



**Moraine Sailing
Club**

Batten the Breeze

April 2008

LET'S GO SAILING !

WHAT'S GOING ON ?

Spring Fling: April 12, 2008 3:30 to 7 p.m. at the Three Rivers Rowing Club 300 Waterfront Drive, Millvale. **Please bring a side dish if your house number ends in an even digit, and a dessert if you house number ends in an odd digit.**

Directions:

from Rt 28 N 1. Exit 3 at Millvale. 2. Turn left at light. 3. Straight at stop sign (look - dangerous intersection) 4. Proceed about 100 yds, look for sign on left *Millvale Riverfront Park* under Rt 28S overpass. 5. Turn left at same sign under Rt 28S overpass. 6. Cross RR tracks, go under RR trestle. 7. Turn right at the stop sign. 8. Proceed about ½ mile to red and white building

from 40th Bridge 1. Turn right at light at foot of bridge 2. Turn right under Rt 28N overpass 3. Follow sign *Millvale Riverfront Park*. 4. Cross RR tracks, go under RR trestle. 5. Turn right at the stop sign. 6. Proceed about ½ mile to red and white building

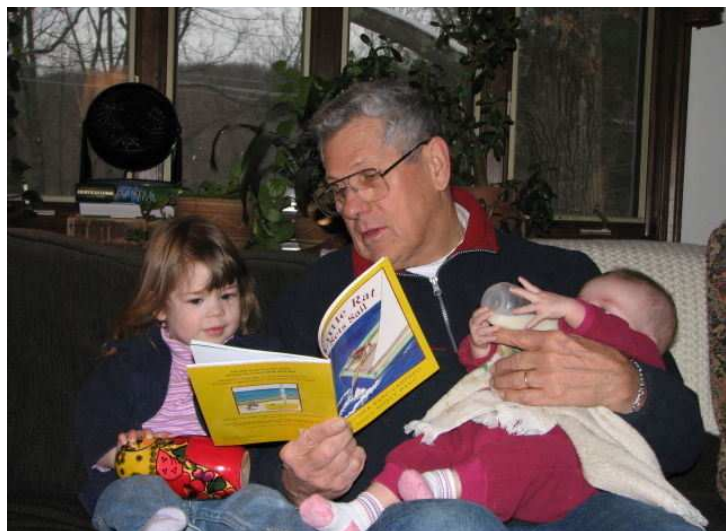
from Rt 28 S 1. Exit 3 at Millvale. 2. Go straight at light. 3. Follow sign *Millvale Riverfront Park* (avoid Rt 28N on-ramp!). 4. Cross RR tracks, go under RR trestle. 5. Turn right at the stop sign. 6. Proceed about ½ mile to red and white building

Learn to Sail weekends: May 30-June 1 and Aug. 16-17, 2008. We now have available a place to stay that weekend ! The cabin down at Davis Hollow will be available and convenient. It is \$10 per person per night up to 5 people and if we get over 6 people, the price drops to a total of \$60 for up to 12 people (capacity inside). There are also flats for putting up tents on the site, a campfire and cooking areas and showers etc. close by. This would be a GREAT weekend to come up and learn to sail. Contact Jason about making reservations for space to stay over the weekend. Keep in mind.. **SPACE IS LIMITED** inside

BARN DATES: Sat. April 19 and 26 from 10:00 till noon. Please contact Ken Andrews about where to meet and what to bring. Generally, wear clothing you can get wet, get dirty and don't care about. Please bring a bucket, a large sponge and some sort of scrub brush. All of the boats will need cleaned and all will need readied to sail. We have masts and rigging to do too, so if you can bring basic tools (screwdrivers, pliers and other assorted simple tools which you will have to keep track of !) it will make the job go a lot faster. Thanks to everyone who is going to be there to help get the clubs boats out of the barn and into a space over at Watts. We need all of the help we can get both of these days !

