



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

**July 2008**

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**Commodore's Comments**

US Sailing recently shelved plans for a change to Rule 46 which would have required that the "person in charge" of any racing sailboat be a member of US Sailing. News of this proposed rule change prompted many regional sailing associations and sailing clubs to voice opposition. US Sailing ultimately relented. I had just signed a letter from SSA to US Sailing (approved by the BOG) and was about to place it in the mail when we heard the news the proposition was deep-sixed. Of course it was the prospect of a letter of opposition from SSA that was the final leverage needed for US Sailing to reverse course. I modified the letter offering SSA's support of the reversal and explaining why SSA felt the requirement would not have been in the best interest of small one-design sailboat racing. A copy is posted on the SSA website.

This episode reminded me of what US Sailing offers small sailboat racing and why I am a member of US Sailing. It is true that far more of their annual budget is devoted to offshore racing and Olympic team support than is allocated on inshore racing – the category for SSA-style small boat one-design racing. However, in addition to providing for the development of the Racing Rules of Sailing, US Sailing maintains the infrastructure that certifies sailing instructors and race management positions, and offers training services for race management. A thorough look at their website reveals many more services that support sailboat racing, including small one-design racing. These are essential functions that clubs like ours cannot do without.

I encourage all SSA members to maintain their memberships, or join if not currently a member, of US Sailing. In spite of perceived slights to small boat racing by US Sailing, I doubt we can do without the services that organization provides.

Joe

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**Significant News**

- **Junior Summer Program is off to a great start.** The traveling teams are ready to hit the road. WANTED: Brent is looking for donations for trapeze harness & 'traveling kits' i.e. tire irons, pumps, etc. Contact the Junior Clubhouse at [juniors@severnsailing.org](mailto:juniors@severnsailing.org) or 410-263-0071.
- **Chesapeake Bay Magazine – July Issue** features SSA from its roots to its present success. It is a wonderful article with pictures of SSA in action. Get a copy!

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**Upcoming Events**

- **July 4<sup>th</sup>- Annapolis Fireworks Celebration** – Betka will be OPEN for hot dogs and bratwurst, cold refreshments and treats for the kids. The fireworks are planned for 9:15 off the Naval Academy seawall, so once again the SSA deck will be the best seat in town! **Bring your Gate Cards.** There will be security at the gate and guests should be accompanied by a member. Check for street closings and water travel restrictions at [www.annapolis.gov/display\\_ann.asp?ID=12925](http://www.annapolis.gov/display_ann.asp?ID=12925)
- **Junior Family Nights – July 9, 24 & 31 at 6pm.** All welcome! Go sailing with your kids and let them show you what they learned. BBQ included.
- **TESOD** continues on into the summer heat! First Gun at 6pm. Contact Nan if you are interested in helping out for Race Committee 7/15, 7/22, 8/19, 8/26.

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**Important Reminders**

- **Help keep the Clubhouse, Deck and Lot in order** Please pitch in when you are at the club to pick up litter & gear around your boat in the storage lot, put trash and chairs & tables away after use on the deck, turn off water at faucet for hoses.... Thanks!
- **Secure Boats** – Tis thunderstorm season, so please make sure your boat is tied down, halyard, cover secure, etc and check on your equipment regularly.

## SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2008

Present: Joe Van Gieson, Roberto Lopez-Aparicio, Hal Whitacre, Luke Shingledecker, Sean Smith, John Gebhardt, Jen Cook, Mike Higgins, Nan Walker.

Absent: Greg Leonard, Bruce Irvin

The April minutes were approved.

#### COMMODORE'S REPORT

- No report

#### OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

##### CLUBHOUSE USAGE REQUESTS

- Monday, May 26 – Birthday Party: Ian Burman. Approved.

##### OFFICE

- The office computer needs additional memory capacity.
- The new Zodiac Pro has been added to the insurance policy. This should not affect the renewal premium.
- TESOD still needs PROs.
- Paychex will apply Nan's health insurance payment directly to Insurance, listing it as reimbursement so that Nan's insurance is not included in payroll.

