

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

May 2009

Commodore's Comments

All the signs of spring are here, with rain and cold one day, and hot temperatures and sun on the next. Another sure sign of Spring is the beginning of another great sailing season at SSA. We are now racing every weekend, and before you know it (May 5), TESOD begins. Coming up in just the next few months, our club and fleets will be hosting the Snipe Women's Nationals, and the Laser, Laser Radial, and Thistle Atlantic Coast Champs (held at different times of course!)

Hopefully, you had a chance to attend one of both of the two speaking events at SSA this month. On April 3rd, Gary Jobson gave a presentation, titled Speed and Passion. On April 22nd, SSA member and US Olympian Carol Cronin gave a presentation on how to ensure a safe, fun, fulfilling and successful sailing road trip. Stay tuned to the monthly eSSAy and weekly 'Breeze' emails for details on future speaking engagements throughout the upcoming year.

After months of work and testing, the membership survey has finally been launched. If you haven't already, please take the time to login and complete the survey. The goal of this survey is to solicit opinions from the membership in three areas:

- The current condition of our clubhouse facilities and needs for the future
- The facility renovation alternatives being considered by the facilities committee
- The best way for the club to use its financial reserves to address renovation needs

Of course, this survey does not represent the final vote or choice going forward. Rather, the results of this study will help the Board and Facilities Committee narrow down options and determine the best course of action.

This survey is expected to be the primary means for the whole of the membership to communicate wants and

needs to the Board, so please log on today and fill out the survey. If you have not received an email inviting you to complete the survey or if you have any problems with the survey, please contact either Jen Cook at Jen_Cook@comcast.net (for general survey questions), or John Gebhardt at johng@gebhardtandassociates.com (for problems logging on or if you haven't received your email).

Until next month,
Luke

Significant News

- **Marine Construction Project underway.** Work on the third basin Pier/Wave screen and middle basin pilings is underway. Members should keep clear of the barge and heavy equipment during construction. A dumpster for the old pier will be on and off the lot as needed. Work should not conflict with any sailing events.
- **Opti Race Team sailors qualify for Team Trials.** Junior sailors, Sarah Alexander, Hannah Pollster, and Andreas Adams with coach Brent Ostbye are off to compete in the Opti Team Trials held at Noroton YC in CT April 30-May 3. Hopefully all their spring training and determination practicing in frigid conditions this will pay off.

Upcoming Events

- **May 5th – TESOD Starts. 6pm Start.** Contact Nan if you are interested in helping out on RC.
- **June 15th – Junior Summer Program Starts.**

Important Reminders

- **Boat Identification** – All boats and trailers must have identification or will be subject to removal at the owners' expense. Contact Mike.
- **Junior Summer Program** Registration Balances and Paperwork is due 5/1. A \$50 Late Fee will be applied to all balances.

SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2009

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 February minutes were approved with minor edits.

COMMODORE'S REPORT

- Luke wants to get survey out to membership to get feedback on renovations within the next few weeks, before the end of March.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Fri. 4/3, 8:00 p.m., Gary Jobson presentation "Speed and Passion" has not gotten many RSVP's. Nan will let members know that they must RSVP to come to the presentation, and once the room is full, no one else will be admitted. We still need a DVD player, LCD projector, screen, and sound system. This presentation is a donation for letting him film his Volvo Ocean Race report from SSA.
- Sat. 4/11, 7-11 p.m. (Frieda Wildey) Retirement party. Frieda will obtain a 1-day city liquor license. Approved with \$200 fee and \$100 deposit.
- Fri., 4/17 6-10 p.m. (Aaron Galvin) Engagement party for UMD alumnus George David. Approved with \$200 fee and \$100 deposit.
- Boat Storage Balance Due: Nan mailed outstanding balance invoices with the late fee on 3/6. AR= \$11,711 (Dry storage \$7,893 + Wet slip \$3,818)
- Duty Roster assignments: 189 spots remain unfilled. 124 members owe days (some or all). There have been 16 buy outs. The Tobacco Auction is March 21.
- Clubhouse lights: JM Mullen Electric recommends installing track lighting (four 8' tracks) for the clubhouse ceiling at a cost of \$1875. Alternatively, a new ceiling fan with lights would cost \$450. Sean will ask John Zseleczyk to look into it.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- The exit gate was successfully repaired for \$400.
- Mike received an estimate of \$2000 for removing the tree in front of the Jr. clubhouse. The Tree Experts feel that this tree is very healthy and recommended pruning. They also recommended trimming the dead wood out of the large tree along First St. for \$1500.
- Stewart Landscaping did snow removal during the snowstorm on March 2.
- The storage lot is full with a couple of boats on the waiting list.

