



BATTEN THE BREEZE

Moraine Sailing Club Newsletter

January/February 2002

Tales of Chesapeake Cruising Break the Winter Ice

by Gerry Brandt

On a warm, rainy Sunday, more like Spring than February 10th, MSC kicked off the spring seminars with a presentation on cruising the Chesapeake Bay. As 30 sailors gathered to socialize, sample light refreshments, and dream about the cruising life, our Dean of Sailing Instruction and ex-Commodore Joe Shields demonstrated some of the navigational tools that are needed to undertake such a journey. Since the inclement weather didn't permit a sun sight, Joe provided his own "sun and horizon" for practice with the sextant.

Chris Harlan shared with us his experience cruising in the Chesapeake last summer with his trailer-able swing keel San Juan 21. Chris illustrated some of the equipment necessary for such a trip: charts, compass, binoculars, cruising guides plus mooring and anchoring gear. Once he assembled the boat, trailer and equipment, he had to decide where he was going to launch and what places he wanted to visit. He read several books and cruising guides and consulted with other trailer sailors whom he contacted at www.trailersailor.com. His odyssey is re-told on his wonderful web page at www.ruach.net/SJ21_cruise1.html

Following a break which featured more celestial navigation, Dave Bishop, our faithful Secretary, presented an alternative approach to cruising, namely charter. Charters are costly, perhaps \$1000 to \$2000 for a week, so it is desirable to share this cost with other sailors. Dave illustrated his theme with a charter of a 43-foot Island Packet, a full keel cutter rigged yacht with an 80 hp diesel engine. Dave compared cruising in the Island Packet vs. the San Juan 21 as like camping in a large RV vs camping in a tent-trailer. Many advantages come with the larger boat: ability to carry more crew, a spacious galley, refrigeration, entertainment, navigation, and communications electronics, a sanitary system and hot water for showers.

While the charter company does check you out and allows you

(Continued on page 5)

2002 SAILING EVENTS

March 10 1:30-4:30	Learn to Sail Seminar - Northland
April 7 1:30-4:30	Learn to Sail Seminar - Cranberry
April 21 4 pm	Spring Fling Duquesne Heights CC
May 4	Opening Race Day - Lake Arthur
May 5 & 27	Club Sailing Days - Lake Arthur
July 22-26 (tentative)	Youth Camp - Lake Arthur
August 24-25	The Regatta at Lake Arthur
Sep. 21-22	Flying Scot Regatta
Nov 10	Fall Banquet

Learn To Sail Seminars

Northland Library, March 10 - 1:30-4:30
Cranberry Municipal Ctr., April 7 - 1:30-4:30

Moraine Sailing Club will present two "Learn to Sail" seminars. They are basically the same but you have a choice of dates and places. Both seminars include a three hour overview on how to sail using video, displays and hands-on drills. They cover the basics of sailing and include information on opportunities to continue training "on the water". There are numerous programs for all ages. The seminar in Cranberry will also include details on our joint Scout/Venturing program where boys and girls between 14 and 21 join the MSC venturing ship. Both seminars are free and open to the public. The March 10th seminar will be held at Northland Library, Cumberland Rd., McCandless Township. For more information, call Joe Shields (412-367-3697, jshields@post-gazette.com). The April 7th seminar will be held at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center, 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry TWP. Contact Keith Otto (724-538-9649, Badgers@stargate.net) for information. Directions to the Seminars can be found on page 4.

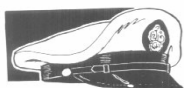
New Race Committee Assignments

This year we will change the method for Race Committee Assignments. Instead of assigning arbitrary dates for Day Steward who then finds Committee helpers, we would like members to volunteer for dates. Due to the large schedule we need all racing members to volunteer for two dates: one as Day Steward and the 2nd as Day Steward or Committee. We also need help from non-racing MSC members. Serving on the Committee boat can help you understand racing and is a pleasant way to spend a sunny afternoon on Lake Arthur. We can use lots of help staging equipment, scoring, spotting boats, and lending a hand on the safety boat.

There are 17 regular dates plus two special event weekends listed on page 3. Please select at least two dates and send your dates by March 15th to Dan@fireborn.com. If you already have committee help let us know. Early volunteers will get the dates they want, and if we cannot fill the scheduled duties we will make assignments. We hope to publish a final schedule in the next Newsletter at the end of March.

