



Batten the Breeze

November 2008

Moraine Sailing Club

Sailing Season 2009 on the Horizon

Fall Banquet

The Fall Banquet/ Annual Meeting held on November 1, 2008 at the Sheraton 4 Points in Cranberry was delightful. Our keynote speaker, Jim Roddey, regaled us with stories of growing up sailing and his adventures on the water. His presentation brought a great deal of laughter, insights and nods of shared memories. Mr. Roddey, a very seasoned sailor, has sailed the seas and lakes and still rejoices in a day on the water. It was MSC's delight and honor to have him among us and sharing the evening. Thank you, Mr. Roddey, for joining us !



Now, the Fall Banquet is a time for rejoicing for us all. The Racing Awards were given out by Dean Marlin amidst rounds of applause for a job well done by all. The Trophy winners this year were:

Flying Scots: 1. Tom Hohler; 2. David Bishop; and 3. Tom Uhling. *Open Class:* 1. Juan Lora; 2. George Uhling; and 3. Chris Harlan.



George Uhling, winner of the second place for Open Class.

Among our younger racers were Dave Bishop's sons, Marin and Cameron who, along with Dave, shared in the victory of being winners in the Flying Scot class.



Our congratulations go out to the racing winners and we look forward to a wonderful year of racing next year.

Special Awards were also given to those who did so much to merit them.

Most Improved: Dave Bishop

Vice Commodore's Award: John Bridges and Dean Marlin

Commodore's Award: Joe Shields

Youth: 1. Zack Shaw; 2. Luke Gitner; and 3. Ian Behm.

Eager Beaver: Mark and Maria Benner

Starters Clock: Ken Andrews.

NEW OFFICERS

New officers were elected at the meeting and we now have a great compliment of folks interested in advancing MSC's future. We thank those of you who have served so faithfully over the years and welcome the new board members who offer promise of exciting sailing (Fall Banquet) The new officers of the club are as follows:

Commodore: Jason Harrison

Vice Commodore: Dan Goldberg

Secretary/ Treas. Patrick Jiang

Social Director: Maryanne Righi

BTB editor/ publisher: Sharon Yezerski

Web Director: Marie Benner

Directors at Large: Dave August

Fleet 80 Liason: Wolf Goethert

LED LIGHTING AVAILABLE

John Bridges found a great website for those of us who are going to be replacing their lights. John said this is the "real thing".. Not colored covers.. The lights are actually colored. Going to an LED light really cuts down power usage, and, for a change, these are realistically priced. See the website at:

<http://www.duckworksbbbs.com/hardware/electrical/sd400070/>

More Food for thought:

Trash on the lake.. We have all seen it and many of us have scooped it up to dispose of it properly. Please go look at this website about our oceans and trash.. It is just frightening !

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pacific_Garbage_Patch

Food for thought:

A smooth sea never made a skilled mariner.
-- **English Proverb**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EDITOR !

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your BTB editor/ publisher for the past few years. We have come a long way as a club which is reflected in the new website, changes in the BTB and the incredible influx of new sailors over the past two years. It has been a delight watching MSC soaring, and sailing becoming a wonderful part of peoples' lives.

It is on this note that I pass the quill of editorship of the BTB to Sharon Yezerski and wish her all of the joy and excitement I have had the pleasure of experiencing over the past years. She will be sitting at the desk following this edition and articles can be transmitted to her at: lawncarebytheyard@comcast.net. Please be as generous in your sharing of news, articles, ideas, pictures and humor as you have been to me.

Welcome Aboard, Sharon !

Jackie Stevens

Handy Conversion Chart for Sailors..

Ever had the experience of needing to convert lat and long to miles, knots to Beauford scale etc. ? There is a great website out there which will enable you to do this with ease.. And provide up to date tide charts to take along when you are out sailing in open waters. Take a look and bookmark it for future reference.. It is one to hang on to and will prove quite helpful !

<http://users.telenet.be/tree/wreck/north-sea/beaufort.html>

A first timers experience at the United States Sailboat Show in Annapolis

As we headed towards Annapolis on Friday evening, I found myself getting excited about what we may see. We were going for the boat show, but having never been to Annapolis, I found myself as excited at seeing the town as the boats. We met up with the others at the Hotel, they were all seasoned veterans of the boat show, and had everything under control. 9 am shuttle to town; breakfast at a boutique café, and on to the show.

