line item on the annual boat storage application for next year.
- Jen will look into the turnover rate of associate and voting members over time.
- The BOG will discuss how to solicit members' input about Facilities Committee proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, May 12 @ 6:30 PM.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

Candice Clough
(Associate)
Fleet: V15

Calvin Frey (Supporting)

Ramsay Key (Associate)
Fleet: 505

CHANGES

Bill Scholtz (Voting)

**New summer SSA gear
arriving soon...
UV shirts, floppy hats, visors, etc.**

Fleet News

Snipe Fleet

May has been a busy month for the beginning of the regular Snipe season. The highlight was SSA members Carol Cronin and Kim Couranz who won the 2008 U.S. Women's Snipe National Championship on May 9-11 to kick off the month. Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle hosted the regatta on Shilshole Bay, just north of downtown Seattle. "Nearly half the fleet won a race over the course of the weekend, which just shows how tight the competition was," noted Couranz.

Seattle locals Jen Glass and Kati Belden finished just a point behind Carol and Kim with 18 points; Lindsay Bergan, sailing with her mom Carol Buchan, also represented Seattle well with a third-place, 22-point finish. Annapolis Snipe Fleet 532's Lisa Pline and Bridget Creney finished fourth with 23 points.

Eight races were run over the course of the weekend. The women faced challenging conditions, with current running at up to two knots and shifty winds ranging from three to 12 knots. Water and air temperatures hovering in the low 50s also provided gear challenges, as competitors debated the relative merits of dry suits and neoprene. The race course area is affected by weather coming in from the Pacific Ocean that skirts around the Olympic Mountain Range to the west of Puget Sound. This makes for tricky sailing in the "convergence zone," where the northerly and southerly winds meet after making their way around the mountains.

The regatta's location in a site relatively new to Snipe sailing kept the fleet small at only nine boats. But the quality of the sailors was outstanding, drawing top sailors from many one-design racing classes. Competitors included winners of previous national championships in several classes, and a number of sailors in the fleet have been named to U.S. Sailing Teams over the years (representing four different classes—470, Laser Radial, Yngling, and Europe) and represented Snipe Women's World Championship podium finishes.

Other events going on this month included the fleet's spring party at the Hetherington's house, starting up TESOD, a clinic led by Gavin O'Hare, & day 1 of the SSA spring series. The clinic was a great success with a lot of new faces and juniors getting in the Snipe for their first time. Thanks to Jon Anthony in his efforts for organizing the clinic, which had about 22 participants. The following day was day 1 of SSA spring series. The weather forecast was for high winds and thunderstorms mid-day, which limited the fleet to six boats. Races were won by the Stout brothers of Wilson & Bryan, Gavin O'Hare with crew Caroline Bradley, & Brian

Hetherington with crew Joel Bays. Juniors Matt Schoene & crew, Steve Roth, are getting used to the

Snipe using the loaner boat program for the day and junior Mike Carr took a turn on the tiller driving old man Jon Anthony's boat for the day. Also out on the course was Ian Mutnick with Heather Ludeman who is getting into her second full season of Snipe racing.

Coming up is the Colonial Cup regatta on May 31-June 1 and the second day of Spring Series on June 8th. Colonial Cup was big event last year with 35 boats coming from Florida, New England, and the mid-west and looks for another great turn-out this year.

Thistle News

We opened the season May 10th with a one day 4 race event. It turned out to be an awesome racing day with challenging conditions. 4 different boats won a race with Charlie Kraft (and his Kraftyness) Taking First Place. Also the fleet is in the process of obtaining a loaner boat to get more people out racing. Contact us if you want to try the boat out. See you June 14th for another great one-day summer race.

Leiter Clinic- June 7-8 Laser Radials ONLY

A fun-filled weekend for Girls Only!

This year's Leiter Clinic will be an intermediate to advanced laser radial clinic for **female sailors under 18 years old**. The lesson plan will include proper body position, roll tacks and gybes, starts, mark roundings, and how to de-power properly for light-weight sailors. The weekend will conclude with a small regatta Sunday afternoon, and prizes will be provided by Helly Hansen.

Coaches: This year's coach will be Mark Dunsworth. Mark is the Laser Travel Team coach for SSA, and is a three-time All District sailor from the University of Minnesota. He has competed in seven collegiate national Championships, including two Single-handed championships in his college career. Apart from Lasers and 420s, Mark has sailed E, MC and A scows, J-22s and Thistles.

Cost: \$100

Schedule: 9am-5pm both days.

Lunches: Lunches will be provided for both days.

Housing: All attempts will be made to provide housing, please contact SSA Junior Programs ASAP if you will need housing.

Boats: BYO, or contact SSA Junior Programs for limited charter boats.

Contact: Please contact Mark Dunsworth or Brent Ostbye at (410)263-0071 or juniors@severnsailing.org with any questions or to RSVP.