



Batten the Breeze

January 2007

Winter Blues ? Not Here !

Moraine Sailing Club

WHAT'S GOING ON ?

Sun, Jan 21, 1:30pm-5pm. Choosing your First Boat and Learning to Sail. Experienced MSC sailors will tell you what you need to know and be on hand to answer your questions. Free and open to the public. Register by sending email to: membership@morainesailingclub.org. Location: Northland Library (Directions to Northland Library).

Fri, Jan 26, 6pm-? **The Arts of a Sailor.** While you enjoy anything from a cup of coffee to a full meal at Perkin's Restaurant on Rt 19 N, you can learn and practice how to tie fancy knots, splice ropes and whip the ends with plain or fancy whippings. Free and open to the public. Register by sending email to: membership@morainesailingclub.org. Location: Perkins Restaurant (Perkins Restaurant is on the West side of Route 19 just south of the Turnpike and I-79 exits).

Sun, Feb 11, 2pm – 9 pm. An Introduction to Wooden Boat Building. An introduction to Wooden Boat Building will be based on the construction of an Optimist Dinghy, using the original plans drawn up by Clark Mills for the Optimist Club of Florida. Starting with a set of pre built frames we will set them up on a base and finish the day with a completed boat up to the first coat of paint. Materials will cost \$300. Either 6 participants will donate \$50 each and the completed boat will belong to MSC and be available for Sail Camp, or one of the participants will want to own the finished boat and provide the \$300. A sail will be made from Tyvek using double-sided tape and no sewing. Numbers will be limited to six adults,

so apply early if you are interested. Children wanting to help and learn are welcome. I am flexible regarding dates so if the majority want to change it, let me know. RSVP to BRIMOR@aol.com. Location: John Bridges, 1743, Old State Road, GIBSONIA PA 15044.

Sun, Feb 18, 1:30-5pm. Sailing on Different Waters. Moraine Sailing Club members will share their experiences sailing on different lakes and oceans. Lake Erie and the Chesapeake are close at hand, the Caribbean is not all that far away, whereas Lake Naivasha in Kenya, which sailors share with Hippopotami, and the warm lakes and cold seas of Chile are on the other side of the world. Free and open to the public. Register by sending email to: membership@morainesailingclub.org. Location: Northland Library ([Directions to Northland Library](#)).

Sun, Feb 24. 3pm-? **Looking After a Boat.** Moraine Sailing Club members will discuss what needs to be done to keep your boat in tip top condition whilst you relax in the comfortable (warm) surroundings of the Perkins Restaurant in Cranberry. Outside it may be snowing but this day you will be able to dream of, and discuss those idyllic summer days after the rush of spring preparation. Free and open to the public. Register by sending email to: membership@morainesailingclub.org. Location: Perkins Restaurant (Perkins Restaurant is on the West side of Route 19 just south of the Turnpike and I-79 exits).

Ed. Note: If you want to list a club activity, please advise us immediately and it will appear here in the next issue of the BTB.

Hypothermia: Not 'chilling out'

Did you know that water under 70 degrees is almost 30 degrees below your normal body temperature and can cause hypothermia to set in within minutes? We think of that water temperature as not being very threatening but it is.

The chief danger of hypothermia is not just that it can be deadly, but that one seldom realizes when it is setting in. The warning signs of hypothermia are:

- Uncontrollable shivering
- Mental confusion
- Loss of coordination
- Cold and/ or blue skin
- Weak pulse
- Irregular heartbeat
- Enlarged pupils

Avoiding hypothermia out of the water is best effected by dressing in layers, using a synthetic fabric as the layer closest to your body. The old adage that cotton is the best material next to the body is wrong. It holds moisture in (fails to wick it away from the body) thus drawing heat away from the body and hastening chilling. Dress for the air *and* water temperature. If you end up in the water, the layers will insulate the skin from the cold of the water by holding heat in for a longer period of time.

Dealing with Seasickness

I have a sure cure for seasickness: Old Age!

When I was a young lad I easily got both air and seasick, but the older I got the less this occurred. Now as an older bugger on the big fun downhill slide of life I find I rarely feel the malady.

Why? My medical prognosis would probably make real Doctors gag is: All those fine balance mechanisms within your ears and other movement senses that send signals to your brain that tells you whether you're upright, tipping over, sideways, what not, are quick, active, and immediately responsive in your young years, while in your advanced years, like an old boat engine, those sensitive small Swiss watch like sense mechanisms get old, worn, rusty and basically lock-up!

If you end up in the water taking an unintentional swim, don't swim away unless it is to reach a very nearby boat, person or a large floating object. Tuck yourself into the fetal position (knees up against your body) because it retains heat better. Do not take any layers of clothing off.