##### CLUBHOUSE PROJECTS

- Burgee Flag project – We are still awaiting new mounts from club member, Bob Skord.
- Men's room vanity project - We have received and plan to install a new vanity the week of May 19 with Ed Lutz's help.
- Junior area deck project- David Barnes has submitted plans for the decking to Jim and Frieda Wildey, the project leaders. They and members who owe work party days plan to complete the deck prior to the summer program.
- The Board approved purchase of one rain barrel (\$65) from Arlington Echo. This will be placed in front of Mike's house to help water the front property plants.
- Nan is looking into landscaping options for the SSA entrance sign area. Work would be done by a work party.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- The new Zodiac Pro was delivered and is currently stored on the Blue Whaler trailer. The boat performs well, but has a leak in the lower hull near the scuppers, which Zodiac will repair.
- Wet weather and busy race weekends have delayed completing the hoist and roof painting projects.
- Mike traveled to Oxford Yacht Club to inspect their floating dock system. Their docks appear to be holding up well with the exposure they receive from the river. The staff had no complaints concerning the docks. Our exposure to the Bay and Severn River are greater than the conditions at Oxford with respect to wave action.
- The club received heavy rain, wind, high water, and surf over the last 24 hours. There are numerous loose deck boards and blown debris around the Club. Also, the skylight appears to be leaking. Mike has already started to repair the docks and should have all repairs completed by

the weekend. He will also inspect the skylight and call Chesapeake design for repairs if needed.

#### FACILITIES REPORT

- A spreadsheet was compiled and forwarded to our consultant to itemize the costs of the renovation options. The Fac Comm is waiting for the itemized summaries to be provided.
- The floating dock is still under consideration, but several issues need to be addressed. The Fac Comm forwarded the rep from Bellingham Marine a summary of 10 questions, including a request for a formal bid. The possible need for dredging near the bulkhead, modest estimated wave attenuation capability of the structure, inability to launch lasers from the dock, and lack of a formal quote raise concerns and may result in a rejection of the proposal.
- A proposal for a 6' wide timber pier to replace the third basin outside pier has been requested from the contractor that recently worked on the Soling Bulkhead, Dan Lorian.

#### FINANCE REPORT

- No report.

#### SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- The Board approved a request to host the women's Snipe Nationals in 2009.
- The trophies have all been delivered.

#### STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- No report.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Approved for Associate: Candice Clough and Ramsey Key
- Approved for Supporting: Calvin Frey
- Approved changes: Bill Scholtz (from Supporting back to Voting)
- The Board reviewed a summary of membership tenure over the past few years.

#### JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- Registration for the summer program is going full steam. We have openings in 420 Beginner courses and Opti Intermediate courses only. Summer instructors report on June 9 for a week of staff training. The summer program runs from June 16 to August 15.
- The High School sailing season culminated this past weekend with the Doublehanded Nationals at Navy. Broadneck finished 5<sup>th</sup>, a strong improvement from last year's 14<sup>th</sup> place finish. Severn School won the event while Annapolis High School finished 14<sup>th</sup>. High school sailing ends this week. Sailors will be assisting in transitioning 420s from High School sailing mode to summer sailing mode.
- Last week Haines Whitacre competed in the pinnacle regatta for Optimist sailors when AYC hosted the USODA team trials. SSA was able to help teams from Southern YC, Coracl Reef YC, as well as community sailing centers in Jensen Beach and West Palm Beach,

FL. Allclubs have offered to return the favors in forms of housing and powerboat usage at future regattas.

- SSA will host a US Sailing Level 1 Clinic May 29-June 1. Nan and Brett will be instructing the clinic using the junior program building and the junior club's 420s and powerboats.
- SSA will also host a US Sailing Level 2 Clinic May 26-27.
- The Jr. Program Board will meet next on June 5.

