



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

September 2009

Commodore's Comments

While the summer is winding down, the board of governors has been busy preparing for next year. SSA has not been entirely immune to the indirect effects of the economy of 2009, but we have been able to continue all of our typical sailing activities while also completing a major dock project this year. We can be proud that SSA is a financially robust institution, thanks to the strength of our fleets, the efforts of our volunteers, the careful planning of our past leadership, and most of all, the interest of our members.

One factor we are considering for our future planning is the results of the membership survey. A summary of the survey results has been prepared and is included in this month's eSSAy. I strongly encourage each member to read this summary. With nearly half of the membership completing the survey, the board is confident that we have learned a lot about what our members consider important with respect to our facilities. I would like to emphasize that this poll was not intended as a vote towards one of the specific renovation concepts prepared for this survey. Instead, this survey has provided us with a wide array of information which will be used to direct us towards the best option for SSA. The results certainly seem to indicate a preference for some changes to our facilities, but we will not proceed without considering all of the club's stakeholders, or the club's finances.

Work towards the next step will continue this fall. Members who are interested in the details can also log on to the survey website to view a detailed breakdown of the survey results for each individual question.

Commodore Luke Shingledecker



Significant News

- **New Gate Pin Pad** - The card-reader for the parking lot gate has been replaced by a new key-code reader. Please keep this code private, and do not share it with those outside the club. If it becomes apparent that the code is publicly known, we will need to change it from time to time, and it would be helpful to avoid this complication. For those who are getting the eSSAy online, you will receive the code in the 'Breeze' email, and for those receiving it by mail, it is listed on the Contacts page.
- **Membership Facilities Survey** - SSA's board of governors is happy to release the results of the recent membership survey. See page 4 for report or go to www.severnsailing.org/surveymemo.pdf for an online copy. We encourage all members to read this document. For those who are interested, complete survey results including results from each individual question can be found at <http://ssa.sailregattas.com> (this is the same site that was used for the survey).
- **Nominating Committee** - The 2009 nominating committee has been appointed. Members are Chair, Ted Morgan, Steve Constants, Ian Mutnick, Alex Stout and Barbara Vosbury. This committee is tasked with proposing a slate of nominees to serve on the board of governors in 2010. The slate of nominees will be published in the October eSSAy. If you have any interest in serving on the board, or if you would like to recommend another voting member to be considered for the slate, please contact Ted Morgan at (ted.morgan@comcast.net).

Upcoming Events

- **Sept 8th – Last TESOD of the season!**
- **High School Sailing Starts – Sept 8th**

Important Reminders

Members who have not already completed their duty day obligations are reminded to check the RC duty list on the Member Only portion of the SSA website -- click "reports", then "duty roster by week". We have seen a number of no shows the past several weeks, apparently as members forgot for which duty days they had signed up last spring. Don't let this happen to you -- a no show faces a fine of \$150/day!!

SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 13, 2009

Present: Jen Cook, John Gebhardt, Mike Higgins, Bruce Irvin, David Koepper, Greg Leonard, Luke Shingledecker, Sean Smith, Joe Van Gieson, Nan Walker, Hal Whitacre
The June minutes were approved with minor edits.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- Sun., 9/13, 6:00-9:30 (Ellen Pappas) Pan Am World Wings Fundraiser approved.
- Boat Storage Balances Due: \$600
- TESOD RC still needed for 7/28, 8/11, 8/25, 9/1, and 9/8.
- The music night was successful and we will have another keg on 7/21.
- We may want to consider installing a security camera system and purchasing an AED kit.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- The carpet on the Opti dock is very worn and may need replacing.
- We are still receiving many compliments on the new dock.
- Mike has been getting many inquiries into the club's renovation plans.
- All RC equipment is operating well with the exception of a couple of incidents involving starting the Aquasport.
- The Board approved a new washer/drier in the cottage.
- The new key board and parking policy appears to be working well.