Rescuing someone who has fallen in the water is done by "reach, row, throw". Going into the cold water to rescue a MOB can result in two victims. Victims can't rescue victims ! Bring the MOB into the boat, remove all wet clothes and wrap them in warm, dry clothing and blankets. Do not move arms and legs as this will cause a rush of cold blood into the torso and can result in shock and cardiac arrest. Get the victim into a warm location as soon as possible and monitor for shock.

A person in shock has *extremely* low blood pressure and will probably have some or all of these symptoms: anxiety or agitation; confusion; pale, cool, or clammy skin; low or no urine output; bluish lips and fingernails; dizziness, lightheadedness, or faintness; profuse sweating; moist skin; rapid but weak pulse; shallow breathing; chest pain or unconsciousness.

If you are suspect the victim is in shock, immediate medical intervention is critical. Call for help in any way you can. It is reasonable to call an ambulance and head for shore where the victim can be treated and transported. If you are a great distance from shore, call the coast guard and try to contact nearby boaters to seek immediate help for the victim.

Your movement mechanisms have stopped responding there for signals to the brain have ceased and it doesn't have anything to send to your stomach that tells it you're in and ugly sea and the motion is sickening

No senses, no seasickness! Old age ain't all bad. Speed it up if you're seasick sensitive. It works!

From Frank Sticovich: A friend of mine used to say that the best cure for seasickness is to sit under a tree.

From Peter Harken, shared with us by

Wolf Goethert



Iceboating on Lake Arthur

ICEBOATING ON LAKE ARTHUR

Iceboating on Lake Arthur reigns over the winter. As soon as the ice on the lake permits it, John Jombock will be sailing his brand new Opti iceboat. John tells us that this iceboat, which he made, is much like a DN ("Detroit News", a class of iceboat: see picture on right) which is quite popular with the young people across Europe. These boats are now being seen in the USA and we will be seeing John's on the ice over this winter. Everyone is welcome to come try iceboating on the lake. For more information, please call John Jombock at: 724-794-4425 or David Bishop at 412-749-1195



Iceboating in Colorado



Iceboating in Maine

Memorial Day weekend Extravaganza

Joyce Appel has asked if MSC members can take out some of their members on **the Sunday and Monday of this weekend ?** We have done this several times in the past years and it has been greatly appreciated by these tough outdoor types who are not put off by rain, cold or wind. Over the weekend the members of the

Butler Outdoor club are also introduced to hiking, canoeing, rock climbing etc.

We will want two or three Scots with skippers on each of these days. If you can help, please call John Bridges and let him know when you can be available to take out some of these fine folks sailing on Lake Arthur.

John Bridges

KIDZPAGE

by John Bridges

A 14-year-old boy has arrived in Antigua Youngest person to sail the Atlantic single-handed



Michael said he was overwhelmed by his reception in Antigua

Michael Perham, from Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, ended his 3,500-mile voyage when he sailed into Nelson's Dockyard at 1400 GMT.

Michael takes the record from Isle of Wight teenager Seb Clover, who was 15 when he made the crossing in 2003.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott called Michael a "successful sailor in the great British maritime

tradition".

With that in mind...

Sailing Camp is in the planning stages. Please start thinking about this opportunity for your child to learn to sail. YOUR child could be in this picture !

Hi Kids!

Here's your old friend the Stowaway again creeping out from the cover of the Longboat to bring you more news of exciting events.

Last summer when we docked at Cleveland amongst all the other tall ships I managed to get to the SHIPWRECK 2006 event in which 20 kids learnt all about the wrecks on the bottom of lake Erie and we even managed to use GPS to locate and examine one of them in detail. I was able to give a talk on traditional boat construction and show them some of the wooden artifacts that they could expect to find.

I also went ashore to help with the Whiskey Island project with 20 kids building 5 Optimists and learning to sail in them. What fun it would be if

we could challenge them to a relay race on lake Arthur this summer.

But this would need practice on our part, before the Sail Camp. So, how about our practicing on Sunday the 20th May, 27th May and 1st July? Let me know if you would be interested since it takes quite a lot of effort to assemble our fleet of Optimists and Sunfish ready for you to use.

"De Pre camp race track am one mile long. Do Dah Do Dah. See dem flying on a half mile beat

Do dah Do dah day

De last boat stickin in a big mud hole

Do Dah Do Dah

Can't touch bottom with a ten foot pole Do Dah Do Dah day

TRY OUT ANOTHER BOAT!

