

# Moraine Sailing Club Newsletter

## *BATTEN THE BREEZE*



April 2011



### Beating to Windward

Commodore Ken Andrews

*“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing- half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”* [excerpt from Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind in the Willows.*]

The boats will be coming out of the barn on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, so we’ll have our first opportunity to begin messing about in boats again at Watts Bay. Part of that messing about will involve some needed maintenance to both boats and trailers, equipping them for the summer and getting the shed ready for summer use.

We’ve scheduled some off the water social events (Spring Fling and boat maintenance days) as well as on the water events for all members beginning in May. All members are welcome to participate in the CSP sponsored Group Sail to McDaniel’s Boat Launch on May 15<sup>th</sup>... .bring your lunch, sunscreen and hat, and walking shoes, as we will raft up off McDaniels, use one of our Scots as a shuttle to the dock and then trek to the dam for a picnic lunch and photo opportunities before returning to the launch area and thence by boat back to Watts Bay. Those who are interested may want to stay around a little longer for the first moonlit sail opportunity of the season.

The learn to sail programs and racing series begin the following weekend. Please use the web event sign up list to indicate your participation in these events this summer. Due to water temperature, we’ll be using Flying Scots for these events in May, and then phasing in Sunfish as the water warms up in June.

Watch the events and seminars list on the website for new activities, and invite those around you to **discover that there really is nothing so much fun as messing about in boats!**

#### Mark Your Calendar :

**Barn Dates: We need your help! April 16 and April 23.**

**Spring Fling Saturday May 14**

#### Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	2
Race scoring system	3
Boat Use form	4
Teen Race at the Point	5
Spring Fling	6
Opti recovery	7
Notes from Sunfish Cove	8
MSC at Children’s Museum	9

#### MSC Officers

**Commodore:** Ken Andrews  
**Vice Commodore:**  
Rich Halapin  
**Secretary:** Joe Shields  
**Treasurer :** Patrick Jiang  
**Membership Director:**  
Joy Goethert  
**Race Director:** Mark Benner  
**Community Sailing Director:**  
Javier Lopez  
**BTB Editor:** Sharon Yezerski  
**Web Director:** Maria Benner  
**Education:** Rich Halapin  
**Directors at Large:** Dave August  
Dan Goldberg, and Wolf  
Goethert  
**Fleet 80 Liaison:** Dave Bishop  
**Property Manager:** Carl Suppo

## 2011 Calendar of Events Events subject to change. Always check the website for updates

### April

- \* Sat 4/16 : Barn Date
- \* Sat 4/23: Barn Date

**Meet at the Barns at 10AM or  
at Watts Bay at 10:30 AM**

### May

- \* Sunday 5/1: CSP Work Day
- \* Saturday 5/14: **Spring Fling**
- \* Sunday 5/15: CSP Sponsored Group Sail
- \* Saturday 5/21: Race Day 1
- \* Sunday 5/22: Learn to Sail Day 1
- \* Saturday 5/28 Race Day 2
- \* Sun 5/29 and Mon 5/30: Butler Outdoor Extravaganza

### June

- \* Saturday 6/4: Race Day 3 and Crew Invite
- \* Sunday 6/5: Learn to Sail/Day 2
- \* Saturday 6/11: Race Day 4
- \* Sunday 6/13: Boat Building Day at Watts Bay
- \* Saturday 6/18:  
Race Day 5-  
Sunfish Racing
- \* Sunday 6/19: Learn  
To Sail/Day 3
- \* Saturday 6/25:  
Race Day 6/Picnic
- \* Saturday 6/25-26:  
Sailing connection  
for community care



### July

- \* Saturday 7/9: Race Day 7 and Crew Invite
- \* Saturday 7/10: Boat Building Day
- \* Saturday 7/16: Race Day 8-Sunfish Racing
- \* Sunday 7/17: Learn to Sail/Day 4
- \* Mon 7/18-Fri 7/22: Sail Camp Week
- \* Saturday 7/23: Race Day 9 and Picnic
- \* Sunday 7/24: Learn to Sail/ Day 5
- \* Saturday 7/30: Race Day 10
- \* Sunday 7/31: Learn to Sail/Day 6