LEARN TO SAIL DATES: (proposed)

- Class 1: May 11th, 18th, - 9am-5pm each day
- Class 2: Jun 21st, 29th - 9am-5pm each day
- Class 3: Jul 13th, 20th, - 9am-5pm each day
- Class 4: Aug 10th, 17th, - 9am-5pm each day
- Class 5: Sep 14th, 28th, - 9am-5pm each day



Starting Them YOUNG !

Wolf and Joy recently had a golden opportunity to visit with their children and these lovely grandchildren and Wolf is starting them off right.

Reading to your children about the adventure of sailing is a great start. There are many children's books about sailing out there such as: Adventure on the High Sea by Susan Blair; Sailing Days by Amy McKay; Bridie's Fire by Kirsty Murray; We're Sailing to Galapagos by Krebs and Restelli; Big Dog and Little Dog Go Sailing by Selina Young; Little Rat Sets Sail by Monika Bang-Campbell and Molly Bang.

We all know the benefits to reading to children and this is a double dose of good things for the children in your life !

Anticipating Spring Sailing

This winter, two rather divergent experiences served to heighten my anticipation of once again hoisting the old canvas: one an exquisite, antipodal vacation - the other a delightful morning visit to familiar stomping grounds.

Early this February, I flew to Sydney to visit my son who has been a journalist for the Daily Telegraph. To *Sydney-siders* this is summer time at its finest. Rest assured that the best time was had by son and father alike! Aside from an astonishing trip to the Red Center and the Outback, two sailing events counted among the hi-lights.

Our outing on the 75 foot Americas Cup Yacht *MPI*

was simply awesome. For about an hour, I had a chance to helm this incredible stallion and crisscross Sydney Harbour amongst literally 100's if not 1000's of sailing vessels. And virtually no motor boats! There must have been 20 or 30 different regattas by various one-design classes not to mention day-sailers, booze-cruisers, sport boats, dinghies, skiffs, historic 18-footers etc. My eyes virtually popped out trying to take in the colorful tessellation to mains, jibs, chutes, sprits and hulls. Then, as we reached the opening of the bay toward the Tasman Sea, none other than *WILD OATS* (of Hobart fame) appeared under billowing spinnaker on the horizon, swiftly approached and then gybed toward Sydney. What a sight?!

On another day, we boarded a spectator boat in Double Bay to watch a race by the fleet of Australian 18-footers. These 3-man triple-trapeze 18 foot skiffs with 33 foot carbon-fiber masts and unlimited sail area are Formula 1 racing on water. The Julian Bethwaite inspired modern design is indigenous to Sydney Harbour. In fact, the 18-footers have a long history of extreme skiff sailing. The boats are financed by local syndicates and crewed by top-gun sailors. If you have never seen these boats in action, do yourself a favor and check out any number of racing videos on YouTube. This is the type of sailing action I dream about and the spectator boat kept us incredibly close to the action – simply breathtaking! As is true for most sporting events in Australia betting is part of the sport. So right on the boat, you could place a bet on your favorite skiff team. Aaron and I each placed our bet on *Rag and Famish*. Wouldn't you know, out of a fleet of about 25 skiffs, *Rag and Famish* actually won in a super exciting photo-finish tacking duel with *Asko*. As we got off the boat, we smugly collected our winnings and headed off to reward ourselves with a scrumptious dinner. Coming back to Pittsburgh in Mid-Feb, this down-under experience had me shoveling my way out of February with expectant enthusiasm and excitement for spring and sailing.

Returning to reality, I drove up to Moraine State Park one mid-March morning to survey the current state of affairs. Though the snow has fully melted in Pittsburgh, traces of white are still visible everywhere around Lake Arthur. The lake is still entirely ice-covered, yet somehow, the air is soft and

Pittsburgh, traces of white are still visible everywhere around Lake Arthur. The lake is still entirely ice-covered, yet somehow, the air is soft and *springish*. Returning blackbirds and grackles chirp and peep of things to come as sun rays cautiously pierce through the eerie fog hovering over the ice. Further out on the ice, a bald eagle rests and then - with a few powerful flaps - arises into the mist. As I round the bend of a south shore cove, a ring-necked duck turns its black silk head in surprise but stays put whilst two beavers test the edge of the ice - unperturbed. A pileated woodpecker makes an inquisitive appearance on a nearby stump even as Canada geese go about their business and argue vociferously about perfect nesting sites.

