

BATTEN THE BREEZE

MSC Family Builds 28' Sailboat in Their Backyard



Bob, Mary , and Rob Gast at Forest Hills Home
in front of their sailboat, the Mary Elizabeth

By Bob Zavos

Bob, Mary, and son Rob Gast became hooked on sailing in the early 1970s. They first sailed Deep Creek Lake and later tried Lake Arthur in the mid 70s when they finally found out there was a nice sailing lake closer to Pittsburgh. They were early MSC members and purchased a Catalina 22 which they still have at Davis Hollow. Along the way, Bob, who is a retired Engineer from Westinghouse's Bettis Division, decided to build his own wooden sailboat. His first project was a 10" Gaff rigged Dingy. Son Rob helped work on the project which lasted about 7 months. The boat was named Gem - the reverse of his mother's name - Mary Elizabeth Gast. This boat was not very stable and Rob explained they used parts from Gem to build a better model several years later that became Gem2. They still have Gem2 and hope to take her to Lake Arthur this Summer.

In addition to sailing locally, they also managed to take sailing trips to New England, the Chesapeake, Lake Erie, Florida, and the West Coast. Meanwhile, back at the house they have owned in Forest Hills for the past 44 years, they started a much bigger project around 1994. This was to be a sailboat that could sail anywhere in the world - even across the oceans.

Bob used his engineering, scientific, and marine knowledge to design a cruising boat from scratch. He wanted to build a classic type sail boat using modern materials and designed for ease of

(Continued on page 6)

REMINDER: SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORMS NOW!

If you haven't sent in your membership form and dues an application is included in this issue.



2003 SAILING EVENTS

- Wednesday Sails at Watts Bay Start May 14th
- June 1 & 21 Club Sailing Days
- June 7 Hot 'n Cool Social
- June 22 CSP Picnic
- June 21 and 22 Sail for UCP 2003
- July 21- 25 Youth Summer Camp
- Aug. 23-24 Lake Arthur Regatta
- Sep. 14 CSP Picnic
- Sep. 20-21 Flying Scot Regatta
- Sep. 27 Champion of Championship Regatta
- Nov. 15 Fall Banquet

MSC Hot and Cool Social

Saturday June 7th 2PM

Brown's Restaurant

Portersville



All MSC Members I nvited
Races at Watts Bay will end by 1 PM so
everyone can get to Browns by 2 PM.

Featuring Chili, Rolls, Salad

Ice Cream, Cake, Drinks

RSVP to John Bridges

724-625-9348 or Email: Brimor@aol.com



John Bridges Shows the Skiff He Built This Winter in Conjunction with the Lowe's Boat Building Project. If any individual or group wants to build one like this please contact John at 724-625-9348 or Email: Brimor@aol.com

Be sure to check the MSC Web Site Below for the latest updates on Club Sailing Dates, the Racing Schedule, and other Club Activities.

Sailing Related Web Sites:

MSC Website: www.morainesailingclub.org
MSC Listserver:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/morainesailingclub>
Other Key Sailing Sites
 Erie Bayfront Center goerie.com/bcms/index.html
 Flying Scot Association fssa.com
 Flying Scot, Inc. flyingscot.com
 Moraine Sailing School morainesailingschool.com/
 Sunfish Class sunfishclass.org
 US Sailing ussailing.org

WEDNESDAY SAILS

All club members are invited to Wednesday Sails. This is an informal program where members get together for day sailing, practice races, and perhaps a nice cookout at the Pavilion. The Club Equipment Hut will be open by 2 pm. Come early for lunch and stay late for dinner. The program is now underway.

Dear MSC Members, Past Members and Friends,

The sailing season is upon us. I am looking for potential volunteers willing to help out this year with race committee.

Serving on race committee is a great way to learn about racing, meet new people and spend a relaxing day on the water. Four people minimum are needed to run the race committee. Two people cruise around in the service boat dinghy setting the marks for the race course and doing safety patrol. Two other people are needed on the committee boat to start the races and record the finishers. Extra hands are always welcome and a seasoned Day Steward will be in charge and help you learn the ropes. Please email dan@fireborn.com if you would like to participate.

Dan Vito

Moraine State Park Contact Numbers:

Park Office: 724-368-8811
 Marina Office: 724-368-9346
 Moraine State Park Boat Rental 724-368-9955

Letters to the Editor and relevant articles on sailing are always welcome from MSC members, You are also entitled to one free classified ad in each issue. Business card ads are also available. Contact the BTB Editor for more information.