The weather was wonderful, sunny and clear. Breakfast on the other hand, left something to be desired, but...it was now time to enter the show. With a promise to meet at Pussers at 2 pm for painkillers, off we went. I was amazed at the scope of this show. Just about everything was represented. As we walked amongst the vendors in the various tents, I saw just about anything you might want for your boat...and then some!

Now admittedly, this show is geared more towards cruising sailors, and bigger boats, but there was a smattering of dinghy's to rouse my attention. I had in the back of my mind, an idea about replacing or augmenting club boats for a more varied sailing experience, so I spent a good portion of my time talking to the representatives of the various "youth boats" that were present. It was a good experience, as I found out what other schools and programs are doing, and with luck, might even have arranged some sailing demos out of it. Time and scheduling will tell, but overall it was a good experience.

Now on to the 2 pm rendezvous, the top deck at Pussers was packed, and the "painkillers" were flowing. It was a nice break from the show, what I remember of it. We agreed to meet at 5 pm for the shuttle back to the hotel, and feeling no pain, we went off to see the U.S. Naval Academy. I was amazed at how close it was. A very short walk had us at the visitor's entrance, and entry onto the campus. We spent two hours seeing the sights of this historic institution, and didn't even scratch the surface. The observation deck at the visitor's center gave a great view of the harbor, boat show and the bay beyond. The mass of sails on the horizon was something I hadn't seen since my youth on San Francisco bay.

As time was getting short, we headed toward our meeting point. Walking past all the quaint shops, we came upon a pub. "You know," says me, "I really would like to try a Dark and Stormy". So in we go, and faster that you can say it, we had a Dark and Stormy to split between us. And thank God we did, I don't know if I would have made it to the shuttle if I had had one of my own!



Photos: Wolfe Goethert

We got the shuttle back to the Hotel, and bright and early Sunday morning, we all met for breakfast. Sunday's choice for breakfast was fantastic. Great food, good service, assuredly one to go back to. And so, on our drive home, my wife and I talked about our experience, and decided we need to go back. Maybe sometime when the boat show won't distract us of all Annapolis has to offer.

Jason Harrison

The Annapolis Boat Show is an annual tradition, attendance at which is rapidly increasing by members of MSC coming to the show, en masse, and enjoying every minute there. We had a good gang from MSC joining us this year ! Friday's arrival by our members was heralded by drinks in the Sheraton lobby and was followed by shared meals at local restaurants who were prepared for the onslaught of sailors. In addition to "doin' the boat show" (you can't

imagine what all there is to see !), we had a good time just talking, sharing war stories about crazy sailing experiences and eating.. and eating..



Oh yes, and there was Pussers !

The unofficial drink of the boat show is this creation called a "painkiller".. aptly named ! We shared in them and in a lot of laughter.



How to Get on Board for Boat Show 2009

Those of us from MSC who are seasoned "Boat Show" veterans know that boat show is always held over Columbus Day weekend each year in Annapolis. After 6 years of annual revelry, there are a lot of things I have learned about scheduling for the boat show. First, mark it on your calendar ! For 2009, the show will be held from October 8-12, 2009. Now, we usually go for the weekend which means Friday night until Sunday early afternoon and we generally car-pool to save on gas and money. Go to the boat show website for further information about the boat show. <http://www.usboat.com/index.html> They are promising to update their website soon, so take a look as soon as you can.

Where to stay ? Boat show, unfortunately, brings out the most expensive hotel rates, but, you can save yourself a great deal of stress and dollars by making reservations on Hotwire.com beginning December 1, 2008. The place we have stayed at consistently is the Sheraton on Jennifer Rd. Annapolis. It is rated a 2.5 star hotel on Hotwire, but you can't see which hotel you are getting so we can't guarantee that when it shows up, you will definitely be getting this place, but it is pretty normally available and recognizable. We found rates varied (and availability came and went on Hotwire.com) from a low of \$54 a night to a high of \$87 a night. This hotel has consistently proven to be very, very clean and has a restaurant, bar, pool, jacuzzi, workout room and internet access. They also offer a free shuttle to and from the boat show. You have to sign up for the shuttle for the day and time you want to go down and you call them from the show for the ride back. It is dependable and quite comfortable and, as of this year, free. You can't overestimate the value of this with the cost and difficulty of parking during boat show !