- Frostbite racing continues to run well. Mike repaired one Ollie that failed to operate during Laser racing.
- The Work Party last weekend was productive. Volunteers built trash can containers, a rain barrel stand, installed pavers at the entrance fence, installed life ring mounts, repaired a floating dock, painted clubhouse siding, cleaned the grounds and landscaping, and cleaned and organized the locker room.

FACILITIES REPORT

- Outer Basin Pier/Wave Screen: We received the state Wetlands License from MDE. The City can now issue a permit. Once issued, there will be a 30-day appeal period, so we cannot likely start work before mid-April. The new expected completion date has been moved from the end of April to the 3rd week in May. Dan Lorian (contractor) has received the timbers and supplies and has started construction of the wave screens offsite. Only limited staging will be necessary on SSA's lot. Demolition will require a placing a dumpster on the lot, but this can be done during the week. The contractor also plans to arrange the barge and equipment to allow for launching using the outer hoists.
- Middle basin pilings replacement: Mike has contacted the owners of the boats in the wet slips about relocating their boats while the pilings are replaced. This should take up to 3 days. Mike is also working on the spacing of the pilings.
- Clubhouse Renovations: The Board reviewed progress on the web-based survey that is being designed to canvas members' opinions about the renovation alternatives. We hope to launch the survey by the end of March.
- Mike is looking into getting a speed bump placed at the entrance gate.
- Memorial garden: Sean met with Cassandra Carmichael to discuss the possibility of a memorial garden for David Barnes between the First Street fence and sidewalk.
- Sean is working with David Yates to explore the possibility of installing an icemaker.

FINANCE REPORT

- Revenues: In comparison to operating revenues at this time last year, membership, transient wet slip, and dry storage fees have been slightly lower this year. Regarding other revenue, we are likely to fall short of the budget for initiation fees.
- Expenses: In comparison to this time last year, some operating expenses have been lower.

SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Trophies: Upon request by the SSA Fleets, we will have glass mug trophies this year. A contact for the trophies has been agreed upon and the vendor has agreed to store a portion of the trophies during the season.
- The Snipe Fleet has requested to move their Summer Series day #2 from August 8th to August 2nd due to a conflict with a regatta in Oxford. This leaves one Fleet on August 8th and three Fleets on August 2nd (Bytes, Jets, and Snipes). The Solings also race on August 2nd but plan to run their own course. The SSA Race Committee has concurred with this request.
- The Classic Moths have requested a start on August 9th along with Lasers and Day Sailors. David Koepper will offer August 8th to the Moths instead, given that the Snipe date change (above) leaves only one other fleet sailing on the 8th. Two SSA sailors are anticipated to participate (John Zselezky and Rod Mincher) with a total of 5-6 Classic Moths.

STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- Duty Day sign-up is proceeding somewhat slowly this year, with only 75 percent of the Members' duty day requirements accounted for by March 8. The deadline is March 14; all members who have not signed up will be assigned randomly to open dates immediately thereafter. Remaining open PRO and Vice Chair needs will also be filled randomly at the next meeting of the SRC on March 21.
- The February 14 seminar on the new Racing Rules of Sailing was very well attended, with over 70 participants. Thanks go to Jim Capron, SSA member and current President of U.S. Sailing, for an excellent presentation.
- The club's Sailing Instructions have been updated to and will be printed in quantity prior to Opening Day.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- New associate members, membership changes, and resignations were approved.
- Deceased: David Barnes
- Honorary membership was offered to Sandy Grosvenor.

JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- High School Program sailing was to begin on Monday, March 2nd, with tryouts, but due to the snowstorm they were pushed back to Friday. Practices are ongoing and on schedule. Program enrollment is a bit lower than last year at this time, however it is anticipated that the numbers will grow some as the season gets going.

eSSAy

May 2009

- Spring Opti Program currently has 3 sailors training in anticipation of the US National Optimist Team Trials, which will be held in early May in CT.
- Summer Program registration is on track, with some classes being ahead of last year, and others a bit behind. Annapolis Community Boating has purchased 14 slots in the 420 Beginner Program and will give those slots to students from the Boys and Girls Club. It is anticipated that participation in National level junior events will decline this season due to the economy, and as such, we are putting an emphasis on both excellent racing instruction close to home, and providing our students opportunities for nearby quality events.
- Brent has tendered his resignation as the SSA Junior Director effective after the High School sailing season. He has done a great job and made significant contributions to the program; he will be sorely missed. Ads for Junior Sailing Program Director have been placed in various online forums. Many responses have been received to date and are being reviewed by a search subgroup of the Jr. Board. The goal is to have a new Director identified by the end of April so that the transition can happen during the last two weeks of May.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mike will keep calling Andy Brickman about removing his boat.
- Nan will research past budgets for repairs and maintenance, capital improvements and operating supplies.
- Sean will contact Jim Urban about designing a landscaped memorial for David Barnes.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Board discussed whether or not to require class liability coverage for major regattas. Luke will follow up.
- The Board allocated \$350 to purchase a projector together with the Jr. Program.
- The Board reviewed progress on the web-based survey that is being designed to canvas members' opinions about the renovation alternatives. We hope to launch the survey by the end of March.
- Sean will ask John Zselezky to look into clubhouse lighting improvements.
- Mike will discuss the piling/slip width with others online to determine placement.
- Luke will ask Greg about moving some cash from checking to the money market account.
- John will write an article for the eSSAy about the Jim Capron presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm

Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 @ 6:45 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

Margaret 'Ashley' Love
Associate
Fleet: Laser

Allan Wilkins
Associate
Fleet: Laser

CHANGES

David Hammett
Reinstate Associate

Susan Sircovics
Supporting

TERMINATIONS

Clark Kennedy
Jr. Associate//Jet 14
Hank Kennedy
Jr. Associate//Jet 14

FLEET NEWS

Vanguard 15 Fleet

The Vanguard season officially begins in May! The first regatta of the season, Spring Series #1, will be held on Sunday May 10th. This will be a great warm-up event for the upcoming **Atlantic Coast Championships** hosted by SSA on **May 23rd and 24th**. The ACCs are always a great event with many out of town boats. Please contact Scott Gelo at scott@scottgelo.com for more information or to request or loan a V15 for this event. Finally, TESODs begin on May 5th. Start preparing now to cut out of work early on Tuesday evenings to enjoy the beautiful spring weather. We are looking forward to another great season of V15 racing!

Laser Fleet

We are gearing up for an exciting Laser racing season at SSA. It kicks off with two major regional championship regattas. SSA will be hosting the 2009 Laser Atlantic Coast Championships on May 2-3rd for the Standard Rigs, and June 6-7th for the Radial/4.7 rigs. Each weekend there will be 2 days of racing, continental breakfast, food and beverages after racing on Saturday and Sunday and a regatta T-shirt included in the entry fee. We will also have goodie bags and a raffle with items from our fabulous sponsors- APS, Helly Hansen, Spinsheet, The Boatyard Bar and Grill, West Marine, Zodiac and Sailregattas.com. Check out the regatta website at www.laseracc2009.org. Registration is open at www.sailregattas.com.

In case you missed it, check out the cover on the latest Laser Sailor magazine. Our own Tip Clifton graces the cover in a frostbite action shot taken by Eric Johnson.

Hope to see you on the water!

InterClub Fleet

The Interclub Dinghy Fleet wrapped up a very successful season of team racing on Saturday, March 28th with a bunch of fiercely competitive races between the Mad Max Team led by J.R. Maxwell and Laura Kim with team members Celeste Simons sailing with Jervis Dorton and Paul Hull sailing with Jill Williamson and the Final (as in finally last) team led by Jesse and Thomas Falsone and Alister Thomson sailing with Joan Hurban and Scott Williamson sailing with Aubrey Barringer. Ian Mutnik subed for Alister in the last three races.

The final results are a closely guarded secret and will be released only if one of the sailors confesses that he or she did not have the most fun ever Team racing.

As one Jet sailor observed when the fleet was sailing in for the day, sailing an IC is about like sailing a marble (actually a ball bearing or beach ball). The boats are all equally slow but equal in roll tacking fun. Even with one sail they have proved to be good team race boats because they are so evenly matched.

This year's schedule was based on an every other weekend formula with a few impromptu fill in dates just for fun. RC duties were split successfully with the very congenial Jet fleet and all the sailors look forward to a similarly successful season next year.

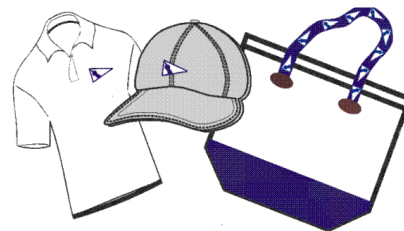
Thanks to Jesse for promoting team racing this season, to J.R. for lending his knowledge and expertise (J.R. raced for Tufts and is the fleet's resident "pro") and finally to Jim Barringer for providing the most enthusiastic crew ever to Scott (Aubrey is 13 and smiles even on the coldest days) and for always helping on RC or crash boat.

SSA Merchandise

New SSA Merchandise is in for Spring...

Visors, caps, floppy hats & WickId long sleeves for sun protection. And white and blue-dyed polos, Hawaiian shirts for the after party to pick up your trophy in style.

Don't forget Mother's Day – May 10th!



*Visit www.seversailing.org
to order your SSA gear*