

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

June 2009

Commodore's Comments

It has been a busy spring time at SSA. In addition to our robust sailing schedule, contractors have been busy constructing our new pier and wave screen. As of this writing, the pilings for the first section have been driven and the wave screens (breakwaters) are being lowered into place. The first section will be decked-over and they will move on to the outer portion. You may also note that some other work is being completed by our contractors, including over a dozen new wooden safety ladders, new pilings in the middle basin, and repairs to the 420 floating docks. Thank you for your patience during all of this construction. I hope you soon will have a chance to enjoy our new and improved facilities.

Thanks also go out to all the members who have participated in the membership renovation survey. The survey administrators are happy to report that over half of the membership has participated in the survey. We are aware that it took a significant amount of time to answer the survey questions, and many of you took the time to provide us with excellent comments. We are just beginning to analyze the results from the survey, and we aim to make a report available to the membership in July. Our initial review of the survey data indicates that we will learn a great deal about the membership's renovation interests and priorities.

Though plagued by less than ideal weather for the first few weeks, TESOD has started, so don't forget to stop working on Tuesday night and go sailing! We plan to have some live entertainment on an upcoming Tuesday night. Stay tuned to the website and weekly emails to find out more details.

It's June, and that means that the junior program is starting up. Please remember to keep an eye out for children when driving through the club. This summer, Joel Labuzetta is taking over as the Junior Program Director, and Brent Ostbye is moving on.

My thanks go out to Brent for all of his hard work at SSA over the past 3.5 years.

Luke

SIGNIFICANT NEWS

- **New Junior Program Director as of 6/1.** See page 3 for full news. Don't worry, Brent will still be around and an active SSA member!
- **Dark N' Stormy's is now OPEN on Thursday nights** from 5-9pm in addition to Tuesdays, Fridays.
- **Junior Summer Program Starts June 15th.** Please be careful and respectful of cars dropping off and picking up sailors. Do not block the driveway or leave cars locked unattended.

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 or you can log on to your <http://ssa.sailregattas.com/> account and Go to the 'TSOD' page and 'Enter the Regatta'
- **Friday Night Dinners continue on the deck** with Dark N' Stormy's. Keep your eye on the weekly 'Breeze' emails for information and menus.
- **TESOD MUSIC NIGHT - The McHenry Trio** will be on the deck June 23rd from 7-10pm with some rockin' blues. **ALL Welcome!**

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. And. **RECYCLE!**
- 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, 2009

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

The March minutes were approved with minor edits.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Sat., 6/13, 6-10 p.m., Birthday party approved with \$200 fee and \$100 deposit.
- Thu., 10/1, 5 p.m.-12 a.m., Reception for Reunion approved with \$200 fee and \$100 deposit.
- Boat Storage Balance Due: On 4/8 Nan mailed outstanding balance invoices again. AR= \$5,184 (Dry storage \$2,031 + Wet slip \$3,003 + Late Fees \$150)
- University of Maryland has signed the contract; payment of \$4,925 is pending (\$640 dues + \$4,285 storage)
- Duty Roster assignments: Nan sent invoices to unpaid requests on 4/8. AR is \$675.
- Spring Lecture Series: Gary Jobson Presentation 4/3 had a full house (approximately 90). Thanks to Bruce Artman for lending his PA system. Gary sold his Championship Sailing book and donated 40% of proceeds to Junior Program (\$175). Carol Cronin presentation is scheduled for 4/22 at 8 p.m.
- The new LCD projector worked well for Gary Jobson's presentation. The Senior and Junior clubs split the cost, \$407 each. We plan to use the projector again for Carol Cronin's presentation.
- Opening Day on 3/29 had a full house (75), including about 20 walk-ins.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- The exit gate has failed again. Mike contacted the company that repaired it last month to determine if the failure is related to the work they did or a new problem.
- March Work Parties completed all scheduled projects except for some outside painting and a planter for the parking lot. Mike plans to have the planter built this weekend and use make-up duty day members to complete the painting.
- The regular season RC equipment and boats are performing well.
- Mike contacted the slip holders of boats in the middle basin about moving their boats during piling replacement next week. Mike will help move boats as needed.
- Two slips are available. We may want to consider placing an advertisement if we cannot find members to rent them.

FACILITIES REPORT

- Outer Basin Pier/Wave Screen: We received the city permit that allows us to begin work following a 30-day appeal period. The contractor, Dan Lerian, has been assembling the wave screens at a staging site in Whitehall Bay. Mike has been coordinating logistics and will meet with Dan and Sean to discuss dock fittings.

- The contractor will replace the middle basin pilings before starting on the pier. The Board discussed piling placement and revised the configuration.
- The numbers and locations of proposed dock ladders have been updated to 13. Two aluminum ladders will be placed at the two hoists in the outer basin.
- Clubhouse Renovations: The web-based survey will be launched on Thursday, 4/16.
- A detailed cleaning of the kitchen may be included as a future work party activity.