Barn Dates:

Saturday April 20, 2002 and April 27, 2002
Times: 10:00 till noon
ALL BOATS MUST BE OUT BY NOON
ON APRIL 27. Our lease ends that day!



Commodore's Corner

Wednesday before the National Sailing Training Programs Symposium in St. Petersburg, Florida I visited Bob and Sara Zavos who showed me around their habitat in Sarasota. It's very different from Miami and the east coast; much less frantic and considerable cultural opportunity. I had not appreciated how much protected water there is on the west coast of Florida, compared with the other parts I've visited. Bob and Sara sail out of the Sarasota Sailing Association just south of Longboat Key. Their shore facilities consist of a clubhouse with a bar and dining facilities, outdoor pavilion for barbeque, repair shed with showers, and a junior sailing building where the Optimists and other small boats are stacked like cordwood. In one regatta they had 140 Optimists on the line!

There is an active Flying Scot fleet whose top members travel to regattas throughout Florida. A women's Sunfish fleet of 30 boats races every Thursday. Their courses are set in open water around fixed marks set at equal compass headings in a circle around the center starting mark. The race committee chooses which marks provide the best heading for the day's wind then post the course as a series of letters. The marks are far enough apart that they can't be seen all at once so a good compass is essential and a GPS receiver is useful. Regular series regattas are every other Sunday at 1:30. There are numerous major one-design and special theme regattas on Saturdays and/or Sundays. An example schedule was the recent Cherry Pie Regatta. Registration was at 11:30, Skippers' meeting at 12:00, the start was 1:30 and the race fee \$8. About 35 boats competed in 4 starts. Racing is year around with more activity in Fall-Spring when the winds are good than mid-summer when it's light. Initiation and annual fees are quite reasonable and the storage cost is the lowest in the area. Truly, year around sailing puts a different perspective on the sport than our seasonal activities.

After returning, I visited our facility on a bright sunny day with temperature in the 50's. The lake was free from ice except in the protected coves; some snow lingered on the hill behind the shed. Two reminders remained of summer: seaweed washing ashore and geese floating on the water. The shed is in fine shape and

was bright and cozy. Vice Commodore John Bridges took the opportunity during our January thaw to complete the installation of the donated cabinets, tops, and the gorgeous bookcase he built *as per* Bill Tingle's contribution. We now have a good space to store materials and edit results (see picture below). Thank you Bill for the contribution and John for the marvelous carpentry. Thanks to Keith Otto and Betty Larman for the furniture. We're ready to roll in style for 2002.

Your race committee has been working on the schedule for this year; two significant changes are: 1. We will be using the 5-minute start sequence we pioneered at the Sail for the Grail using the white shape as the indication for the Scot fleet and the red shape for the Open class. 2. Our scoring system will follow a system used by the club in Omaha where Wolf & Joy Goethert sailed Snipes. Its motivation is to allow flexibility in your sailing schedule. See Wolf's article on page 3 for more detail.

Finally, I'd like to thank Chris Harlan, Dave Bishop, Joe Shields, and Rich and Dawn Marcus for making the February 10 seminar a success. I hope to see many of you at the Learn to Sail seminar March 10 at the Northland Library.

Gerry Brandt



The "Commodore's Corner" with our new bookcase donated by Bill Tingle and built by John Bridges.



Moraine Sailing Club
P.O. Box 692
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Visit us on the Web at —
<http://www.morainesailingclub.org>
E-mail: morainesailing@geocities.com

Commodore	G. Brandt.	412-488-0803	Gbrandt@bellatlantic.net	BTB Newsletter	R. Zavos	412-241-0659	rzavos@hotmail.com
Vice-Commodore	J. Bridges	724-933-7261	Brimor@aol.com	Web Master	J. Hart	724-775-2196	jon_jlh@yahoo.com
Secretary	D. Bishop	412-749-1195	bishop@maya.com	Youth & Seminars	J. Bridges	724-625-9348	Brimor@aol.com
Treasurer	W. Goethert	412-731-1640	wbg@sei.cmu	CSP	S. Marshall	412-921-4431	srm@telerama.lm.com
Ex-Officio/Education	J. Shields	412-367-3697	jshields@post-gazette.com	Youth & CSP	K. Otto	724-538-9649	Badgers@stargate.net
Race Director	D. Vito	412-488-6835	Dan@fireborn.com	Property	B. Wiwel	412-276-1839	berniew@pulsenet.com
Social & Events	R & D Marcus	412-369-8962	Peabody1998@yahoo.com	Membership	C. Phillips	412-741-5346	Widgeons@aol.com
Outreach Programs	Joe Kirk	412-571-9344	Krknich@usaor.net	Publicity	B. McDevitt	412-321-3233	bettemcd@telerama.com