CHAMPION WOMEN SAILORS

Women have been sailing for years and winning races and personal challenges. From an internet article:

For years many women have sailed the oceans in boats of all sizes with large crews or double handed as part of a husband and wife team. It was not until the 1950's that women started sailing across oceans on their own. We have tried to identify some of the historical achievements of women sailors over the years.

The first women to cross an ocean single-handed was Anne Davison (GBR), she set off from Plymouth (GBR) on 19 May 1952 in the 23 foot sloop Felicity Ann and arrived in Miami (USA) on 13 August 1953. The main part of the crossing was from the Canaries on 1 December 1952 to Dominica on 24 January 1953 a distance of 3300 miles with an average speed of 2.3 knots.

The first women to sail single-handed across the Pacific was Sharon Sites (USA), who in 1965 sailed the 25 foot sloop Sea Harp from San Pedro (USA) to Hawaii a distance of 2300 miles in 39 days. Sharon later went on to sail from Yokohama (JPN) to San Diego (USA) in 1969 on the 31 foot Sea Harp II, 5000 miles in 74 days.

In 1972 Marie Claude Faroux (FRA) onboard Aloa VII competed in the single-handed Transatlantic race from Plymouth (GBR) to Newport (USA) completing the race in 32 days 22 hours and 51 Minutes. At 26 years of age she was also the youngest woman to cross the Atlantic.

Wendy Hinds (GBR) was the only woman to complete the entire course of the first Whitbread Round the World Race in 1973-74 on the 71 foot Second Life. Other women also competed for some of the legs.

1989 saw Tracy Edwards enter an all women crew for the first time in the Whitbread Round the World Race.

The first non-stop single-handed circumnavigation by a woman was by Kay Cottee (AUS) on First Lady in 1984-85, it took her 189 days to sail from Sydney to Sydney . <http://www.sailing.org/1420.php>

(cont. on page 7)

Crash then Laugh

"Let's go get 'em!" screamed my tanned, boisterous teenage cousin, Andrew. I laughed and pulled the sail tighter as we raced toward the nearby sailboat that carried my two younger sisters who both lay relaxed under the scorching rays of the sun. "Shhh. Don't let 'em know we're coming" I whispered to Andrew who was leaning out over the front of our missile of a sailboat. We got closer and closer to the sunbathing girls who seemed so peaceful they could've been sleeping. We mischievously devised our attack plan and set in for action, aiming our speeding Sunfish directly on the starboard side of the equally sized sitting duck. With bow down and sail pulled tight, we sped onward.

"When I say 'now' let the sail out" Andrew ordered from the front of the boat as I skillfully maneuvered our sailboat in line with the victim. The air stood silent and the only sounds audible were the cawing of birds and the ripple of the wind in the sail. I heard the anticipated long-awaited "NOW!" and let the sail out as fast as a bullet flying through the barrel of a shotgun. At the same time I watched my startled sisters jump up and rock their entire boat as they fumbled to regain control. I heard the expected "AHHH grab the sail. Grab the sail!" but I was surprised to hear that it wasn't a girls voice. I looked up from my seated position in the rear of the boat towards the direction of the voice and found Andrew wildly circling his arms backwards frantically trying to catch his balance. But all he was doing was violently rocking the sailboat. "I'm trying!" I yelled back as I saw a flash of blue and white sail flying towards me. Before I could get my feet planted I was knocked eight feet off the Sunfish by the sail and landed face first in the water. By the time I surfaced and grabbed onto my floating lifejacket, I looked around and all I could see were my sisters laughing in their still upright sailboat. I turned around to find my cousin thrashing through the water in search of his lifejacket. Just to his right, I noticed what looked like an overturned canoe floating away. The only visible part was the wooden board

sticking straight up through the center of the inverted boat like a shark's dorsal fin as it shot out of the water. The entire sailboat was upside down with the sail pointing directly at the lake floor. I started to laugh as I looked at my cousin, "Good plan". He threw his hands up and started to say something, but he forgot the lifejacket was keeping him afloat and he went under which caused both of us to laugh harder. "It was a good plan until you decided not to catch the sail!" he accused with a smirk. "Yeah go ahead and blame it on me while you were the one standing up on the end of the boat trying to knock them off!" as I motioned towards my still laughing sisters who drifted farther off in the lake. Looking around, I could see the many other Sunfish on the water that carried my laughing family members, as they stopped and enjoyed the entertainment of our failed attempt.