### 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.
- The BOG will discuss how to solicit members' input about Facilities Committee proposals once proposals are ready.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Nan will look into scheduling live music on the clubhouse deck after TESOD on June 24.
- Nan will purchase a new U.S. flag.
- Nan will get an AYC burgee to add to the clubhouse collection.
- Roberto will look into adding storage capacity to the office computer.
- Roberto will talk with Snipe fleet about scheduling options for the 2009 Women's Nationals.
- Nan will talk with the bookkeeper about a possible double entry of \$425 in Capital Improvements and Clubhouse expenditures.
- Hal will let us know who will be responsible for the May 25-27 Level 2 Clinic.
- Jen will install two planters in the parking lot to allow for a walkway between the clubhouse and the boat storage area.
- The Board approved a request for the 73-foot Donnybrook to dock at SSA on 5/17, 5/30, and 6/7. Requests for additional dates will be considered at future Board meetings.
- The Board reviewed a letter from Alon Finkelstein, J-22 fleet captain, to consider a new storage fee policy.
  - o Joe will reply to the letter.
  - o Mike will research storage rates at AYC.
  - o Nan will look into past Board meeting minutes to research prior decisions.
  - o Sean will talk with the Facilities Committee about surveying the lot based on storage of each boat.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, June 9 @ 6:30 PM.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

<b>NEW MEMBERS</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP TALLY as of June</b>	
<b>Mark Boaz</b> (Supporting)	Voting	141
	JR Associate	8
<b>Meredith Dodd</b> (Associate)	Associate	131
Fleet: Laser	Winter IC	3
	Emeritus	28
<b>Guy Tawney</b> (Junior Associate)	Non Resident	30
Fleet: Laser	Supporting	29
	Honorary Life	11
	Student over 21	9
	Honorary	15
	Special	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>406</b>

### Fleet News

#### Lightning News

We held the Dixie District Championships at SSA on June 14-15th. We had 27 registered boats with the opportunity to qualify for the 2008 North American Championships being held in Newport RI in August. Our PRO Mark Hassinger did an outstanding job dealing with less than ideal conditions to get in four races over the weekend.

On the water SSA members and EYC fleet members put in a very good showing. Allan Terhune continued his awesome early year form by posting four bullets. SSA's own Steve Constants and Jon Guth battled to a close second and third place finish. SSA's Joe Friebele had some great speed throughout the weekend and finished 6th and Jonathan Lange finished strong to place 13th. Everyone had a great time at the Saturday evening cookout just hanging out on the upper deck.

We welcomed two new SSA members these last few weeks, Guy Tawney and Mark Boaz, both of which have been active in our fleet and we anticipate that they will be purchasing Lightnings in the near future.

Several members will be participating at the 70th Anniversary Lightning regatta being held at the Lightning birthplace, Skaneateles, NY over the 4th of July weekend. Then back at SSA for our Summer series July 19-20th followed by the ACC's being held at Rock Hall YC July 26-27th. See you out on the water.

#### Thistle News

We have had a great year so far for the Thistle gang. I look forward to seeing you all at our events in July and late August. Remember if you would like to try out the thistle just shoot me an email and I can try and get you out. Other than that I look forward to seeing you at one of the 50+ boat regatta's in the area. GLCs will be over but ACC's will be on the horizon. Then Nationals in August and Oyster Roast in October.

Check out [thistleclass.com](http://thistleclass.com) for more info.

## Vanguard 15

The Vanguard 15 Atlantic Coasts Championships were hosted by SSA May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. It was an extremely competitive fleet including four boats from Navy and two boats from Chicago. There was great wind both days and the series consisted of eight races. Defending champions Andy Graff from Chicago and Asa Church, SSA's current Head Instructor, took third place. The top two places went to sailors from the Varsity Navy Dinghy Team. First place was the team of Sterling and Marty and Second place was the team of Gill and Taynor. Thank you to John Quay who did an excellent job as PRO.

The next weekend event for Vanguards is a Summer Series on **Sunday July 13<sup>th</sup>** followed by another Summer Series on **Sunday July 27<sup>th</sup>**. Do not forget about TESODs every Tuesday. Plan ahead so you can sneak out of work early!