FACILITIES REPORT

- The pier/wave screen was completed on July 1. A meeting is being set up for final City permit review of the completed structure.
- The contractor is submitting the final bill this week.
- 2010 budget proposals: plan drawing and permit submittal for a new inner basin pier and wave screen (to be done within 5 years); plan development and permit coordination of a new Jr. clubhouse design (tbd).
- A new facilities committee will be assembled by the end of September and will host a community meeting in mid-October to report on the survey results, gather more feedback, introduce professional contractors, and communicate proposals to the membership.
- We reviewed a redesign of the parking lot that Fuller Moore prepared to accommodate front-end parking for all cars.

FINANCE REPORT

- Expenses are on track and there have been no significant changes in the past month.

SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- The Board approved a Laser Fleet request for a clinic on 8/29 from noon to 2:00.
- The 2010 Snipe Nationals will be held at SSA August 12-20, 2010.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- The Summer Program is in its fifth of nine weeks and running smoothly. The program has substituted an intermediate class with two more beginner classes to meet demand.
- SSA Juniors have and will be participating in several local, regional, and national level regattas, including last week's Annapolis Junior Race Week which consisted of back-to-back regattas at West River SC, AYC, and our own Sandy MacVicker regatta. All were well attended, with the Sandy MacVicker attracting about 100 boats. Teams attended the CBYRA Junior Olympic regatta in Baltimore this past weekend and will be traveling to NJ next week and then to New England for several Opti and 420 major regattas.
- SSA will host the Area C Bemis & Smyth (double handed/single handed) eliminations on 7/24. This is an open regatta and could attract 50-75 boats.
- Adult sailing lessons have been very successful, with a 100% retention rate between the 1st and 2nd sessions. In addition, the 2nd session has a full class.
- The Junior Board met on 7/1. Summer enrollment is slightly higher than forecasted and program net income to date is ahead of budget. We will be advertising for the Head Coach position that Joel vacated when he was promoted to Director. The hope is to have someone in place by the fall high school and Opti programs.
- There is a strong desire to change program registration to an online system.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Board is still working on a report of survey results. Analysis of open ended responses was discussed. The report will be posted on SSA's website as soon as available.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nan will research prices for a security camera system and AED kit.
- The Board reviewed a preliminary 2010 budget and discussed the 2010 storage rate ideas. Board members who wish to draft new storage rate proposals should submit them for consideration within one week.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, August 3 @ 6:45 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

Nick Muzia (Associate)
Fleet: V15

Ken Davis (Associate)
Fleet: Laser

Lightning Fleet 329

It has been a very active late July and early August for the fleet. Jon Guth and Allan Terhune went to Ocean City, NJ on July 11-12 to participate in the Central Atlantic District Championships in Ocean City, NJ with 30+ boats. Racing was in the ocean, and Saturday was wonderful but Sunday was a drifter. The weekend of July 25-26 the Atlantic Coast Championships were held at the Toms River Yacht Club in New Jersey. Fifty-nine boats from around the country participated in this introductory regatta for the 2010 North America, which will be held there. Allan Terhune was 2nd, Geoff Becker 4th, Jon Guth 11th, Jason Werner 24th, Steve Constants 32nd, Gary Hurban 48th and Joe Friebele. Steve Constants allowed that his crew weight was insufficient for the 18+ knots of breeze, so I suspect he'll load up with cookies this winter. Everyone thought it was a great regatta, well run and will be a wonderful 2010 North American Championship.

August 2nd was the last day of SSA last day of the 3-day summer series. The series was won by Jon Guth with Steve Constants 2nd and Mark Boaz 3rd. Next was the ILCA Womens, Masters and Juniors regatta at Sodis Bay near Watertown, NY during the period of August 4-7. Participating in the Masters were the two Hurbans, with Gary 8th, Joan 12th and Jonathan Lange 15th.

