



Moraine Sailing Club

Batten the Breeze

August 2007

Summer is for SAILING !

WHAT'S GOING ON ?

August

- **Sat, Aug 18, Regular Race series.** 10:30am start. Open to MSC CSP and Racing members.
- **Sat, Aug 25, Learn to Race series.** 10:30am start. Open to all MSC members. To register: Meet at the MSC shed at 10:30.
- **Sat, Aug 25, Regular Race series.** 1:30pm start. Open to MSC CSP and Racing members.

September

- **Sat, Sep 1, Regular Race series.** 10:30am start. Open to MSC CSP and Racing members.
- **Sun, Sep 2, Learn to Sail.** 10am-3pm. Open to all MSC members. To register: Email Joe Shields joeshields@yahoo.com
- **Sun. Sept. 2 PICNIC !** Pot luck: Please bring your favorite dish, MSC providing the drinks. 4 P.M.
- **Sat, Sep 8, Regular Race series.** 10:30am start. Open to MSC CSP and Racing members.
- **Sun, Sep 9, Learn to Sail.** 10am-3pm. Open to all MSC members. To register: Email Joe Shields joeshields@yahoo.com
- **Sat, Sep 22, Regular Race series.** 10:30am start. Open to MSC CSP and Racing members.
- **Sat, Sep 29, Regular Race Series.** 10:30am start. Open to MSC CSP and Racing members.

SAILCAMP 2007

Salty Joe's class on rigging a sunfish resulted in this glorious sail on Lake Arthur. The camp was a wonderful success. More pictures and story inside.

Pictures by Jason Harrison



Sailcamp Photos cont.



friends who brought them to camp every day !



Notes from Sunfish Cove . . .

As summer temperatures warm the waters of Lake Arthur, the attractions of sailing a sunfish become ever more insistent. Saturday race days will soon see a class of sunfish sailors

competing with their own start sequences and trophies, culminating in a projected a series of round robin match races at the end of the season.

While we tend to think of sunfish as a kids boat, it's been sailed by all ages and provides, in addition to instant feedback on your sailing decisions, a different sailing experience closer to the water than the Flying Scots.

So if you are thinking of racing this summer, you might want to consider joining Glenn Gilbert, Barb Kaiser and I in the sunfish fleet. Reserve your boat and join he fun any racing Saturday.

Ken Andrews



These are our newest sailors and we are SO proud of them. They did a great job at SailCamp and are a great addition to MSC. Thanks to the families and

Kidzopage

by the Stowaway

**Optimists in action !**

This is fun on the water at its best. Our Opti sailors have this to look forward to as the program is growing. Mr. Bridges started an OptiSail at North Park lake and is interested in seeing more of you and your parents up at North Park Lake. Please let him know of

Your interest in sailing at North Park Lake by calling him at 724-625-9348. He can transport Optis to North Park Lake and arrangements can be made with him to be able to sail with small groups at the lake. He is also available for sailing up at Lake Arthur, but you have to call him to make sure he and the Optis are at either lake when you definitely will be there.

Mr. Bridges also builds boats, including Optimists and can help you build your own boat to sail. If you call him, he can tell you about this. Ask your parents to call him as soon as you can if you'd like to build your very OWN boat (everyone will want their own when they see what you made !)



The Stowaway sails with Mr. Bridges and is looking for YOU to come aboard !

Sail Camps for Optimists

Optimists are and have been a “hot” boat for a long time. Many, many of the people who are racing boats in the really BIG races, like the “TransPac” and the “America’s Cup” started on Optimists.

Many sailing clubs have their very own Optimist sailing schools. Below is a picture of a sailing school class which was taken by Jackie Stevens when she was up sailing on Lake Erie at the beginning of July. They were on their way to sailing in Lake Erie ! Can you believe they are not afraid of such a lot of water and waves too. They love sailing their optimists are were students at the Vermillion Boat Club in Vermillion, Ohio. Most of them are your age and this is either their first or second sailing camp. They sure have a lot of courage, too. This picture was taken right after a huge thunderstorm had come through. They waited out that storm just so they could sail up on the lake !



Optimists are sailed and raced all over the WORLD ! Go look at <http://www.optimist.co.za/> for the sailing website for South Africa and <http://www.mymbc.org.nz/> for opti sailing in New Zealand. Ask your folks or a friend to help you find out more about sailing optis. If you already sail one, you are part of a very large group of people in the world who do this too.



OPTIMISTS EXPLORE NORTH PARK LAKE

John Bridges recently had an opportunity to have an OptiSail at North Park Lake and he had the following note sent to him following the sailing session:

Dear John and Sheila, Thank you for taking us out sailing on Sunday! How nice it was to give the girls a chance to practice their skills and let us see them in action. We appreciate your generosity and efforts to provide this opportunity. You are a wonderful couple and we really enjoyed getting to know you better and seeing your lovely place. Thank you Sheila for the refreshments after! We hope we will see you again long before the next sailing camp! Sincerely, The Lagerquists

The Lagerquists were kind enough to provide some delightful pictures of this adventure.



There is a present query if we want to branch out and develop an Opti sailing program at North Park Lake. If you or someone you know is interested in such a program, please advise John Bridges of this. He's anxious to introduce young sailors to opti sailing and considers North Park Lake a wonderful local location for some light sailing and exploration.

We have ample Opti-

OPTIMIST NEWS

Sunday afternoon, 29th July saw two Optimists enjoying the breeze on North Park Lake. Elsa and Carolina Lagerquist had to remember all that they had learned at the sail camp to beat back to the bridge after an easy down-wind sail to the upper reaches of one of the arms of this lake. Launching was easy from the ramp above the bridge, but this was too low for the mast, so they had to paddle to the downstream side before raising mast and sail. If they could do it, so could you, contact John Bridges if you want to borrow an Optimist. By the way, before I forget, the club Optimis could do with a foster parent over the winter to sand, paint, varnish, check rigging etc before next season.