Andrew and I struggled as we tried to remember how to flip the sailboat over. "You go hang on that end," Andrew motioned towards the dagger board shooting out of the water, "and I'll try to lift it up from underneath". "I don't know about that. We both know how well your plans work" I said with a smile. Nonetheless, I hung on the dagger board as Andrew swam under the surface to try to pull up on the submerged sail. He came up gasping for air as I questioned playfully, "Did you do anything under there?" He shot back with a grin, "Why don't you go down there with all those big scary fish and try to move this thing!" After three tries of Andrew surfacing then going back under the dark water, we eventually turned the sailboat upright again. We finally collapsed into the boat exhausted. Andrew still had enough energy to point fingers at anyone but himself, "Why did you have to make us tip?! We're the best team out here. We don't tip!" At the same time I shot back, "If it wasn't for your ingenious ideas we still would be the best ones!" I paused for a second as I glanced at our boat, "Andrew look down". He screamed for the second time that day; only the second scream I've ever heard from him. "You broke the boat! We're gonna sink!" We frantically searched around to find the plug that stops the water from coming in the boat. "There! I see it!" Andrew proclaimed mid jump. Before I knew it Andrew dove off the boat rocking it wildly and almost

sending the sailboat bottom up for the second time. He swam about twenty feet away, turned around, and returned victorious with the tiny white plug that would save our sailboat from joining any other boats on the lake floor.

My family comes together for family vacations; specifically when we go sail boating. We all pair up and take the Sunfish out to explore Lake Arthur. Everyone in the family has their own way of spending their day on the lake. While my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles enjoy a relaxing slow ride through the water, the young kids prefer the more exciting and daring approach such as trying to tip the other sailboats over. We have races on the windy days to see who can reach a designated target the fastest. The lucky winners get out of washing the dishes that night. Since the majority of us aren't very experienced in sailing at high speeds of five miles per hour, at least one boat goes astray resulting in crashes and overturned sailboats which is always good for keeping things interesting. It is reunions like these that bring out my family's unity.

I was reminded of my family and our sailboat bonding time when I read the essay "Down to Cumberland" by the profound author Henry Louis Gates Jr. Gates enjoys reconnecting with his family just as I do. In contrast, Gates explains in his essay that he feels closest to his family during funerals. Physically, as a young boy, Gates only saw his entire extended family together on two occasions. Both happened to be each of his grandparents' funerals. It was at his grandfather's funeral when he was first introduced to many family members he had only heard about through stories. He also noticed that the old family photographs he had carefully examined over the years finally came to life through meeting the real people. People of many different social standings and careers crowded into Pop Gates' funeral that day and all seemed to share a commonality. The young Gates was able to listen to the strangers' old stories about his family, and somehow relate to them because after all, he was one of them.

bonding time when I read the essay "Down to Cumberland" as Gates considered himself a small part of a larger family, I'm able to connect with my family in a similar fashion. Where Gates used funerals as his meeting point, my family uses our family vacations to reunite. My entire extended family comes to Lake Arthur to sail for a day every summer. Even though we're physically separated out on the lake, we are united. We become a fleet of eight multi-colored Sunfish that take over the lake. We tip, we crash, we compete; but most of all we laugh. During this time I'm able to catch up with those I haven't seen in awhile and hear about the obstacles they've encountered. In turn I get to share with them my journeys. During this long day of sailing, my family and I are able to reconnect as one, just as Gates' family came together at the funerals.

Between my family and Gates', we each share different ideas on reuniting. Gates utilizes a sad time to explore the happier times with his family. In contrast, my family uses adventure to bring all of us together and create long-lasting memories. Some other families may use their family dinners to reconnect and others may set aside a special time just to be with their family. Each family is different, so no matter what the custom or ritual, each possesses their own specialized form of reunion.