## Snipe Fleet

What a busy month for Snipe sailing! Regattas every weekend included the Colonial Cup, SSA Spring Series, & Atlantic Coast Championships. June kicked off with the annual Colonial Cup regatta here at SSA. The 2007 US National Snipe championship team of Ernesto Rodriguez & Megan Place of Ft Lauderdale, FL built on last year's win at the Colonial Cup with a repeat victory in the 2008 edition, held May 31-June 1. Conditions were a little tricky with thunderstorms on Saturday and fluky winds on Sunday. Competition for top honors included recent past North American, US Nationals, & World champions with a 23 boat field that traveled from Florida, Boston, & St. Louis including 14 boats from the local Annapolis fleet.

Saturday's first and only four-leg, windward/leeward was started in 10-15 knot conditions, but shortened at three legs due to imminent storm activity. The RC timed the shortened course with AP over "H" perfectly as the boomers came in just as the last person was pulling their boat and donning the cover. The fleet waited out the storms, but it was quickly apparent that Saturday was going to be a no-go, so the keg was tapped early and some competitors enjoyed the complimentary food and beer. Others headed slightly north to watch the Orioles and Red Sox play in an evening baseball game, while others took the opportunity to connect with old friends or just relax and enjoy the post-storm sunset over the Annapolis harbor from the SSA deck.

Racing resumed Sunday morning to sunny skies and 10-12 knot winds. The RC managed to get five shorter races in Sunday over gradually dying conditions. Tide, pressure, & geographic wind effects all played a big role in strategies and race outcomes. At the end of the day Ernesto & Megan held on to their lead with 13.5 points,

but Augie Diaz & Kathleen Toche of Miami, FL recovered from a deep race on Saturday with 3 bullets to climb into the number 2 spot with 18.25 points. Gavin O'Hare with crew Erika Seamon moved into third with a couple top four finishes on Sunday as the top Annapolis boat. Other Annapolis finishers in the top ten included Eric Reinke/Kim Couranz in fifth, Henry Filter/Wilson Stout sixth, Hal Gilreath/Alex Stout in eighth, and Brian Hetherington/Joel Bays in ninth. Making their first appearances at a Colonial Cup included Aaron Serinis/Lindsay Bartel, Matt Schoene & Steve Roth who also won top junior, Russ Wesdyk & Mark Furhman with veteran crews Jon Anthony & Arianne Dalton respectively, & Bill & Colin Ljungquist.

The weekend between Colonial Cup and ACC's held the final day of spring series. The second day of the series was held in shifty, fluky conditions with wind velocity ranging from .5 to 10 knots and oscillations of 30-40 degrees. Brian Hetherington with crews of Joel Bays & Nathan Stone won the series, but was followed close behind by Ian Mutnick with crews Heather Ludeman & Christina Hammock in second and newcomer & junior skipper Mike Carr with crew Jon Anthony in third.

Finally, Atlantic Coast Championships were held the weekend of June 14-15 in Surf City, NJ. On the social side, the regatta was a great time at the beach as always, as Lee & Karla Griffith (regatta chair & hosts) put up the fleet at their beach house and hosted the annual pork loin cook-out. After most competitors arrived Friday, racing for the 14 boat fleet began Saturday morning in a 10 knot southerly that built to 15-20 with the reinforcing sea breeze. The RC banged out 4 windward-leeward thigh-burning races with past National, North American, & World champ Augie Diaz with Kathleen Toche nailing straight bullets. Sunday was much calmer with two races held in 0-7 knots before the seventh & final race was abandoned due to threat of thunderstorms. Augie & Kathleen easily took the regatta, but runner-up honors went to Henry Filter & Wilson Stout. The Annapolis fleet made a strong showing of support for the regatta, fielding 6 of the 14 boats at the event.

Next up on the agenda is the Whittmore-St John Regatta on June 21 & 22 at Lake Quassapaug in Connecticut and TESOD's every Tuesday night. The Snipe fleet generally makes a good showing a TESOD's with 5-7 boats on the line including TESOD regulars Jon Virden, Jon "T-bone" Anthony, Greg & Bonnie Kelly, & the loaner boat. The Annapolis fleet also welcomes its new members, Ned Daly & Steve & Will Johnson. See you on the water!

New SSA 'Beat the Heat' Gear  
available  
UV shirts, floppy hats, visors, etc