FINANCE REPORT

- Revenues: In comparison to operating revenues at this time last year, membership dues, transient wet slip fees, and dry storage fees are lower. We expect these three items to come in under budget.
- Expenses: Operating expenses are \$7K higher than at this time last year.
- The Capital One CD is coming up for renewal on 4/21. We plan to renew it at \$50K to \$70K (pending further review of cash needs) and put the balance in the money market fund.

SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Racing on 4/4 was canceled due to high winds. This day will not be included in the affected fleets' (505, Soling, J22 & J24) participation statistics.
- The Classic Moths have been offered and accepted a start on 8/8. Day Sailers are the only other fleet racing that day.
- The Penguin Fleet (Charles Krafft coordinating) had requested a start with the Day Sailer Crabpot regatta on 10/4 as they had done in the past. This request was denied due to the number of fleets racing that day. The Penguin Fleet declined an offer to race on 8/8 due to a conflict with another regatta. We will continue to seek opportunities to include the Penguin Fleet.
- Solicitation of 2010 events has yielded two results. The Snipe Fleet wants to host the U.S. Snipe Nationals in June; however, that won't work because the Junior Program starts in June. The Day Sailer Fleet is interested in hosting a national regatta in 2011.

STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- The Board noted that in order for a Race Committee to use a borrowed boat, the owner's permission must be obtained and a SSA member must operate the boat.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- High School Program: Enrollment is down a little. The good news is that the schedule and championship qualification process was revised this year and as a result we have been able to sail many more kids at each Varsity

- regatta. There are more JV regattas as well, so in total regatta participation is 3 to 4 times greater than in the past. Joel, who is now the Central League Director, was instrumental in making this happen.
- Spring Opti Program: The Opti team has been preparing for Team Trials with weekday afternoons and all day Saturday practices. We have three kids who are going to Team Trials.
- Summer Program: Registration is going well. Class distribution is slightly different but overall enrollment (approx 250 sessions sold) is about the same as last year at this time. At this point we do not have a Laser team and the 420 race/travel team will be focusing on Chesapeake Bay events.
- Junior Director Search: We have interviewed two candidates for the Director position and have a third lined up for Thursday.
- General Program Notes: We have sold three 420s and a fourth is still on the market.
- Monthly cash balance is tracking with our model so financially things are doing fine, despite lower High School enrollment and the general economic situation.
- The absence of the Charles River Team Race event this year has left a void in the USTRA calendar. AYC is looking to fill this void with a similarly-organized event on May 16-17. The AYC/SSA Team Race aims to be a collaborative event between AYC, SSA, and EYC. The racing is being organized by AYC, but they have asked for the use of 12 420s from the SSA fleet. SSA will be given a percentage of the entry fee for each boat used. Boats will also be covered by a competitor's damage deposit. The Board approved the loan of the 420s for the event. Competitors will not be allowed to park at SSA and the 420s will be stored at AYC during the event.

OLD BUSINESS

- Jen will work on developing performance criteria for evaluations next December.
- Nan is researching past budgets for repairs and maintenance, capital improvements and operating supplies.
- Luke will inquire about whether or not to require class liability coverage for major regattas.
- Sean will ask John Zselezky to look into clubhouse lighting.
- The Board reviewed the web-based survey that is being designed to canvas members' opinions about the renovation alternatives.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, May 11 @ 6:45 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

James McNatt
(Associate)
Fleet: Laser

Allan Wilkins (Associate)
Fleet: Laser

RESIGNATIONS

Bryan Boyd (Associate)
Rob Coatney (Associate)

NEW JUNIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Effective 1 June, Joel Labuzetta will be taking over the reigns as Junior Program Director. Joel is familiar with SSA having been the Jr. Head Coach since last August working primarily with the high school programs. Joel is a 2007 graduate of the College of Charleston where he was very active on the sailing squad serving as team captain for two years. Joel has been a sailing instructor at a number of different junior programs since 1999 coaching at all levels from beginners to advanced team racing. Joel is currently active in the Vanguard 15 class at both fleet racing and team racing events.

With Joel's appointment comes Brent Ostbye's resignation. Brent has served the junior and senior clubs in an exemplary manner for 3 ½ years. During his tenure the Jr Program has continually evolved in structure and focus to meet changing needs of the junior sailing landscape both locally in Annapolis and nationally. Brent has served as an instructor, coach, advisor, mentor, counselor, problem solver, and friend to hundreds of young sailors and a few of us adults! He has a rare talent of remembering names and even during the busiest times of the summer program, there was not a single program participant that he could not address by first, last, and often nickname.

Brent is moving on to pursue a school teaching career and go back to school himself for a Masters in Special Education. Brent and Kate will remain in the DC/Baltimore regional area but not in Annapolis for commuting reasons. Though we are saying goodbye to him in his Program Director role, we will still see him at SSA sailing his Thistle, or a number of different racing classes here in Annapolis, and maybe even a coaching gig from time to time.