Batten the Breeze Publication Schedule

Issue	(deadline/distribution)
July/Aug 2003	(July 12/July 16)
Sep/Oct 2003	(Sep 4/Sep 8)
Nov/Dec 2003	(Oct 27/Oct 31)



Moraine Sailing Club
P.O. Box 692
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Visit us on the Web at —

<http://www.morainesailingclub.org>
E-mail: *morainesailing@geocities.com*

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Social & Events	vacant		

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MSC Race Schedule and Committees Assignments for 2003

Two weeks before your RC day please read the Sailing Instructions and Race Committee Manual and make plans with the previous Day Steward to transfer all necessary equipment. Sailing Instructions and the RC Manual are available on the web and in the shed. The day steward should line up a minimum of three helpers.

Date	Event	Race Committee - Day Steward (Capitals) & Helpers
Sat. May 31	Spring Series	SEAN MARSHALL, Chris Neuwirth, Beckie Jarold, Tom Uehling
Sat. June 7	Spring Series	BOB and Sara Zavos, Tom & Andria Hohler, Chris Czapski
Sat. June 7, PM	<i>Hot and Cool Social</i>	Starts at 2 o'clock
Sat. June 14	Spring Series	DEAN & Celia Marlin, Carl & Lois Suppo
Sat. June 28	Spring Series	DAN GOLBERG and Crew, King
Date	Event	Race Committee - Day Steward (Capitals) & Helpers
Sat. July 12	Summer Series	TOM & Andria Hohler, Chris Czapski, Bob and Sara Zavos
Sat. July 19	Summer Series	DEAN & Celia Marlin, Dan Gelman and Crew, Dave Bishop and Crew
Sat. July 26	Summer Series	ARMITAGE, Tim Pack, Ira & Bruce Unger
Sat. Aug. 2	Summer Series	SHIELDS, Judy Linhart, Chris Harlen, Paul Murphy
Sat. Aug. 9	Summer Series	CULLEN, McCall, Boyles, Paul & Jean Rowan, Bob Ronzka
Sat. Aug. 16	Summer Series	SEAN MARSHALL, Chris Neuwirth, Beckie Jarold, Jombock
Sat. Aug. 23	<i>Special Event*</i>	GREG MADZELONKA, Thad, Kathy, Bill & Evan Ringle
Sun. Aug. 24	<i>Special Event*</i>	BERNIE WIWEL and crew, Jon Hart & crew
Sat. Sept. 6	Summer Series	BRANDT, Onstott, Nixon, Wisinski
Sat. Sept. 20	<i>Special Event*</i>	TBA
Sun. Sept. 21	<i>Special Event*</i>	TBA
Sat. Sept. 27	<i>Special Event*</i>	TINGLE, Reed, Hastings, Jack Marshal

Special Events Information

Sat. Aug. 23	<i>Special Event</i>	<i>Non-series race day, all MSC members and non-members welcome to participate. Trophies will be given for this days events.</i>
Sun. Aug. 24	<i>Special Event</i>	<i>Bridge to Bridge Race. Non-series race day, all MSC members and non-members welcome to participate. Trophies will be given for this days events.</i>
Sept. 20 & 21	<i>Special Event</i>	<i>Flying Scott Regatta, Saturday and Sunday</i>
Sat. Sept. 27	<i>Special Event</i>	<i>Open Regatta- Portsmouth Handicap Scoring</i>

RACING SEASON STARTS

The first race day of the season saw a decent turnout despite a weather forecast that indicated a high temperature only in the 50's. Fortunately the weatherman was quite wrong and it was mostly sunny and close to 70. Winds were generally light and very shifty.

There were six Flying Scot boats and two Open Class boats. On several occasions racers tried to put up spinnakers on a downwind leg only to find they were headed a few minutes later. At other times the wind suddenly died and then 5 minutes later came up again with some nice puffs, but often from a different direction.. Sean Marshall eventually found the wind in the very long first race and took first place by a large margin. The rest of the fleet finished much later, but most amazingly, within a minute or less of each other after about 1 1/2 hours out on the course. The 2nd race was a bit shorter and Dan Gelman won with Sean Marshall right behind, and the rest of the fleet fairly close once more.

The really good news was how well the new 4 cycle 15 hp motor worked on the committee boat along with the rest of the equipment. Hats off to the committee for a great opening

to the 2003 Racing Season. Results are shown below, The second week's races were canceled due to very bad morning storms and a threatening forecast for the day. that turned out to be basically incorrect once again.