Briana Koenig

(Champion women sailors from page 5))

Most recently, Ellen McArthur completed around the world and Transatlantic races winning and doing so in record times, single handing her boats to victory as women sailors around the world cheered her victories. <http://www.sailing.org/1420.php>

The message to all of us women sailors is that we can and will succeed in long distance sailing and racing, a field we didn't even enter until 50 years ago.

To the women sailors among us and to the men who support them wholeheartedly, CHEERS !



Wow! Did I ever have fun last week? I crept ashore before first light and dressed like a typical islander so that when the first passengers came ashore from our big sailboat I was able to offer to teach some of the kids to sail. Of course I knew them, but they did not know me since I was usually hidden in the long boat, peeping out from under the tarp.

Getting off from the beach with an on-shore wind was a little tricky with both the Centreboard and rudder up. But with a good push we were able to get into deeper water, put the rudder down, turn along the shore, lower the centerboard and reach with a "Soldier's Wind. That is the easiest and fastest way to sail with the boom about half way out and the Jib full with a long Jib sheet holding it almost like a balloon.

The kids really enjoyed it and invited me to lunch with them. That really made a change from the scraps I was usually able to snatch from the galley. We went out again in the afternoon and were able to go along the coast to a big bay where we could practice going to windward and running back "Goose-winged" with the Jib to Port and the main to Starboard. Everyone had a turn on the tiller whilst the rest of us balanced the boat to keep her steady and level (and continually ready to react in the case of an accidental gybe)

In the evening they went back to the ship and I pretended to go back to my village, whereas I actually slept under a palm tree on the beach after finding bananas, oranges and coconuts for my supper.

I took them out again the following day for more fun and practice and for the second

their sailing experiences with "that nice boy from the island" How I chuckled!

BIG EVENT SPONSORS LITTLE SAILOR

The 2008 St.Maarten Heineken Regatta not only had record entries, but it was also a success for one local child. On the 2008 online entry form, participants were able to make a donation to the youth sailing program of the Sint Maarten Yacht Club, organizers of the St.Maarten Heineken Regatta.

This was the first time the event made the plea to fellow sailors to help make a difference in the lives of the youth sailors on St.Maarten.

The end result allowed Sint Maarten Yacht Club to sponsor one local child to have sailing lessons for an entire year! Eight year old Zack Sabaroche was the ideal candidate, and according to Zach's mother, "He is so excited about sailing on the Optis, he even talks about it at school so much that his teacher called home to learn more about the program because so many fellow students were excited about it after hearing Zach talk."



The success of this program is extremely important to the Sint Maarten Yacht Club whose goal is to increase sailing on the island of St.Maarten. For the 2009 St.Maarten Heineken Regatta, which is to take place March 5 to 8 2009, the program will be in place again, with the goal now to triple their success and be able to add three more children into the program. -- Complete story: <http://forum.sailingscuttlebutt.com/cgi-bin/gforum.cgi?post=6481>

Submitted by Bill Tingle

COMMODORE'S CORNER

A VIEW FROM THE COCKPIT

I would like to start this first column with a big Thank You to the outgoing board members for their service over the years. Second, I would like to welcome the new board members. Thank You for agreeing to serve, I look forward to working with all of you.

As we head into 2009, Moraine Sailing Club faces some uncertainty, and has some hurdles to clear. We need to change the way we do things. We need to do some things different, and some things better. We will have a new Park Manager to work with, someone whom has not been chosen yet. I hope to convince them to attend the Spring Fling, so we can all meet this person.

We need to communicate with our members better, increase participation at our events, and offer events our members want to attend. We need to encourage our youth to try the sport of sailing, and show them it is one they can participate in for a lifetime.

We need to expand our racing program to include youth sailors. We need to introduce non-racing members to the benefits of racing as a way to improve your sailing skills. We need to get our racing skippers involved in the nurturing of the youth and non-racers alike. We are going to ask our members to share some of their time, talents and experience, to help this club grow and flourish.

This is my vision for OUR club. I ask you to give some thought to what you want your club to be, and to contact the board members, so we may help you realize your vision for your club.

Jason Harrison

Ed. Note: Jason has the ability to move Moraine Sailing Club forward but it will take help, ideas and participation from all of us. You can communicate directly with the board members by email through our website or by calling them at the phone numbers listed in the newly published MSC directory. Please, take this as a challenge and an opportunity to advance what we all love.. SAILING !