You all know that we keep the Escape in the shed for ease of launching. Don't forget that we also have the Red Menace (which can be quite a challenge on a windy day) the Hannah Snell which now has a boom and can take two kids comfortably. Another challenge would be to borrow a "Melon Seed" Duck Hunting Punt which is steered with ropes instead of a solid tiller (and that takes a lot of getting used to) The original ones were used in the Chesapeake Bay area and fitted with a 4" Bore Shot gun. There was quite a recoil to the 12 foot boat when this was fired and the record was 67 ducks with one

shot. Mine is not fitted with such a weapon, but does have the Centerboard case fitted to one side of the cockpit so that you could lie down to sleep overnight, just like the duck hunters used to do.

We heard some comments at the Sail Camp that each Optimist was rigged differently. Is that bad? Each boat reflected the views of the owner, each boat sailed as well as another. Yes! You had to stop and think, but thinking and solving problems is not all bad. One day you may be out in a storm when a rope parts of a fitting breaks, then you will have to improvise.

The sailors in the Whitbread cup race, solo, around the world have to improvise all the time and their rig is often not the same when they get back as when they set out

Sailing at North Park

Would you be interested in sailing on this lake one weekend or one evening in the summer? We will be doing some sailing on the North Park Lake in some of the clubs smaller boats. If you are interested in sailing there, let me know and we'll arrange a time and date.

John Bridges

SAIL CAMP 2007

JULY 16TH – 21ST. Make a note in your diary now and get your application in as soon as possible.....places will be limited

SAIL CAMP 2006

Sail camp is now just a happy memory, though I hope that you take any opportunity to sail and practice what you learned at the camp. This was organised as you already know, by the Moraine Sailing Club and several members think that there were too many kids and too few boats. We are trying to get a few more boats for next year, but will probably have to restrict the number of kids so that there is, whenever possible one, or at most two, per boat. We think that most of you learned a lot and had fun but let's share what some of you kids thought:-

"I think sailcamp is sensashanle. I also think that just because we were advanst doesn't mean that we can't have fun any more"

"I think that, as it is every year, sailing camp ROXX"

"I like sailing camp but I wish we could have more time on the water. We want more fun and less land talk"

"It seems as if the advanxed group is more about sailing and less about fun.

Sailing camp is fun and I will be coming back next yea.

(Stowaway's note) Yes! Fun is important and we will try and make 2007 even more so, but, don't forget that you also come to the camp to learn how to handle a sail boat and improve those skills

QUIZ TIME.

- 1 Which has the broader transom a Sunfish or an Optimist?
- 2 Which seagull would be higher? One sitting on top of a Flying Scot mast at the dock or one sitting on the roof of the Toilet Block at Watts Bay?
- 3 Which is closer to North? ESE by South or SSE by North?
- 4 Which is used to hoist a sail? A MSORANT or a TINSHWACM
- 5 At the last sailcamp there was a sign to the parking lot painted on part of an Optimist. Which part was it?
- 6 What is the difference between a Ketch and a Yawl?
- 7 When is a sailor not a sailor?
- 8 Where can you find a rose on a cruising boat?
- 9 At which end of a boat could you find the Poop Deck?
- 10 Which is nearer the bow of a boat, the Tack or the Leach of a sail ?



Sunfish and Wheaties

It appears that many sailors rush up to the lake during the summer months without eating that extra bowl of breakfast cereal, and therefore lack the strength to lift Sunfish off the top racks. Much thought has been given to changing the rack design but one after another the ideas have been discarded. Storing them vertically would save space but risk flattened corpses. A davit with worm drive winch could cost \$3000. A crane such as is used to hoist

motors out of vehicles costs less but with small wheels would need a concrete pad or rails. If you have some other bright ideas please let us have them; meanwhile, for the coming season we are proposing the following:-

One Sunfish will be kept on the refurbished launching trolley under a rack

One Sunfish will be kept on our spare trailer (with a 1 and 7/8" coupling) on a dry mooring space at Watts Bay. This will be the

hull with the old type rudder fitting: Rudder and Centerboard for this boat will be kept on board and the hull sheltered from the rain with a cover

If more than two Sunfish have to be launched there will be extra bodies present to help with the lifting. These boats will be kept on the bottom and middle racks only i.e. Optis will be kept on the top racks. Hopefully, this proposed arrangement will enable everyone to access the boats all the time.

Lake Arthur Regatta

This will be held on the 4th and 5th August and the Regatta committee are already at work planning exciting events. If you are new to racing you will find the Saturday races less intimidating than the regular MSC races since they are not part of a series and the Sunday Bridge to Bridge race will introduce you to other stretches of the lake far from Watts Bay.