Yes, Moraine is teeming with pre-spring activity yet appears abandoned by folk. Too late for winter sports and ice fishing, too early for boating, too slippery for bicycling, too soggy for most hikers... in other words, PERFECT. Perfect to soak up tranquil solitude! Perfect to ponder the vernal equinox! Perfect to tune into the sounds of the lake! Doesn't that babbling brook of melting snow remind you of the gurgling as the bow breaks spring wavelets rushing past the hull? Yeah, me too!

Christoph Harlan

cmosheh@earthlink.net

412-334-0307

Sailing Website to Look Over

If you are out there looking for a decent website, Chris N. found a gem:

<http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/>

It contains a lot of sailing information and also has access to their archives if you want to look up something from prior issues. Thanks Chris !

Teaming Up for Safety

In a recent article in *Boating World*, Jan. 2008, teaching boating safety to children was a topic covered quite well and in a most timely manner. MSC teaches boating safety to those who are instructed under our

program, however; many children who sail with parents, grandparents and other friends and family lack the "shore school" to learn about boating safety and the safety equipment aboard (as well as how to use it !).

Teaching children the Rules of the Road if they will be at the helm is crucial. Explaining to them why you are doing something involved with safety as you are doing it leaves the impression that you consider safety important enough to practice it and share it with them, even at an early age.

Kids can learn at a very early age to use a signaling device such as an air horn or whistle (then just try to stop them..) but also have to learn that there is a time and place for use of these devices to protect everyone on board.

Last summer, we were out at the Watts dock and watched a grandfather taking out two granddaughters about 8 and 10 years of age. It was their very first time out sailing. They had their lifejackets on properly and were about to set sail. There was one huge problem: Grampa had on NO lifejacket and hadn't taken the time to do anything other than get the mast up, sails on and pile the children into the boat. They were excited and everyone wanted to get sailing. Sadly enough, it brought to memory the incident at Lake Arthur last May when an experienced sailor went overboard and the remaining passenger had not been taught anything about the safety gear on the boat and had no idea how to let the sails luff. The sailor was lost and the memory of helplessly sailing away from where he fell into the water will forever be emblazoned on this guest's memory. The sailor had no life jacket on either. If the same thing happened to this Grandpa, can you imagine what his grandchildren would feel like ?

Kids can be taught to use fire extinguishers, flotation devices and to navigate safely while on deck. It is up to us to teach these young sailors safety while sailing. We need to look at teaching safety as a responsibility worth the time it takes to make it happen.

	Day	Event	Day Steward / Assistant
May	3 Sat		
	4 Sun		
	10 Sat	CSP Fleet sail to McDaniel's	
	11 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
	17 Sat	Warm-up Race Day Boating Safety Day	Marlin & Harrison
	18 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
	24 Sat	Schedule Race Day Memorial Day	Shields & TBD
	25 Sun		
	31 Sat		
June	1 Sun		
	7 Sat	Schedule Race Day	Ingersoll & Hastings
	8 Sun	Sunfish Cruise across the lake	
	14 Sat	Schedule Race Day Picnic	Goetherts, Dave & Cathy August
	15 Sun		
	21 Sat	Learn to Sail 9-5 Summer Sailstice CSP/MSC Full Moon Sail	
	22 Sun	Community Cares Sail Event	
	28 Sat	Schedule Race Day Youth Sailing Championship	Bishop & J. Wolf
	29 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
July	5 Sat		
	6 Sun	MSC Sailing Geocache Activity	
	12 Sat	Schedule Race Day Picnic	B Zavos, S Zavos
	13 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
	19 Sat	Schedule Race Day CSP/MSC Moonlight Sail	Cullen & Boyles
	20 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
	21 - 25	SAIL CAMP	
	26 Sat	Schedule Race Day Youth Sailing Championship Picnic	Gelmans, Glenn Gilbert
	27 Sun	Sunfish Regatta/Swim Party Activities to be developed, but to include overnight raft up/camp	