### August

- \* Saturday 8/6 and Sunday 8/7: Lake Arthur Regatta
- \* Saturday 8/6: Fireworks Raft up
- \* Saturday 8/13: Race Day 11
- \* Sunday 8/14: Learn To Sail Day 7
- \* Saturday 8/20: Race Day 12-Sunfish racing
- \* Sunday 8/21: Learn to Sail Day 8
- \* Saturday 8/27: Race Day 13-Picnic
- \* Sunday 8/28: Learn to sail Day 9

### September

- \* Saturday 9/10: Race Day 14- Sunfish Racing
- \* Sunday 9/11: Learn to Sail Day 10
- \* Sat 9/17 and Sun 9/18 Sail for the Grail
- \* Saturday 9/24: Race Day 15 & Cruising Workshop
- \* Sunday 9/25: Learn to Sail Day 11

### October

- \* Saturday 10/1: MSC Fleet/Handicapped Pursuit Race
- \* Sunday 10/2: Learn to Sail Day 12
- \* Saturday 10/8: Tentative Barn Date
- \* Saturday 10/25: Tentative Barn Date

### November

- \* Saturday 11/12: Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet

**Don 't forget to register online: [www.morainesailingclub.org](http://www.morainesailingclub.org)**

## Modification to the Racing Scoring System

We are going to modify the high point scoring system we used last year. The high-point scoring system counts how many total boats you beat in each race, and accumulates that number throughout the season. This system most accurately reflects those who raced the best. At the end of the season, the skipper with the most points will be awarded first place

Extra points for attending out of town sanctioned regattas: A number of our sailors participate in out-of-town regattas and thus are unable to accumulate any points while they are away. This year we will add 1 point to their accumulated score for each race that they missed while attending an out-of-town regatta. This is limited to one weekend only.

Extra points for assisting in learn-to-race: Another modification we will make this year is designed to encourage the more experienced racing sailors to come out and assist the learn-to-race sailors. Two weekends have been added to the schedule this year devoted to learn-to-race. The exact format is still being worked out. There will probably be a short dry land seminar on rules, safety and racing procedures, tactics, etc. followed by a number of short races where the more experienced sailors will sail with the new racers to hone their skills and confidence. For each weekend we will add 2 point to the accumulated score of all experienced racing sailors who come out and assist in this effort.

## New Boat Use Form for CSP Members

*-Javier Lopez - CSP Director*

For the 2011 sailing season we are implementing a new boat use form to help improve the coordination, safety and satisfaction of boat use in the Community Sailing Program. The form is a single page with two sections. The first section identifies the boat, its mooring location, the skipper and the date/time of use. This information will be filled in automatically when a boat is reserved at the MSC website. The skipper should **print out the form and place it under the vehicle windshield at Watts Bay while using the boat.** If you forget or cannot print the form, blank copies will be available in the notice box at the MSC Club House at Watts Bay. *(editors note: Form is also located on page 4 . May be a good idea to print these out now and put them in your vehicle, just in case!)*

The second part of the form is a checklist that allows boat users to alert the CSP director about items that need maintenance or replacement. **It should be filled out immediately after sailing and deposited in the drop box** outside the Club House. It even includes a handy diagram of how to tie the Trucker's Hitch to secure the boat and trailer (thanks to Richard Halapin)! We hope that this system will help ensure that any problems are fixed as efficiently as possible. Less frustration, more sailing!

**Great Idea MSC Board!!**

# Enter Bullet Items and Place under Car Windshield during Boat Use

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sailing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat: \_\_\_\_\_ Slip/Rack Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation Period: \_\_\_\_\_

*After Sailing, Fill In Boat Status Report Below and Place In Dropbox Outside MSC Clubhouse at Watts Bay*

## Boat Status Report: Note any items that require maintenance.

### Standing Rigging:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Running Rigging:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Mast, Boom, Winch:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Sails:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Centerboard:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Tiller/Rudder:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Hull:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Trailer or Tie-Downs:

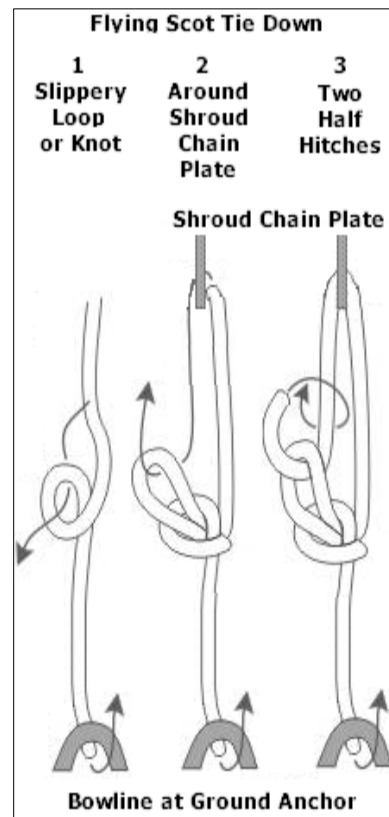
OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Safety Equipment:

OK  Repair \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Comments

\_\_\_\_\_



# WANTED

## TEEN SUNFISH SAILORS FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL "TEEN - RACE AT THE POINT"

MORAINES SAILING CLUB HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR TEENAGE SAILORS TO RACE SUNFISH SAILBOATS ON THE ALLEGHENY RIVER IN THE 2011 PITTSBURGH THREE RIVERS REGATTA. THE FIRST ANNUAL "TEEN - RACE AT THE POINT" IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>.

REWARDS WILL INCLUDE TROPHIES AND A POST RACE PARTY. CHECK OUT THE MSC WEBSITE FOR TEEN SAILING COURSES AND ACTIVITIES TO PREPARE FOR THE RACES. JUST LEARNING TO SAIL? NO PROBLEM, WE'LL GET YOU READY. TEEN SAILORS WILL RACE ON A CLOSED RIVER WITH SAFETY BOATS TO ENSURE A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL EVENT.

**LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COMING SOON ON THE MSC WEBSITE INCLUDING REGISTRATION MATERIALS AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS.**

**PARTICIPANTS MUST BE BETWEEN 13 AND 18 YEARS OF AGE.**

# REWARD



**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT JASON HARRISON.  
JAKE\_159@YAHOO.COM  
412-874-1019**

## SPRING FLING - MAY 14

Our annual Spring Fling will be held on May 14 at the Keystone Canine Training Club in Baldwin Borough. (Sorry, no dogs are invited!) We will grill hot dogs and hamburgers, and provide soft drinks and water. Please BYOB for anything else you may wish to drink. Also please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share, and folding tables or chairs. The canine club has some tables and chairs but not enough for all of us. Set up will begin at noon. The Spring Fling is free to members and guests.

We are actually having three events back-to-back-to-back that day, in accordance with the following schedule.

12:30 – 1:00: LEARN TO SAIL (LTS) INSTRUCTOR MEETING – This is a meeting for our LTS instructors to go over the changes for our 2011 LTS program. We have made some changes to the organization and structure of our program to better accommodate the large number of participants we have been getting.

1:00 – 2:00: DAY STEWARD AND RACE COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MEETING – This meeting is for all Day Stewards and people who help out on our Race Committees. We will cover our Day Steward staffing system, cover some race management issues including horns and flags, and also discuss the proper use of our automatic timer and our motors. Anyone interested in learning about race committee work or helping out on race committees is welcome to attend, regardless of previous experience.

2:00 – 5:00: Party time! Enjoy the company of your old friends. Also meet some of our new (and potentially new) sailors from our popular Learn to Sail seminars in February and March, and make them feel welcome.