Ainsley Thomson, a recipient of the ILCA Loaner Boat Program, attended the Juniors Championship. As some people say, the last big regatta of August was the North American Championship, also held at Sodis Bay. From all that I have heard, it was a great venue, and everyone who has the chance should go. There were 4 boats from Fleet 329 with Geoff Becker placing 2nd and Allan Terhune 4th in the Championship Fleet and Joan Hurban 23rd and Gary Hurban 24th in the President Fleet. Last but not least, was the 'Duck Challenge', so named for the use of duck decoys as trophies. Six Fleet 329 boats participated. Steve Constants was 1st, Jon Guth 2nd, Jason Werner 3rd, Joan Hurban 4th, Russ Roberts 9th and Mark Boaz 13th. Our next regatta is the SSA Fall Series on September 19-20 and the always popular Frigid Digit on October 17-18.

Laser Fleet News

The 2009 Laser Nationals were held at Brant Beach Yacht Club in NJ August 7-9th. Over 276 sailors took part. SSA's Matt Schoene finished an impressive 23rd in a 142 boat Radial fleet. Also competing in the Radial fleet were Justin Bell, Margaret Podlich and Lauren Schoene. Alden Shattuck placed 48th in the 105 boat Standard Rig fleet and Dave Schoene placed 53rd. Other SSA members competing were Dave Sliom, Karen Long and Carlos Linares.

Ashley Love was one of only eight American women to compete in the Radial Worlds in Karatsu, Japan July 25th to August 2nd. Twelve to seventeen knots of breeze each day with 6-7 foot swells kept the racing very exciting. She competed in the 43 boat Silver Fleet finishing 33rd overall. She remarked that the scenery was amazing, the food delectable and the people very hospitable.

The SSA Laser Summer series concluded on August 9th. Brady White won the series, followed by James McKenna in second and Chris Teixeira in third.

Don't forget to register for the 2009 Laser Crab Claw Regatta! It will be held on September 26-27. Two days of Laser racing, dinner and crab feast, and beverages included in the registration fee. Early registration closes on Monday September 21. Register online at <http://ssa.sailregattas.com>.

Laser Clinic Well Received

Laser Fleet 10 sponsored a free clinic for its members which included both off-water discussion, rigging tips, and on-water coaching and practice up-wind, reaching, and downwind.

A special thanks to Gavin O'Hare for leading the clinic and assistants, Tip Clifton, Dave Schoene, Luke Shingledecker, and Brady White for sharing their experience and expertise to the seventeen eager sailors; and most of all to Dorian Haldeman for all the arrangements. Hopefully, more such clinics to come.

Thistle Fleet

Another Great Turn-out for the Thistles!! Despite the glum forecast, 12 Thistles descended on SSA (mostly club members) to race our August Club Race weekend. With 3 regulars missing we were, close to approaching 10-15 boats on the line for every club race event. Two more Thistles just moved in next door at EYC and plan to race with us, thus adding to this group. All of this, coupled with our 50 boat ACC's, and our 2 up coming events in the Fall that could see 20-30 for Labor Day and 30-45 boats for Columbus day, adds up to a growing and thriving Thistle fleet. Please contact us our check out our class website for more info.

J 22 Fleet News

The 2009 J22 Mid Atlantics were held the weekend of Aug 15-16. A good turnout of 17 boats was greeted with some typical Midsummer Chesapeake Bay conditions. It was hot, humid and there wasn't a lot of breeze.

However, SSA's stellar Race Committee led by PRO, Joe Friebele, did a great job minimizing any on the water waiting around, while maximizing the wind that we did have. Races were held off Bembe Beach, in the same location as Thursday night races, which thankfully meant we didn't have to sail too far to the race course.

Two races were held on Saturday in a 6 knot Bembe Beach southerly thermal. The Navy J22, skippered by midshipman Jason Carmunati took the bullet in race 1, with Julie Sitzman, gearing up for the women's Rolex in a few weeks time, winning race 2. Jeff Todd was the most consistent racer, and held the over-night lead with a 3-2 scoreline. A great keg and grilled salmon dinner party was enjoyed on Saturday night back at SSA.

On Sunday the RC again postponed on-shore for a while until a nice southerly sea breeze started building around noon. By the time racing started just after 1pm, the sea-breeze had built to around 10 knots making for some great action in the final 2 races to decide the championship. Jason Carmunati won the third race of the regatta, and thus had it all to lose going into the final race. However there were still 4 other boats in contention for victory including Jeff Todd, Julie Sitzman, Colin Linehan and Alon Finkelstein.

