



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

September 2008

Commodore's Comments

We are in fall stretch of our racing season and the end of the SSA 2008 fiscal year. Some of the largest regattas of the year will be held during the next two months, and the Board of Governors will establish the club's 2009 budget. These two activities may seem unrelated, but I assure you that the SSA budget is prepared with the primary goal of maintaining and enhancing the racing activities at SSA.

Last year we attempted to use a more realistic approach to developing the budget by using assumptions that more closely represented our expectations and historic record, rather than using assumptions for worst case scenarios (low revenues and high expenses). With one month left in the 2008 budget cycle, it appears that we have come very close to our predictions.

This year we are attempting to employ a long-range strategy by forecasting our major capital expenditures (committee boat replacement, bulkheads and piers, building maintenance and potential remodeling) as well as our future revenues and assets for the next several fiscal years. By comparing these two factors for 5-10 years out, we can determine if our current financial model will sustain our needs in the future. Our primary objective will be to sustain one-design small sailboat racing at SSA and the forecasted expenditures will be established to support that objective.

Congratulations are in order to past Jr. Program Director, current SSA member and Vanguard 15 sailor, Ian Burman. Ian has just been named as the Intercollegiate Sailing Team Coach for the U.S. Naval Academy.

Also, as we travel to distant clubs for the fall regattas, bring an SSA Burgee to trade with the host clubs so we can supplement our clubhouse burgee collection.

Significant News

- **Dark N' Stormy's will be OPEN for Ploughman's Lunch** (Workingman's Lunch) on Tues, Thurs & Fridays from 12-2pm starting in Sept. In yankee terms that means '1 daily Special to include entrée, side, drink and dessert for one price of \$8.00.
- **Fall Opti Race Team** – The Junior Club will be starting up a Fall session for Opti race sailors. Practices will be on Tues and Thursdays from 3:30-6:30pm. Contact Brent in the junior clubhouse for more info and to register at 410-263-0071.
- **The Soling Nationals** have been changed from Oct 14-17 to Oct 31, Nov 1 & 2. We are still in need of some RC for the new dates, so please contact the office if you can help out.

Upcoming Events

- **September 2 – High School Sailing Starts**
- **September 7 – Fall Opti Race Team Starts**
- **September 9 – LAST TESOD**
- **October 9-13 - US Sailboat Show**
- **October 31, Nov 1 & 2 – Soling Nationals**
- **November 1 – New 2009 Membership year.** Dues bills will be going out the first week of October.

Important Reminders

- **Service Day Obligations** – If you have not fulfilled your duty obligations, the time is narrowing down as Closing Day approaches Nov 9th. Try to help out members who are in need of subs for Race Committee to receive credit. Make sure that the VC and the office is notified of any changes so proper credit to all can be applied.
- **Fall Work Parties** - We will also be organizing some Fall Work Party opportunities. If you have any special skills that you think would be valuable to the club, please contact the club office or Mike Higgins.

SSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 14, 2008

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

Absent: Roberto Lopez-Aparicio, Bruce Irvin

The June minutes were approved with changes to the finance report.

COMMODORE'S REPORT

- No report

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

CLUBHOUSE

- No new usage requests
- The clubhouse is surviving the Junior Program, but we need more recycling bins.
- The member-made picnic table is warping, but still functional. We discussed possible fixes for the table top.
- Burgee Flag project – New mounts are to be delivered this week. Nan hasn't gotten the AYC burgee yet.
- Nan picked up the Rain Barrel, but it still needs to be hooked up to a gutter from Mike's house or the Jr. Clubhouse.

OFFICE

- We are sending out invoices for 'payment plan' storage due in July and other unpaid balances. (est. \$3594)
- Brent is getting married on August 16. SSA will contribute a gift.
- Nan will be out of the office August 18-22 for Brent's wedding and the M30 North Americans in Newport. She can continue to send out the weekly 'Breeze' reports, etc. using a personal laptop and the Members Only web site. The eSSAy will be on schedule.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- The new RIB's leak was successfully repaired this month. Mike used the new boat for the Sandy McVicker regatta and this weekend when the Aquasport started experiencing mechanical trouble. The new RIB performed very well.
- The Aquasport received a new idler valve last week to correct the rough starting issues. This weekend the motor was experiencing problems restarting when hot. Mike thinks this is related to the work done last week. He has contacted the mechanic and hopes to correct the problem tomorrow. The board requested a breakdown of expenses on the Aquasport related to the engine problems.

eSSAy

September 2008

- Racing continues to run smoothly, with no issues other than the Aquasport's mechanical problems.
- The junior program appears to be running very well with only the usual extra trash and debris to deal with.
- The fourth of July event went smoothly. There were no issues other than the security he arranged failed to show up. Mike patrolled the lot before the fireworks and found no issues. Fortunately the weather kept the usual masses from attempting to enter SSA. Mike will look into another security source for future events.
- Dave Yates would like to purchase an ice machine. He is getting measurements so that we can determine the feasibility of storing the machine out of the elements.
- Mike will be on vacation from August 4th to 13th. He is contacting the RC staff to make sure they can handle the weekend regatta while he is away.

