



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

March 2009

Commodore's Comments – Luke Shingledecker

Lately, the board of governors has received a lot of feedback regarding the changes to each fleet's storage rates for 2009. While membership rates did not change for 2009, storage rates were adjusted with the goal of achieving a 4% aggregate increase in storage rates to help address inflationary cost increases. In 2008, it came to the board's attention that there are some significant inconsistencies in the storage rates paid by different fleets. It had been previously understood that the rates had been based upon the relative footprint of a boat of each class, but the board found that the current rates were not consistent with those footprints. The result was that the board approved a rate change that distributed the rate increases differently across the fleets to begin to address these inconsistencies. The rate changes for 2009 alone were not large enough to eliminate the relative differences in rates paid by each fleet. In fact, similar changes would need to continue for several years to eliminate the differences. Based upon the feedback to date, the board will continue to evaluate member feedback and SSA's situation before proceeding with any rate restructuring for 2010 and beyond. Each year, the board sets the rates and dues for the following year. This typically occurs in September, so there is time to solicit opinions before proceeding. To develop our direction for next year, we are currently preparing a mechanism (likely a meeting) for members to provide input and comments on the storage rate structure for 2010 and beyond. We will soon be providing information for those who wish to be involved in this process.

The board of governors and facilities committee has also been working to prepare an online member survey. The primary goal of this survey will be to gauge members' interest in potential clubhouse renovations, solicit comments on the concepts that we have had prepared, and to get specific feedback on the scope of these

potential renovations. We expect that this survey will help the board determine not only the direction to take with respect to the renovations, but also help us assess the club's future funding needs. We announced this survey at the annual meeting and are working hard to launch it as soon as possible. In the meantime, the conceptual drawings of some options can be viewed at the clubhouse.

Although we are in tough financial times it is reassuring to know that SSA remains financially strong. This is due in large part to the active participation of our members and the strong volunteer commitment of our club. Together we can work to maintain a healthy one-design sailing club.

Upcoming Events

- **Work Party Days** – March 1-2, 8-9, 15-16., 22 & 29th. Start time 9:30am.
- **Duty Day Sign-Up Deadline – March 15th**
- **Opening Day – March 29th**. Brunch 9:30-12:30. See flyer for details and reservations.
- **Gary Jobson Presentation – Sailing: Speed and Passion – April 3, 8pm**. Dark and Stormy's will be open for dinner 'TESOD style' prior to the event. **RSVP to the office as space will be limited.**

Important Reminders

- **Boat Storage Balance Bills were due March 1.**
- A \$30 Late Fee will be applied to all unpaid balances.
- **Boat Identification** – All boats and trailer must have identification or will be subject to removal at the owners' expense. Contact Mike.
- **Brrr.. High School Sailing Teams and UMD** start practice on March 2. Contact Brent if you have any dry suits/tops available for donation or sale.

SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 12, 2009

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

Absent: Joe Van Gieson

The December minutes were approved.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Sat. 2/14, 9:30-11 a.m. (Peter Hale) US Sailing Racing Rules Seminar. Nan will request and manage RVSPs.
- Sat. 2/14, Dark 'N Stormy's Valentines Dinner instead of Friday night dinner
- Fri. 2/20, 6-10 p.m. (Tim Kerns & Renee Mehl) Storm Trysail Dinner
- Sat. 2/21, 6-11 p.m. (Sean Smith) Chowder Cook-Off/Fundraiser for Box of Rain
- Sat. 3/21, 6-9 p.m. (Jaye Falls) Chesapeake Sailing Yacht Symposium Reception
- Sat. 3/28, 5 or 6-9:30 p.m. (Rosemary Foltis) Wedding Party
- 2009 Membership Dues: 23 members are in arrears (compared to 11 last year at this time). Of these 23 members, 5 payments are in the mail (AR \$1,877), 4 members are undecided on status, and 14 have not responded to any correspondence. Members who have not responded will be called within the next 10 days.
- 2009 Boat Storage Balance invoices were sent out January 7.
- Members only website is ready to be wiped clean for the 2009 Duty Roster assignments.
- February eSSAy needs to include Duty Roster sign-up and 2009 Race Schedule and should be mailed to all members to avoid separate mailings. The eSSAy will be posted online 1/30 and mailed 2/2.
- Junior Summer Brochures were sent out to all SSA members.
- JM Mullen Electric's estimate for track lighting addition to main clubhouse for three 8' tracks with 3 heads each and one switch is \$1,875. The Board discussed the option of simply replacing the clubhouse's overhead fan with a model that includes lighting. This project will be added to the clubhouse renovations list.
- The office will be closed from January 20 through 28 but Nan will monitor emails remotely.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- Boat storage spaces for 2009 have been assigned. There are a few Laser rack and one or two other spaces available depending on potential late applications from members.
- The Ice Bowl and Frostbiting continue to run well, with no equipment or other issues reported.
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- The Favored End is scheduled to be hauled out tomorrow. The Aquasport throttle positioning sensor is scheduled for replacement this week.
- Mike will be on vacation for the second part of February.