Community Sailing Program News

The MSC Community Sailing Program (CSP) is designed to provide inexpensive access to club-maintained boats for day sailing and racing at Lake Arthur. For a very reasonable price of \$225 members have access to the CSP Fleet as well as racing privileges and a social membership. By comparison a trailer space at Watts Bay is \$130 and a racing membership is \$100. Then you may have to pay a few thousand more for the boat. If you have questions or would like a copy of the program description, contact Sean Marshall at 412-921-4431 or srm@telerama.lm.com.

Thanks to all the hard work from many people, the Community Sailing Program had its best year ever in 2001 with over 30 members. We hope to continue this growth in 2002 and are already off to a good start with the recent donations of boats to the program as described below.

Fleet Makeup

The CSP Fleet currently consists of 4 Flying Scots, a Coronado 16, a Surprise, 9 Sunfish, 2 Optimists, and a Cape Cod Frosty. Three Flying Scots will be dry docked at Watts Bay and one will be maintained in the water at Davis Hollow Marina. The Surprise and the Coronado 16 will share (alternate) a dry dock space at Watts Bay. The Sunfish, Optimists and Cape Cod Frosty will be stored on two racks at Watts Bay.

Special Thanks

Thanks to Bob Ammon for his donation of Flying Scot 2757 and Walt Peterson for his donation of a Coronado 16 to the Community Sailing Program. Thanks to Charlie Brethauer for his work in refinishing the CSP Flying Scot tillers and to John Jombeck for making some new Sunfish tillers and rudders.

Moraine State Park Dates

Mooring Agreements are due by 4pm March 1, 2002 at the Park Office. This includes trailer spaces and racks at Watts Bay as well as trailer spaces, dock spaces and mooring spaces at Davis Hollow.

Opening Day for Davis Hollow and Watts Bay is April 15, 2002 at 8:00 am. All tenants must bring their completed agreements, current boating registration, Proof of identification and boat to the Marina Office at Davis Hollow. All spaces must be occupied by June 15, 2002. For advance planners, the State has already announced the season will end October 31, 2002

DIRECTIONS TO CRANBERRY TWP. MUNICIPAL CENTER at 2525 Rochester Rd. **From South** of Cranberry take 279 north to Cranberry exit hwy 19. Continue north on Hwy 19, turn left onto Rochester Road. **From North** take Hwy 19 to Cranberry. Continue south on Hwy 19, turn right onto Rochester Road.

DIRECTIONS TO NORTHLAND LIBRARY
From Pittsburgh, take I-279 North to the McKnight Road (Truck Route 19) exit. Continue past Ross Park Mall on the right, and past Northway Mall on the left until you see Friday's & Lone Star Restaurants on your right. Go about 1 mile to the next light. This will be Cumberland Rd. Turn left onto Cumberland Rd. Drive about 3/4 of a mile and the Library is at the top of the hill on the left across from St. John's Lutheran Church.

Boat Moving

We will begin moving CSP boats on April 20th (10 am to 4 pm). If needed, we will complete boat moving on the 27th. All club members are encouraged to lend a hand (members with hitches are especially welcome). Please contact Sean Marshall at 412-921-4431 or srm@telerama.lm.com.

Day Rentals

Daily Sunfish and Optimist rental is available to all MSC members in good standing. The fee is \$10 per day for Sunfish and \$5 per day for the Optimist. Before a MSC member can take advantage of this program, they must demonstrate their sailing skills and meet the same qualification standards as Community Sailing Program members. Use of the Sunfish and the Optimist by CSP members takes precedence over non-CSP members. Non-CSP members can not reserve boats but must verify that the boats have not been reserved by CSP members. Payment for a rental can be made to any MSC board member.