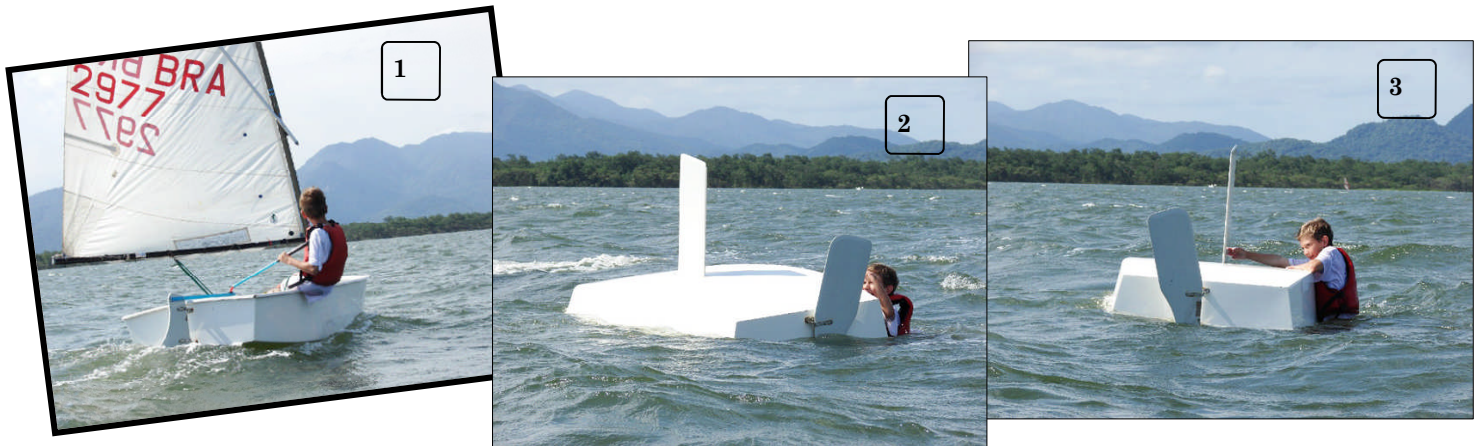
We look forward to kicking off our 2011 season with this event. We hope to see all of you there, particularly if you are a LTS Instructor or someone who works on race committee.

Directions can be found on the canine club's website, [www.keystonecanine.com](http://www.keystonecanine.com). Just click on the "Directions" tab in the left margin of the homepage. Or you can put the location in your GPS – 5167 Brownsville Rd, Pittsburgh 15236. It is between the Option Supply Co. and the Loose Moose Saloon. Do not use Google Maps – it will take you to the wrong location!

## How to? An especially useful article for Opti Sailors! Young and Old.

This column is dedicated to presenting or reviewing some useful information, techniques, hints, and basic concepts that will contribute to the safety and enjoyment of sailing for all.

In this issue, we will present some information on how to recover from an Opti turnover. Turnovers have been known to happen even to the most experienced sailors. So, how do you recover from a turnover? One way would be to wait for a helicopter parent (so-named because they're always hovering around) to come over to fish you out and rescue your boat. A better way is to learn the useful skill how to rescue a swamped Opti and demonstrate your independence and self-reliance.



This young man is enjoying sailing on a beautiful summer day. Please note that he is wearing his lifejacket on what looks like a relative calm day. From the white caps, we note that the wind has increased. After a gust overpowers the boat, he finds himself swimming besides a turtled boat. Please note that sailing an overturned boat is kind of slow and wet. Using the skill he learned in sail camp, he climbs on the boat until he can grasp the centerboard.



He climbs up on the centerboard, flips the boat back right side up, and climbs back in. He uses his bucket to bail out the boat. This can take quite a bit of time! And he really shouldn't be standing up in his boat while he's bailing. He then continues his interrupted sail. What a great way to demonstrate a learned skill on how to sail a boat safely



## Notes from Sunfish Cove

2011 will mark the reactivation of Sunfish Fleet 294. As you may be aware, our Flying Scot sailors are, mostly, members of Flying Scot Fleet 80. Other sailboats participating in our races typically race in the Open Class. This summer, I would like to see an increased number of sunfish on the start lines. Last year, we implemented afternoon sunfish races once a month, and drew up to six sunfish for these events. We'll continue that practice this summer. We also offer a separate start sequence in any race in which more than three boats of a class participate...so sunfish are invited and encouraged to participate in the regular race series as well. There will be trophies for Sunfish, if we have enough participation over the summer.