August	2 Sat	LAKE ARTHUR REGATTA	
	3 Sun		
	9 Sat	Schedule Race Day	Hohler, Czepleski & Lora
		Picnic	
	10 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
	16 Sat		
	17 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
	23 Sat	Schedule Race Day	Suppo's & Jombock
		Youth Sailing Championship	
	24 Sun	Cruising Fundamentals Seminar and on the water drills	
	30 Sat	Cruising Fundamentals Seminar and on the water drills	
31 Sun			
September	6 Sat	Schedule Race Day	Goldberg & Reis
	7 Sun	MSC Round the Lake Tour Cruising Community Tour, followed by outdoor dinner at Davis Hollow Pavilions	
	13 Sat	Schedule Race Day	Uehling & Marshall
		Picnic	
	14 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5	
	20 Sat	Sail for the Grail?	
	21 Sun		
	27 Sat	Schedule Race Day	Williams, Ken Andrews
28 Sun	Learn to Sail 9-5		
October	4 Sat	Handicap Regatta	
		CSP round the Lake Tour	Harrison & Marlin
	5 Sun		
	11 Sat	Annapolis Boat Show	
12 Sun			

GEARING UP FOR SPRING

I can hear it all now: "here she goes again with stuff about the trailers". Yes, more on trailers but with a twist: trailers from the viewpoint of those following you and what you have on top of the trailer.

Trailer lights: don't leave home without 'em ! Traveling with nonoperable trailer lights on a public road is illegal and can get you not only a ticket and fine, but can also result in your boat and trailer being left behind while you go off to seek help in repairing the remiss lighting on the side of a highway somewhere (and you think mechanics charge in the shop.. Wait til you see what they charge for roadside repairs !) Have someone check your trailer lights before you head off for the lake. If they aren't operating, make the repairs there at home. If the wiring system is down, you can always test the wiring where you are with a voltmeter (multimeter) which is significantly easier to do at home than laying on your back on the berm of a road with traffic whizzing past you at 70 miles an hour.

A note in a recent article in Boating World mentions that ground (white) wires are the most common for causing shorts on boat trailers. Look for rust at the terminal where the white wire connects to the trailer frame which is just about the most common breakage site.

Light kits are available at many big box stores for both marine and auto parts. Installing them is generally not complex and they do come with installation guides. The cost varies depending on what you want to install (higher end trailers usually can and do have more complex wiring systems) but you can check on the internet for prices before you head out the door to get one.

MSC volunteers replaced and repaired wiring on several boat trailers at John Bridges last year. It isn't terribly complex, but it can save the trailer from being "grounded" with your boat a captive victim of bad wiring. We have members in the club who can help you with wiring if you are stuck. Asking for help early on can make life a lot easier for your come trailering time.

LOOK AT THIS OPTI GO !

Are you an Optimist sailor, frustrated by winter, or just frustrated that you are still sailing this low performance square boat with a square sail? If so, you are not alone, and now is the time to take control. How can you update your Opti to provide the excitement you desire? How can you sharpen your ride? This week's video shows what one sailor did, jacking his boat up with a tall mast, bowsprit, and 420 spinnaker. Seems doomed to implode but doesn't, so either they ran out of film, or kids these days are the superstar engineers of tomorrow. Click here for this week's video of this daring sailor with an idea and a plan: <http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/media/08/0225>

Sailing Humor

Matt: Why do opera singers make good sailors?

Keith: Why?

Matt: They can handle high C's

Old sailors never die, they just get a little "DINGHY"

It was exam time at Pacific Sailing School. Terry sprung some impromptu questions at a smart aleck student...

"What would you do if a sudden storm sprang up on the starboard?" "Throw out an anchor, sir," the student replied.

"What would you do if another storm sprang up aft?" "Throw out another anchor, sir."

"And if another terrific storm sprang up forward, what would you do then?" asked the captain. "Throw out another anchor, sir."

"Hold on," said the captain. "Where are you getting all those anchors from?"

"From the same place you're getting your storms, sir."



Moraine Sailing Club
Batten the Breeze C/O