FACILITIES REPORT

- We have a formal bid from Larian for a 6' wide replacement pier for the outer basin. This design would be double the width of the existing dock. The bid includes permits, demolition and a wave screen.
- Sean will talk with Frank Biva about the possibility of having the outer pier angle change to extend further out, creating a slightly larger basin.
- Sean will talk with Drum and Loyka and Cornerstone Design to get a formal estimate on renovations.

FINANCE REPORT

- Revenues are \$11K higher than last year at this time and we are on track to meet the budget. The \$1800 check signed today from the junior program to the senior club puts us close to the Jr. Program contribution to the budget.
- Race committee expenses are currently \$2700 over last July. Trophies expenses are complete and wound up under budget. Utilities and salary are \$7K higher than last year.

SAILING COMMITTEE REPORT

- There is no news from the Snipe fleet concerning the 2009 bid for the Snipe Women's Nationals.
- The Thistle fleet submitted an application to host the Thistle ACs in 2009. Roberto discussed this with the SRC and sees no problems with the request. The application can wait until the November meeting for a vote.

STANDING RACE COMMITTEE REPORT

- John Potter has dropped out as PRO for the Penguin Internationals due to health problems. The SRC is

working with the Penguin group to find a replacement. We should have their draft sailing instructions by the end of the week.

- We had our first protest in 5 years last week from a club series race. Holding the hearing series protests the following Thursday evening certainly get things worked out!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Approved for Associate: Jeff Craig (reinstated), Rob Coatney, Ned Daly, Steve Johnson
- Approved for Supporting: William Hughes
- Marta Swanson will delay joining the club until a space is available for her Snipe.

JR. COMMITTEE REPORT

- No news. Things are going well with the Jr. Program.

OLD BUSINESS

- 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.
- Nan will get an AYC burgee to add to the clubhouse collection.
- Nan will look into past Board meeting minutes to research prior decisions about storage rates.

NEW BUSINESS

- Trash and recyclables: Nan will look into getting a 2nd bin and a new bid for the waste management contract that incorporates another recycling bin. Mike will look into other clubs' waste management contracts. Next spring we will build at least one wooden frame to hold the trash and recycling cans so they don't blow away when empty.
- Nan will pick up a copy of Chesapeake Bay Boating magazine and get the cover story framed.
- Mike will make a list of lot storage assignments and Nan will get a copy of the lot design.
- The BOG will make wedding gift for Brent.
- Brian Boyd will repair rotting boards on the cottage so that the rain barrel can be installed.
- Mike will get dimensions on the requested ice machine.
- Nan will do a breakdown of RC expenses.
- Future BOG meetings will start at 6:45.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 26 @ 6:45 PM.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

Stacy Renauld
(Associate)
Fleet: J22

Cheryl Taylor (Associate)
Fleet: Laser

CHANGES

J Bergquist
(Student over 21)

Junior Report

First of all, Congratulations to Kate and Brent on their recent marriage. You will have to ask Brent about his "honeymoon".

The summer program officially ended on 15 August with the conclusion of two beginner classes for Optis and 420s that were added to the program to meet demand. From our youngest Harbor Rookies to our dedicated racers, approximately 300 young sailors either sailed for their first time or honed their existing skills. New friends were made and their many memorable experiences will be recalled well into the coming months.

Many thanks to our instructor staff, most of whom will be back at school by the time this goes to print. However, the break for our full time staff is only a short one as our High School and Fall programs start up in early September.

At the end of August we hosted the annual "End of Summer" Optimist regatta which has become a popular fixture on the Junior schedule. In September we are hosting the district qualifier for the High School Laser (Full and Radial) Nationals. Our doublehanded teams will be participating in a number of qualifying regattas in Annapolis Harbor and other Chesapeake Bay locations well into November. We will also have a number of sailors competing in the 420 and Optimist ACCs.