The International Sunfish Class Association ([SunFishOff@aol.com](mailto:SunFishOff@aol.com)) requires five active members to reactivate our fleet. You don't need to own your own boat (the club has over a dozen, at least two of which are race worthy), but you do need to pay your class dues (\$40 per year...they'll give you a sail number) and your CSP dues (if you intend to use our boats) or Racing dues (if you intend to use your own Sunfish).

Sunfish aren't just for young folk...some of our best sunfish sailors are over retirement age.

Ken Andrews

Sunfish "Splash!" #80873

**Sunfish sailing. It's way cooler than it sounds.**



The Restaurant Building at Davis Hollow was a busy place on April 2nd as an enthusiastic group of new sailors, helped by MSC members, built 6 more sailboats including their sails. This brings the local fleet up to 17 with a total of 25 expected for the Lake Arthur Regatta on August 6 and 7.

## MSC at Children's Museum

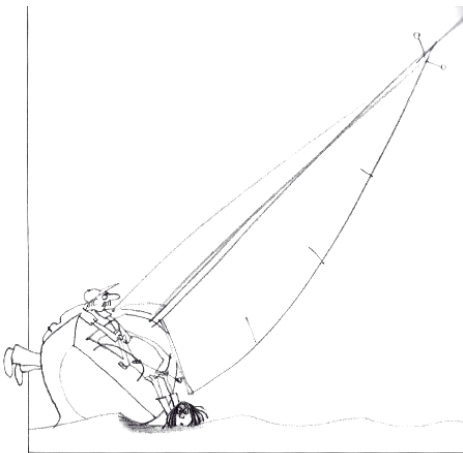
Childrens' Museum has offered us the opportunity to introduce families with young children to sailing and our club. We'll be putting on display two of our boats, an Optimist and a Sunfish, along with some posters, a rope and knot practice area, and, of course, some publicity flyers and photos.

We will be setting up on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April and tearing down a week later. During the intervening time, we need volunteers to staff our exhibit between the hours of 11AM and 4PM (Wednesday thru Saturday). Childrens' Museum will provide free parking for our volunteers.

John Bridges has created an interactive ship's steering wheel which will allow children (and others!) to see the effect of the wind on the sail of the Optimist. Childrens' Museum will create some poster sized collages of our activities. We're hoping to raise our club's visibility and attract more families with growing children to our sport and our club.

I will plan to represent the club each weekday, and Joe Shields will be on hand on Saturday. If you can help us during this exhibit, please contact me at 412.600.3395 or via email ([commodore@morainesailingclub.org](mailto:commodore@morainesailingclub.org)).

Ken Andrews



### Just for Laughs...

#### A few definitions from "A Sailors Dictionary"

- \* **Anchor:** Any of a number of heavy, hook shaped devices that is dropped over the side of the boat on the end of a rope, and which is designed to hold a vessel securely in place until (a) the wind exceeds 2 knots, (b) the owner and crew depart, or (c ) 3 AM.
- \* **Boarding:** The knowledgeable sailor does not "get on" a boat-he boards a boat. And the prudent individual does not "stay behind", or "keep off" or "say the hell with it"-he remains ashore.
- \* **Boom:** Laterally mounted pole to which a sail is fastened. Often used during jibing to shift crew members to a fixed, horizontal position.
- \* **Canvas:** An abrasive sailcloth used to remove excess skin from knuckles.
- \* **Catamaran:** a boat design involving the use of two joined hulls. Its chief features are it is twice as likely to hit something or develop a hole or leak but will generally take double the amount of time to sink after having done so.

\* **Heeling:** A basic process affecting all sailboats, which begins with the boat leaning over as the wind presses on one side of its sails, and ends as the sailboat finally exhibits its natural tendency to come to a state of rest on the lake bottom.



# Enclosed



- \* **Modifications to the Race Scoring System**
  - \* **Spring Fling Info**
  - \* **Wanted: Teens to Race at the Point**
- \* **MSC Appearance at Children's Museum**
  - \* **Calendar of Events**



Batten the Breeze Newsletter  
Moraine Sailing Club  
P O Box 692  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230