This year's sail camp was a success story for the Opti fleet. On the trip to the Swim Beach several Optimis beat some of the Sunfish. Several young sailors were intimidated by the 20 mph winds, feeling overpowered in the Sunfish and asked to sail Optimis. It was wonderful to see the Optimis skittering around the lake when there were a few white horses in the gusts, gybing with impunity, lack of fear and smiles on their faces.

However having said that, it was sad to put 3 Optimis back in my barn with the thought that they probably won't be used for another 51 weeks. We have had an offer of another Optimis for the club, but, can we establish an Optimis division in the club ?

Max Peterson spent last week building an Optimis with his grandkids. It was launched for the first time after the Sail Camp and two of our 8 year old Optimis kids took this new boat together with a club Optimis for the grandkids first sail. A grandfather with a big grin from ear to ear accompanied me in the Safety Boat.

8 year old Elsa was our star performer, sailing the Red Menace all the way to the Swimming Beach (this was a beat all the way against a 20 mph wind. Her dad was impressed with her performance and wants to build an Optimis with her this winter.

A Swiss (non MSC member) has built an Optimis in Greentree with my help.

The Whiskey Island project continues from building 5 Optimis last year to another project this year

building 6 more Optimis. If only we could challenge this Cleveland group to a competition in Optimis. But HOW do we form a team and get them to practice?

I would like some feedback on this project. With the advent of the North Park OptiSail under way, we need parents to join us in encouraging the children to come sail and even build Optimis. This is a viable part of many sailing clubs and an excellent start for young sailors as was so well shown during sail camp.

We have to rely on parents to bring the children up to sail the club Optimis whether at North Park or up at Lake Arthur. The children can't drive themselves and when they show an interest as so many of the children clearly did at Sailing Camp, this is something to be encouraged and supported. If you can carpool your children to get to the lake to sail, the children would be the winners in the world of sailing. Please talk with the other parents from both sailing camp and within the club and contact John Bridges about what is currently happening with the Optimis the club owns.

MSC would like to fully develop an Optimis fleet to sail with an eye toward competition with other sailing clubs which already have Optimis divisions. There are quite a few of these within easy range of Lake Arthur and John Bridges has been in contact with them on a regular basis. They have hosted Optimis meets and clearly are ready to have MSC Optimis join them in sailing where they are located and would be willing to join us at Lake Arthur. For this to happen, we need the support of PARENTS with children who sail or would like to sail Optimis. We have the boats, you have the children. Let's make this happen !

JUST FOR GRINS....



OVERHEARD on the marine radio-a distress call to the Coast Guard from someone whose sailboat was taking on water: Coast Guard: "What is your position?" Distressed caller: "Vice president, State Street Bank!"

The Swiftsure Ready to Sail !

The Swiftsure has been worked on since spring and is now ready to make her debut on Lake Arthur. The final rigging was done in John and Sheila Bridge's driveway and the boat will be in the water by Labor Day.



Pictures by Ken Andrews

Moraine Sailing Club

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whom-ever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's "dance recital" he continued. "Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

"Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part.

It took me until I was fifty-five years old to

think about all this in any detail", he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays." "I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear."

"Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life.

There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 Year old Man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles.

The Commodore's Page

Next time you see Joe Shields, Ken Andrews, John Bridges, and Chris Neuwirth., please give them a rousing thank you in appreciation of all their hard work. They are doing a fantastic job promoting MSC and all of its benefits to people who have shown an interest in sailing. Attendance at the "Learn to Sail" events has been superb. REMEMBER, this is a club that is run by volunteers. Without someone actively promoting sailing, this club would just fade away. Please help out where ever you can.

As far as racing is concerned, when comparing the number of boats that regularly appear on the starting line this year with the number that raced a few years ago, our racing program seems to be in a decline, at least for the Flying Scots,. To halt this decline, the FS sailors MUST expend a little more effort in support of this class. The FS fleet captain, Dan Gelman and his "boss" Eva, can not do everything themselves. The entire fleet must pitch in. Encouraging our CSP members can (and has) paid great dividends. There are a number of examples where some FS sailors started in CSP, learned how to sail, and who are now active in sailing FSs. And – racing is also a lot of fun!

One bright spot in our racing program is the increase in the number of sunfish sailors wanting to try racing. We regularly have three and four sunfish on the starting line. Their enthusiasm is catching. From personal experience, I learned more about sailing and how to safely handle a boat in all kinds of condition in my first year of trying to race than in all the previous years of pleasure sailing.

When Dan Goldberg and I revised the sailing instructions for this year, I made a serious error. I inadvertently delete the sections that described when Sunfish could request a separate start. In last years sailing instructions it said *"If two or more Sunfish are present they may be granted their own start; if so the signal will be specified by the race committee. The Open class will start last"*. I will work with the board to modify the race instructions and get the word out to the future race stewards to allow sunfish their separate starts. The need for this change was demonstrated during a recent race. There was a collision near the FS starting-line between a Flying Scot and a boat in the Open class. One of the contributing factors was that neither boat saw the other. Luckily no one was injured. I hate to imagine what could have happened if the collision occurred between a sunfish and one of our larger

boats in the Open class. Therefore I think that the sailing instructions for this year should be modified to allow the sunfish have their own start.

LEARN TO SAIL

This program has taken off like a rocket ! The Learn to Sail sessions have been extremely well attended. The most recent one had 15 new sailors participating.



Moraine Sailing Club
Batten the Breeze C/O
447 Fielding
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-2021