Work Parties

The recently donated Coronado 16 is in need of a little tender loving care in the form of a good general washing and some wood refinishing. Various rudders for the Sunfish, etc. are in need of refinishing. Work parties will be scheduled and posted.

Surprise For Sale

Due to the recent influx of boat donations to the program we have decided to put the Surprise "Dandy" up for sale. The recently donated Coronado (a boat similar in size and performance to the Surprise) will fill the mid-size niche in the CSP Fleet. Funds from the sale will be utilized for future equipment acquisitions. Contact Sean Marshall at (412-921-4431, srm@telerama.lm.com) for details.

Special Opportunities for Youth Sailing

A five-day, fun-filled (10 am - 3 pm) **sailing day camp** is **tentatively** planned for July 22-26, 2002. Students are taught the basics of sailing and given the opportunity to earn U.S. Sailing certification (each student is given a log book for recording their progress). Cost is \$35 per family (+ \$30 per student due at Camp start). For more information or to register, contact Joe Shields (412-367-3697, jshields@post-gazette.com).

The Moraine Sailing Club has chartered **Venture Crew 715** through the Moraine Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America since 1983. Supervised sailing activities are provided all summer long for High School age youth. We also regularly help **Boy Scouts** earn their "Small Boat Sailing" merit badge. For more information or to register, contact Keith Otto (724-538-9649, Badgers@stargate.net).

For the **youngest sailing enthusiasts** (under 100 pounds) we offer family-oriented Optimist boat-building and sailing opportunities. For more information or to register, contact John Bridges (724-625-9348, brimor@aol.com).

Beyond the Water with Carl and Lois Suppo

By Bette McDevitt

This series of articles focuses on MSC club members. The intent is to help us know one another better, and establish connections beyond the water.

This story makes me think that we should hang a huge banner on the bridge. "Come on down. Here we are! This is where you sail." Carl and Lois Suppo wanted to sail. Lake Arthur was the place, and the club members were the people, but it took years to make the connection.

"Carl had wanted to learn to sail for quite a few years. When we were on vacation in North Carolina, we signed up for a few classes, but they were cancelled when a hurricane caused evacuation of the coastal area. After that, we took the Red Cross beginners class at Lake Arthur, but did not know about the sailing club at that time. Our first experience was a little precarious, as the small boats for classes were very tippy, and we did not know what we were doing. Fortunately, our marriage survived the sailing classes! There were more than a few losses of temper while trying to learn." It was to be a while longer before they found us.

"Two years later, we stopped at the Wind and Water shop in Butler and learned of the club from someone at the shop. That was in September. We came to the lake the next Saturday, joining the community sailing program. Jim Starr was so patient in getting us started in a Flying Scott. I was especially pleased with the stability of the boat and we bought one the following year. We have been sailing about 4 years with the club and have thoroughly enjoyed it."



Carl & Lois win award at a Regatta

Gerry Brandt is certainly glad the

Suppos found us. Carl, who has his own remodeling business, is an excellent carpenter, and donated a month of his time to the building of the new shed. "I knew when we differed over 1/30th of an inch, that I was working with a real craftsman," Gerry said. Speaking of the shed, a large banner there might do, if the park was willing.

The Suppos live in Elizabeth, and may have a long commute to the lake. Lois, a registered nurse, works full time as a case manager, at Jefferson Hospital. They have three sons, one of whom lives at home, and three grandchildren.

As I think about that banner, I remember another wannabe sailor, Hugh "Skip" Baxter, who could not figure out how to get to the sailing area from that bridge. He eventually found it, and taught himself to sail. We are persistent souls, are we not?



Joe Shields and Dawn Marcus supervise a "sun sight" at the Cruising Seminar

Variable Winds

by John Bridges

At the tender age of 5 I attended a Kindergarten where each morning one child was sent out to report on the weather. One day when a child reported South winds the teacher said "Are you sure?" and sent out another who reported West winds. By the time a third had reported North winds we all got our first lesson in variable winds.

Sailing, as we do, on a lake surrounded by wooded hills we get a frequent reminder on the meaning of variable winds. Beginners are soon taught how to watch the luff of the sails when beating to windward and either 'Head Up' when the luff starts to shake or try pinching a little until they do shake so that the Captain will know that the ship is sailing "Full and By".