FACILITIES REPORT

- **Outer Basin Wave Screen**
 - Design drawings for a replacement outer basin pier/wave screen have been revised per the specifications approved by the Port Warden in November. The revision places the "dogleg" section of the structure no further channelward than the existing structure. The revised plans were submitted to the City and Maryland Department of the Environment for final review. Dan Lorian (our contractor), has been coordinating with the permit reviewer assigned by MDE and has submitted the required permit fee on behalf of SSA. Once the authorization has been granted from MDE, the City can issue its authorization. If there are no unanticipated problems, the work can potentially begin in March.
 - Dan Lorian has also submitted a revised, updated, bid for the project. The Board decided not to proceed with installing a new corner deck in the middle basin at this time, and the original contract price was and the contract price was revised accordingly to \$158,470. The Board approved this contract. This work includes replacing the outer basin pier and wave screen and installing new pilings in the center basin. Sean and Mike will negotiate the date of delivery, billing schedule, and how long they will remain on site.
 - The Facilities Committee will develop a proposal for additional work that Dan Lorian's crew can complete while on site. This includes the repair of the subsiding area around the storm drain in the middle basin. Upgrades and repairs to other piers can also be done in each of the basins, including maintenance to whalers, cleats, rubrails, ladders, safety equipment, decking, and fasteners.
- #### **Facilities Subcommittees**
- Four subcommittees (General Maintenance, Clubhouse Renovation, Safety, and Landscaping) will be attempted as the composition of the 2009 Facilities Committee. In January the committee hopes to identify chairpersons for each subcommittee and establish procedures for meeting, developing recommendations to the Board, assembling work parties, and implementing projects.

FINANCE REPORT

- Operating Revenues are \$22K lower than last year at this time, primarily due to lower revenues to date in membership dues, dry storage, wet slip rent, and transient wet slip fees. Operating Expenses are the same as last year at this time.

SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- The 2009 racing schedule has been finalized.
- The Board approved open fleet status for the Johnson 18, Byte, and Comet fleets.

STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- **2009 Racing Schedule and Duty Days**
- The SRC reviewed the 2009 racing schedule and is comfortable with the final version.
- An RC staffing pattern for the 2009 schedule has been developed, which allows for a 3 duty day requirement for Voting and Associate members in 2009. We need about 670 duty days for the regular schedule, plus 64 for spring work days, and 20 in support of junior events. There are about 880 duty days available, based on current membership numbers. From that total, about 75 need to be subtracted for expected buy-outs, and perhaps another 75 for exemptions. But since we had 177 "above and beyond" days last season (from members serving more than their required number of days), we should be okay. The SRC recommends, that the Board approve 3 duty days for all Voting and Associate members this year. The Board approved the SRC's recommendation.
- The SRC plans to start the sign-up for PRO and VC duty days as soon as the Board approves the number of required days. The sign-up for RC staff and work parties is planned for early February.
- **RRS Seminar**
- The SRC has scheduled a seminar for members on the new Racing Rules of Sailing to take place on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 9:30 to 11 at SSA. Jim Capron, SSA member and current President of U.S. Sailing will be the presenter. A large turnout is expected. New Sailing Instructions will be prepared to reflect the changes in the RRS.
- **RC Boats**
- A cover for the RIB has just arrived.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- Summer Program brochures have been sent out. Registration for members only is open currently and nonmember's registration begins on Feb. 1. Program fees have increased but the member discount remains at 35%.
- Brent and Joel attended the National Sailing Program Symposium on Jan. 6-10.
- Instructors for the Summer Program are currently being hired.
- High school tryouts will begin on March 1.
- The Jr. Program bid to host the Laser Radial/4.7 ACC's for 2009 has been accepted. Primary regatta personnel are being sought.

NEW BUSINESS

- Luke presented information about the events on January 11, when David Barnes body was found in the middle basin.
- Nan will look into an accounting error in the Other Expenses section of the budget.
- Hal will call Jon Anthony to discuss scheduling seminars for the membership.
- Sean will talk with the future landscaping subcommittee about spring projects.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, February 2 @ 6:45 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

Christopher Brady (Winter) -- Fleet: IC
Brian & Kim Duff (Associate) -- Fleet: Jet 14, Penguin
Daniel & Elle Shanahan (Associate) -- Fleet: Opti

RESIGNATIONS

Harry Benson (Associate/J24)
 Brian Bissell (Non-Resident)

Deadline for Duty Day Sign-Up

Saturday, March 14, is the final day for members to sign-up for duty days, either on race committee, work party, or Buy Out option. All SSA Voting and Associate Members are obligated to 3 duty days this year; Supporting Members 2 days, and Junior and Winter Members one day. Members who have not signed up for their days by the deadline will be randomly assigned to open race committee or work party slots. Check the online Duty Roster Sign-up availability or contact the Club Office now to get a choice of assigned days!