In the final race the Navy boat was over early and by the time they re-started they were out of contention. Julie also had a bad start and couldn't recover. Colin had the best start of the contenders and was dueling for the race lead, with Jeff and Alon not too far behind. Going up the final beat it was all to play for between these 3 boats. Eventually Jeff found the crucial final windshift, passed 3 boats who had overstood on the starboard tack layline and in the process took the overall regatta victory, with Alon second, Colin third, Julie fourth and Jason fifth.

Thanks to everyone who made it out and hope to see everyone at the East Coasts.

SSA Facilities Survey - Summary of Results

August 2009

SSA has been investigating various facilities renovation alternatives to address current and future demands on the club's buildings. In order to help the Board of Governors understand the views of the membership, a survey was sent to all 400 members to gather input on (a) the need for renovation of specific facilities, (b) architectural design options, and (c) how to finance any future renovations. Nearly half of SSA's members completed the survey, which is a very good response rate, especially given the amount of time and thought the survey required to complete. We are very pleased that so many members participated in this process. The following summary highlights the survey's key results and outlines how the Facilities Committee and Board intend to use this information.

The facilities that were most clearly identified as high priorities for renovation included the men's room changing area, showers, and toilets, and the junior clubhouse instruction area. There were many survey comments about the need for renovating the men's bathroom in order to provide adequate facilities to continue to attract top national regattas and generally provide a higher quality restroom. There was also interest in renovating the junior clubhouse in order to continue to attract top quality instructors and maintain an excellent junior program. While there was some interest in renovating the women's bathroom, these results were more neutral than responses about the men's bathroom. Also, respondents were generally satisfied with the main clubhouse's 2nd floor and this was not identified a high priority for renovation.

Regarding the four design alternatives we presented, respondents generally supported renovations that extend beyond routine maintenance of the existing clubhouses. Nearly half of respondents preferred the most extensive option (Alternative 1) and another fifth preferred the second most extensive option (Alternative 2).

- 12 percent preferred Alternative 0 (routine maintenance)
- 15 percent preferred Alternative 3 (routine maintenance, new Jr. clubhouse)
- 22 percent preferred Alternative 2 (new Jr. Clubhouse with extensive restrooms)
- 48 percent preferred Alternative 1 (major main clubhouse renovation, new Jr. clubhouse)

However, the Facilities Committee and Board interpret these results as general support for continuing to explore substantial renovations. The survey was not intended to be a vote for any of the particular options and other design alternatives may be developed and considered in the future. We were encouraged to see so many survey respondents write extensive comments that included new and interesting suggestions, and see that some members expressed interest in being involved in this process—especially those who are architects or have related professional expertise.

Financially, respondents supported increasing membership and storage rates at the rate of inflation. Nearly half of respondents recommended such increases and the remainder was evenly divided about whether membership dues should be more or less than inflation.

In addition, the largest proportion of respondents—40 percent—recommended taking out a loan to help pay for future renovations if they exceed SSA's current cash reserves. In contrast, less than one fifth supports assessing the membership and even fewer respondents supported using membership dues or storage fee increases to help finance renovations.

Going forward, the Facilities Committee will review the survey results in detail—including considering the many suggestions provided through survey comments—and plans to hold several meetings where the membership can participate in discussing renovation options. These may include specific focus groups and/or general membership meetings to discuss exactly what type of renovations SSA should undertake, the timeframe to begin such work, how to finance it. If you are interested in being involved in this process, please contact Sean Smith, Facilities Committee Chair, facilities@severnsailing.org.

Complete quantitative survey results are available through the survey's web site, <http://ssa.sailregattas.com> (Note: this is different than <http://www.severnsailing.org>.) These results are password protected. If you cannot locate the password you used to complete the survey, click on the link "Forgot password" and it will be sent to you. Once you have logged in, look for the tab "survey" and click on the drop down item called "survey results".

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eSSAy Editor Anne White. All submissions need to be submitted by the 20th of each month to white@annapolis.net