It seems like a long way away but for those with interested young sailors, it is not too early to start planning trips to the Orange Bowl, and other mid-winter events. Florida can sure be a nice change of scenery during the winter months. Contact the junior staff to make arrangements for coaching and practice schedules.

Fleet News

Laser Fleet News

August was a very busy month our SSA Laser fleet sailors. The Annual Oxford Regatta was held August 9-10 at Tred Avon Yacht Club. Bob Tan won the Laser fleet with bullets in 6 out of 9 races. Lauren Schoene placed second out of eight boats in the Radial fleet.

The District 11 Championships were held August 16-17 at Deep Creek Yacht Club. SSA fleet members in attendance were Luke Shingledecker, Karen Long, Dorian Haldeman, Bruce Artman, Kim Couranz, Ted Morgan, Dave Sliom, Eric Reinke, Gregg Herbert, and Holger Hinsch. There were 40 boats in the Laser fleet and 8 boats in the Radial fleet. Saturday was a beautiful sailing day with temps in the mid 70's and 8-12 kts of breeze. We had 4 races on Saturday and one race on Sunday in much more fluky and shifty conditions. Ted Morgan was crowned this years District 11 Champion placing first in 3 out of 5 races. He was followed by Erich Hesse of PRSA in second and Eric Reinke in third. Karen Long was first woman and placed ninth overall.

The 2008 Crab Claw Regatta will be held September 20-21 at SSA. Two days of racing as well as dinner, crab feast and beverages on Saturday evening are included in the registration fee. The deadline for early registration is Monday, September 15th.

Register online at www.sailregattas.com.

Lightning Fleet

We added a new crewmember this month with the birth of Eliza Virgin, to parents Greg and Christine. Everyone is doing well.

The North American Championships were held in Newport from August 8 - 13th. 98 boats competed in one of the most competitive fleets that most of us can remember. Our defending North American Champion Geoff Becker sailed well but had to count a few mid fleet finishes and ended up placing 14th. Jon Guth and Steve Constants also qualified for the championship fleet and finished 25th and 26th respectively. Local EYC fleet member Allan Terhune sailing with Katie Terhune and Jeff Linton won the North American Championship. Allister Thomson's daughters Ainsley and Linnhee competed in the Junior North Americans and Jonathan Lange competed in the Masters.

Our fleet is having a Summer Party to be held at Steve's house on Saturday, August 30th from 4-8 pm. Then back on the water September 13-14th for our Fall Series.

Snipe Fleet

Late July and August have been an active month for the Snipe fleet. Locally, Summer series finished out on August 2nd and TESOD's have been strong with 5-7 boats on the line each week. The following weekend five Snipes from the Annapolis fleet traveled to Oxford, MD for the annual Oxford One Design Regatta hosted by Tred Avon YC. New fleet member, but Snipe veteran Ned Daly with wife Kitty won the event, followed close by Ian Mutnick with Eleanor Nagee and Russ Wesdyke with his daughter Katy. Also making the trip to Oxford was Annapolis sailor Mark Furfman with crew Marty and Greg Kelly with crew Loren Stender. Conditions were ideal and while most of the big boats missed the party with this year's late finishing race to Oxford format, at least the one designs enjoyed the festivities.

Meanwhile, several Annapolis Snipers traveled to compete in the US Snipe National Championships that were held August 4-8 at Richmond YC on San Francisco Bay. The slogan of the 2008 Nationals was "Got Wind?" and the answer was a definitive "YES". Five days of racing in 15-20+ knot conditions with rolling surf made for some thigh burning beats, but some screaming blast reaches as double triangles and Olympic's were the RC's course of choice. 55-60 degree water and air temps made full wet suits and fleece hats a must, but fun was had by all. The top Annapolis fleet member was Gavin O'Hare finishing fifth. Henry Filter with Wilson Stout & Eric Reinke with Kim Couranz also finished ahead of the fold in the extremely competitive fleet. Also making the trip out to San Francisco was Brian Hetherington with crew Joel Bays and Phil Richmond acting as the class representative to the RC.

Finally, the big news out of the SCIRA US board meeting held at Nationals: The board awarded the bid to host the 2009 US Women's Snipe National championships to the Annapolis fleet and Severn Sailing Association. This prestigious event will be held the Monday-Tuesday following the Colonial Cup regatta on June 1-2. If you're a woman sailor, Snipe class or not, come on out and join us for some great racing with sailors from across the country.

Club Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 2:30pm

Please feel free to contact the office if you need assistance outside these hours
office@severnsailing.org or 410-268-8744