FLEET NEWS

InterClub News

The InterClub fleet continues to have great team racing this winter. Balancing the teams has proved crucial to the fun and success of this format. With the combinations constantly changing at times, even the boats in the back are part of the game, and this makes it fun and challenging for everyone. Many members who never thought they'd ever be involved with team racing are really enjoying the challenge, and team racing has definitely invigorated people beyond the same old around the buoys fleet racing. Tired of "same old"? There's still time to give it a try before the winter season is over. Contact Jesse Falsone, jessefalsone@gmail.com

Laser Fleet News

The SSA Laser Frostbite Series is still going strong. Every Sunday 18+ Lasers take the course and compete in up to 7 races. The wind Gods have been on our side this year with lots of breezy frostbite conditions. Gavin O'Hare (EYC) is currently leading the series. He is followed by our own Brendan McAndrews in second and Luke Shingledecker in third. We will be sailing every Sunday until March 22. Come on out and join the fun!!

While most of us have been braving the chill here in Annapolis, a few of our SSA Laser Fleet 10 members have ventured south for warmer racing adventures. Alden Shattuck, Karen Long, Bob Tan, Dave Sliom and Ted Morgan traveled to Florida for the Masters Circuit. They competed in 3 regattas – The Florida Masters at Palm Beach Sailing Club, Mid-Week Masters and USSC- Martin County and Masters Midwinters at Sarasota Sailing Squadron. The week began with big breeze and 73 boats at the Florida Masters. Alden placed 12th, Bob Tan 16th, Ted Morgan 21st, and Karen Long 35th. There were 55 boats at the Midwinter Masters. Ted Morgan placed 11th, Bob Tan 12th, and Karen Long 29th. The Masters Circuit wrapped up with the Sarasota event. There Alden Shattuck placed 7th, Bob Tan 15th, and Dave Sliom 43rd out of 83 boats.

SSA will be hosting the Laser Atlantic Coast Championship this Spring. Standard Rig regatta will be held on May 2-3rd and Radial/4.7's on June 6-7th. This should be quite a big event, with 80-100 boats each weekend. Be sure to get in shape and practice. These regattas will be here before you know it!

Lightning Fleet 329

We are looking forward to the first regatta at SSA on April 18-19 and hope that the temperature is much higher and the wind velocity less than it is as I write this. The Southern Circuit starts on March 14 in Savannah, heads to Miami and finishes in St Petersburg on March 2. Not sure who is going, but the fleet should have a few participants. Jonathan Lange will be participating at the 3-day regatta in St Petersburg. The hosts for the next fleet party will be Jason Werner and his wife Heather Dodd. The date is March 7. Jason is the new Dixie District Commodore. Jamie Brickell is the new Fleet Captain.

FOR SALE

Almost new Laser 4.7 rig including mast bottom section and sail. Get ready for the ACCs at SSA in June! \$300
Call Susan 410-263-0206 or e-mail s.taylors@comcast.net.

NAVAL ACADEMY SAILING SQUADRON RACE COMMITTEE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

NASS (Naval Academy Sailing Squadron) is seeking volunteers to assist in running races for Navy's varsity offshore sailing program. NAVY runs 4 major big boat intercollegiate regattas every year in addition to the NASS Spring Race, one of the CBYRA Race Week Fleets, and the always-anticipated NASS Race to Oxford every September, which are open to all CBYRA sailors on the Bay. Every other year NAVY also hosts US Sailing's Amateur Big Boat National Championship.

Navy 44's are generally used for committee boats, and a variety of smaller (18-30') OB powered boats are used for mark boats. Midshipmen offshore team members also serve on the race committees gaining valuable experience and a perspective of "the behind the scenes" of racing.

Experienced sailors as well as anyone interested in helping us with running our events are welcome. If you are interested in becoming involved in Navy Academy Sailing and NASS, please contact Bill Museler at (410) 693-5955; museler@verizon.net.

Gary Jobson Presents – Friday, April 3 at 8pm Sailing: Speed and Passion

Gary Jobson has graciously offered to kick off the SSA 2009 sailing season with a special presentation for SSA members. The presentation will start at 8pm and end approximately at 9:30pm. The topics will include the US Sailing Team's highlights of the Beijing Olympic Games, long distance racing: Chicago Mackinac Race, Volvo Ocean Race, Bermuda Race, Transatlantic Challenge, and Key West Race Week. There will be two special features; one on Classic Yachts and another on his recent expedition to Antarctica.

Enjoy 'classic' Gary's fast paced narrated history of the America's Cup which includes fascinating new footage of BMW Oracle Racing's trimaran. And, as always he will tell his favorite stories, speak on the issues of the day and show two action packed videos on the highs and lows of speed sailing.

- RSVP's will be needed to attend due to space limitations to assure everyone a fair view and seating. Contact the office or use the on RSVP form on the SSA homepage.
- Compliment this great evening by coming down early for a TESOD style dinner with Dark N' Stormy's. We will need to set up the room for the presentation so please plan accordingly.