We are again planning to assemble an Armada at Watts Bay around 5 pm which will proceed across the lake to raft up and enjoy a picnic before dusk and then to watch the fireworks across the water before returning after dark to our respective moorings. Last year there were over 200 boats out on the lake to watch the fireworks. Make a note in your diary NOW to be sure and attend this weekend of fun at the lake. Watch out for further details.

Boat Building Problems

As in many other industries, the technical problems are not always the easiest to solve or the most amusing. This was certainly the case in building a Chinese Junk in Trinidad for Walt Disney's Swiss Family Robinson.

In order to meet the time constraint of building a 90 foot vessel in 3 months we had to scrape the apple barrel as it were to find shipwrights and bring several out of retirement. The man engaged to caulk and pay the deck seams was too ancient to climb up the ladder to the deck, so we had to lift him up each morning and try to remember to lift him down each evening.

40 carpenters were employed to help out the 30 shipwrights and tended to be younger and less religious than the shipwrights who held prayer meetings each lunch time. One day they were extolling the virtues of Moses and mentioned that he had a beautiful

and only then, did we make complete drawings to send with the Invoice. For the Chinese Junk photos were provided of models in the Science Museum in London. Each evening sketches were produced from these to give the workers enough to do on the morrow.

The shipwrights and riggers were skilled in making and maintaining the local schooners but had obviously never seen a Chinese boat in their lives and were unable to read a drawing. I therefore erected the mizzen mast alongside the boat in progress and personally spliced all the halyards, lazy jacks, spiders and sheets and then said "Copy that, on a larger scale for the Main and Fore masts."

Ed. Note: John Bridges has been building boats for years and has quite a repertoire of boat building stories to share. Just ask him about "Swiss Family Robinson"!

Since writing a few hours and then

The Reworking of a Flying Scot



Above are pictures of a old Flying Scot which is being reworked and polished up just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Flying Scots. Karl Schneider (kschneider@siemens.com) is the mastermind of this project. We hope to see this boat sailing on Lake Arthur this summer. More information about this boat and the 50th anniversary of the Flying Scot to be in future editions of the BTB.

Going to the DOGS !

Man's best friend has a place on his best toy, his boat. Davis Hollow Marina boaters are dog lovers who often sail with their furry friends. The rub lies in 'critter safety'. Many boaters don't recognize the danger of DOB (dog overboard) which requires some fore-

thought and precautions to prevent. Dog life jackets aren't new but are used less than children's safety jackets which often results in a tragic end to a friendship. Animal lifejackets are available through many marine equipment outlets and should be used any

time your pet is aboard or on the dock.

The January 2007 edition of Practical Sailor has a great article on pet safety aboard boats on page 23. If you sail with your pet, please take time to look at this article.

So far the weather has blessed us with the winter that wasn't. What happened to our icy wind, snow, and that pesky ice that makes winter driving so interesting around Pittsburgh? It seems that Al Gore could have been correct after all with his global warming stump speeches. Of course the folks in Denver may be of a different opinion as they continue to dig out after the multiple storms dumped feet after feet of the fluffy white stuff



that only kids can enjoy when they can't get to school. Even some of our flowering bushes are confused with this weather for I can definitely see traces of yellow blossoms appearing here and there on some of the branches. It used to be when the forsythia bushes are in bloom, it is time to get the boats out of winter storage and get ready to enjoy the sailing season.

My first mate is also not thrilled with this global warming stuff either – she is a skier with a season ticket. Somehow my advice on “think out of the box and try water skis” was not appreciated.

In the picture, taken last year in Boston Harbor, some people actually enjoy sailing in the winter in a small boat around some buoys. The high possibility of capsizing and going swimming while sailing among the ice in a round bottom boat is not my cup of tea (fun to watch though). Me, I rather be watching from dry land, sipping hot chocolate (or an Irish coffee when my first mate isn't paying attention). This year, from first hand reports, frostbiting presents no challenge – too easy.

To get ready for the upcoming season, we have a number of sure cures for “cabin fever blues planned”. The one I'm really looking forward to is “Sailing on Different Waters” on Sunday, 18th February at the Northland Library from 1:30 to 5 pm. As part of this program, John Bridges will describe his experience in sharing a lake with Hippopotami in Lake Naivasha in Kenya. And you thought we had it rough when we have to share the lake with fishermen. Raising the anger of a fisherman for interfering with his fishing is nothing when compared to an angry Hippo making a beeline for your boat. Now that will really get your attention.

The board is busy planning for the upcoming sailing season and is soliciting suggestions from all members of MSC. We would really like to hear from you so please do not hesitate to contact any board member with ideas how to improve our club.

by Wolfe Goethert