However, when the wind suddenly dies and then comes from a completely different direction, our newcomer to sailing will be perplexed, frightened or just plain worried. "Which way is the wind blowing?" will be the frequently heard cry. Even worse, the rudder will be desperately turned at right angles to the hull to effectively spoil any chance of forward movement.

One solution that has been tried over the years is to wet your forefinger and hold it up in the air. Evaporation will make it feel cooler on the side that the wind is coming from.

Another is to watch the flag, burgee or wind indicator at the top of the mast although if you are still shaking with fright and worry the vibrations may mask any faint indications. Pieces of old cassette tape tied to the shrouds may help. Here I must interrupt to say don't bother to tell me that Optimists don't have shrouds!

Learn to watch the water. A difference in color will often indicate an approaching puff of wind and the ripple can give an indication of the direction, although sometimes this will be a rotating air mass on the move and not just a simple one direction burst of power for the sails. A study of weather patterns in Hurricanes can help you understand what is happening when one of these 'Eddies' comes your way after sitting in a "Hole in the Wind". It will generally pay to bear off and then be prepared to get back on course as the direction changes yet once again.

Only too often the frightened skipper will let out the sheets as the puff first hits his sails, instead of bearing off to prevent excessive heeling of the boat. With the boat almost stalled in the water he will not be able to take advantage of the second stage – on an even more favorable course. It is also vitally important to be aware of wind direction when running. Everyone knows that an accidental gybe can be disastrous, but the person who studies the wind will know when a controlled gybe can result in reaching the next mark of the course sooner.


(Continued from page 1) Tales of Chesapeake Cruising

to ask as many questions as you wish, Dave says that it is daunting to realize that you are driving a craft that cost more than your house and that you are in near proximity to other boats that are equally or more costly. Under power, a full keel 43 footer does not have the agility of a 21-foot swing-keel boat with an outboard; in reverse, handling is even trickier. The real benefit is under sail where the larger boat tracks well and is less influenced by waves and wakes.

Dave described some of the details of the charter agreement, for example a deposit of perhaps \$2000 is required. This deposit is refundable, and in Dave's experience usually 100% with little hassle. The first-line charter companies offer several advantages over some cheaper charters. Boats are relatively new, usually no older than 3-5 years; they are well maintained and equipped; and the charter companies go out of your way to accommodate you since they want your return business.

Dave and Chris had visited many of the same locations so a comparison of their experiences was particularly interesting. For example, both had tied up at the same pier in St. Michaels to visit the museum and the town. Dave, Chris, and Joe kept the audience entranced during a gloomy, rainy afternoon. We went home dreaming of life on the water in the sun on the nearby Chesapeake.

Batten The Breeze
Moraine Sailing Club Newsletter
 Robert Zavos, Editor
 1007 Savannah Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15221



#1 in
Sailboats
Canoes
Kayaks

1-800-289-0897

In Western PA !!!

Hunter & Hobie Cat Sailboats
 Source for Vanguard Boats - Sails - Parts
 Sunfish & Optimist & Laser
 Harken Bocks

Six Miles South of Butler On Route 8

Owned & Operated by Paul Egbert
 MSC Member Since 1971
 10% Discount on Hardware & Accessories

Classified Ads
 Do you know that MSC members can submit free Classified Ads for each issue? This is another reason to join now.



BELL SAILS
REPAIRS, RECUTS
RIGGING & FURLING
NEW SAILS & USED
(724)222-3380
 fax **(724)222-3450**
 cell **(724)413-0879**
 email bellsail@nb.net
www.bellsailmakers.com
TOM BELL
OWNER

STORAGE
 Boats • Campers • Autos
Inside temperature 52°

Toll Free 877-272-3972 Website: www.bradysbend.com

Bradys Bend Corporation
 RD 1 Box 109
 Cove Run Road
 East Brady PA 16028



FLYING SCOT.
Harry E. Carpenter
 President
 Flying Scot, Inc.
 157 Cemetery St.,
 Deer Park, Maryland 21550
www.flyingscot.com
 PH (301) 334-4848 FAX (301) 334-8324



Business (724) 845-3302
 Fax (724) 845-3174
 E-mail armitage@kiski.net
www.unclecharleysausage.com

Uncle Charley's Sausage Co.
 Wholesale Meats

6 INDUSTRIAL PARK
VANDERGRIFT PA 15690

CHARLES ARMITAGE
 President