SUMMER HOUSING NEEDED for Summer Coaches

The SSA Junior Program has hired 2 coaches for the summer program who need housing. Compensation for part of summer program costs or otherwise is available. The Junior Program runs from June 8 – Aug 7. In the past, SSA has relied on our membership to provide this service. For this summer, we have a female '09 graduate from Boston College and a male from the College of Charleston class of '11.

Families living close to SSA would be ideal. Please come forward and support the recruitment of talented coaches from outside Annapolis.

FLEET NEWS

Laser Fleet News

May was an exciting month for the SSA Laser Fleet. We hosted the Atlantic Coast Championships, Standard Rig on May 2-3. Eight-four boats registered for the event. Most of the competitors hailing from the local Mid-Atlantic states of Maryland, Virginia, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but many traveling from more distant states of Wisconsin and Ohio, as well as international competitors from Canada, and the Dominican Republic. The scratch sheet read as a who's who of Laser sailing with North American Champion, World Champion and Olympic Silver medalist John Bertrand, three time Canadian National Champion Andy Roy, and the only female North American Champion Susie Pegel to name a few.

Saturday was overcast with 5-8 knots of breeze. We completed 2 races and started a third when the wind died off completely and the fleet was towed in. The race committee did a wonderful job. It is always difficult trying to keep a competitive fleet of over 80 Lasers in line. After a couple of general recalls the Black flag seemed to do the trick. Saturday evening we enjoyed a wonderful steak dinner catered by David and Betka of Dark and Stormy's café and gave away raffle prizes provided by our sponsors. Sunday there was more breeze building up to 10-15 knots, but it was accompanied by chilly rain showers. The fleet didn't seem to mind the rain as we got off another three races. SSA's own David Sliom got the bullet in race 3, followed closely by Ted Morgan in 3rd. Complete results are available at <http://www.severnsailing.org/results/2009/53laser.shtml>.

The overall regatta winner was Evan Lewis of Canada, followed by Raul Aguayo of the Dominican Republic in second and Rob Crane in third. Todd Hiller of AYC was the first Apprentice Master. Andy Roy (CAN) was the first Master. Roger Link (WRSC) was the first Grand Master and SSA's own John Gebhardt was the first Great Grand Master. The Juniors were lead by Tom Ramshaw of Ontario, Canada who finished 15th overall. New SSA member Ashley Love was the first Woman and finished 22nd overall.

The regatta was an astounding success. Special thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who made it possible. Also thanks to our sponsors: Spinsheet, APS, Helly Hansen, Boatyard Bar and Grill, West Marine, Sailregattas.com and Zodiac.

The regatta also marked the first SSA regatta with the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Program Certification. Special efforts were made to collect trash and water

bottles for recycling while on the water, as well as encouraging recycling at the club. Biodegradable cups were used for the keg on Saturday evening. The skipper's packets used recycled paper and bags.

The SSA Junior Program will be hosting the Radial and 4.7 Atlantic Coast Championship June 6-7. Registration is open at www.sailregattas.com. Event website: www.laseracc2009.org

The first SSA Spring Series day was Sunday May 10th. It was a quite breezy day with large shifts. Bob Tan won the day, followed by Eric Reinke in second and Matt Cottrell in third. The series concludes on June 14th.

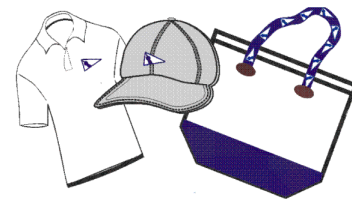
Vanguard 15 Fleet News

This year's V15 Atlantic Coast Championship was another great success. Competitors traveled from as far away as San Francisco, California and St. Petersburg, Florida for this 10-race regatta held over Memorial Day weekend. Two beautiful days with sun and 10 knot winds made for highly competitive, tactical racing on the Bay. It was great to see SSA members J.R. Maxwell/Laura Kim, Scott Gelo/Jenn Bickford, Zack Skord/Chris Ronsville, and Clinton Hayes/Joel Labuzetta out on the water, but three non-members took home the trophies.

Congratulations to the top three boats: 1) Justin Law/Lyndsey Gibbons-Neff from Newport, RI; 2) Brendan Healy/Christine Bletzer from Annapolis, MD; and 3) Charles Higgins/Ashley Pellerito from Norfolk, VA.

Spring Series trophies are up for grabs, so rig up your boats on Saturday June 27th and be ready to race. For those looking for a road trip, Larchmont Yacht Club's V15 Spring Regatta will be held on June 13-14 in Larchmont, New York.

Even though the weather has not cooperated the last few TESODs, there have been three or four V15s on the line. Let's make it even more as the season progresses. See you on the water Tuesday nights beginning at 6:00. Want to Team Race in a V15 this summer? Email Scott Gelo at v15@severnsailing.org if you are interested or willing to lend a boat.



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to order your SSA gear