OPENING RACE DAY RESULTS - 5/3/2003

	RACE 1	RACE 2	
OPEN SERIES			
GREEN	1	DNS	
UEHLING	2	1	
FLYING SCOTTS			
	RACE 1	RACE 2	TOTAL
MARSHALL	1	2	3
GELMAN	3	1	4
ARMITAGE	2	4	6
SHIELDS	5	3	8
ZAVOS	4	5	9
NEUWIRTH	6	6	12

YOUTH SAILING CAMP JULY 21-25

MSC Youth Sailing Camp is open to all MSC youth, ages 8-13. If you have a family membership in MSC, your child is eligible or a child can also join MSC as an individual member for \$15.00. You can download a membership application from our Web site:

<http://www.morainesailingclub.org>

Camp is held from 10 am to 3 pm each day and goes on rain or shine. There are onshore activities, instructions, films, etc. which will be used in sailboat training. Your child must be able to swim and feel comfortable in the water. FEES \$30.00 for first child; \$20.00 for each additional child. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 1 For more information contact Joe Shields. (412) 263-1907 (W) (412) 367-3697 (H)

OPTION OF STAYING AT THE MORAINE GROUP CAMPSITE

The group campsite at Moraine, Five Points, has been reserved for the week of Sailing Camp. The site is just off the bike trail, about one mile from Watts Bay. The campground includes a shaded area with several large trees, picnic tables, fire rings, a large open field for tents and active play, a water pump and a flush toilet. Showers are available at the Lakeview beach facility. Those who stayed last year typically used the bike trail and walked from Watts Bay to the beach after Sailing Camp ended each day and then walked on to the campsite for dinner and evening activities. The campground is also accessible by car.



Families are responsible for their own children. All meals are also the responsibility of the individual campers, but there will be a group campfire each night for cooking, roasting marshmallows, warmth and relaxation. There is room for up to 80 people.

The fee is \$15 per night per family, \$50 for the week per family. "Family" may include extra children such as friends, nieces or nephews.

Those who camped last year had a wonderful time. Our numbers grew each night as word got out. We hope you will join us!

To sign up, please send a check payable to "Moraine Sailing Club" to Donna Hetrick at the address below. Sign up now to reserve your spot. Latecomers will be welcome as space permits. If you have any questions, please contact:

Donna Hetrick: donna@fireborn.com
2338 Sarah Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone 412-488-6835; 412-488-3604

SAIL UCP 2003 CHARITY EVENT NEEDS HELPERS

Wind & Water Boatworks is once more presenting a special sailing event to help support United Cerebral Palsy. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the location is the Crescent Bay Boat Rental area on the South Shore of Lake Arthur. The public is invited to take a sailboat ride for a \$10 donation. This is a great way to help this worthwhile charity as well as introduce the public to sailing.



MSC members who can help take people out should contact Paul Egbert at 724-586-2030 or show up at the designated area with your boats. There is no racing on this weekend and we can use lots of help for the typically large public participation. If you know anybody who has expressed an interest in sailing this is a great chance to invite them to the lake for a nice relaxing sail.

BUTLER OUTDOOR CLUB MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND NEEDS SAILING HELP

The Butler Outdoor Club is hosting its 7th Annual Outdoor Activity Weekend at Moraine and McConnell's Mill State Parks from May 23-26. They offer a number of outdoor activities and are looking for volunteers to take out people for a sail. Their activities are covered by their own club insurance... They prefer to have sailing on Monday, May 26th but are flexible. If you can help or need more information please contact Joyce Appel at 724-526-5407 or send email to joyceappel@arm-tek.net. You can also view their Web site at: www.butleroutdoorclub.com

FLYING SCOT SAILING ASSOCIATION

MSC member, Dan Goldberg, who is also FSSA Commodore, attended the Mid Winter Meetings at Panama City in March. Changes were made to the FSSA Constitution and Handbook and several personal assignments were changed. These are described in the latest Scots 'n Water newsletter (Vol. 47 No. 2) The big announcements are the locations for major 2004 regattas: The 2004 NAC will be at Carlyle Lake, IL near St. Louis and the 2004 Husband Wife Regatta will be at Crystal Lake, Michigan (near Detroit) FSSA members will now be able to renew memberships and purchase merchandise on-line with a credit card.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Sunfish. Older Sunfish in average condition with a trailer. New style (kickup) rudder. The trailer has an extra bracket for a 2nd Sunfish above the first. \$550. contact Bob Zavos 412-241-0659 or rzavos@hotmail.com

Flying Scot 499, Salty Dog from the MSC Community Sailing Program. Includes trailer, Main and Jib, rigged for spinnaker. Asking Price \$900. Fixer upper - As is. Call Sean Marshall at 412-921-4431 or srm@telerama.lm.com.

(Continued from page 1)

maintenance, durability, excellent sailboat handling, and speed. He studied numerous texts on the older boats as well as modern techniques and materials and came up with a basic design based on mathematical calculations. They started by building a model on a 1:12 scale and verified basic handling and floatation in a tank.

The next step was to plan exactly where to build it. They decided to use their backyard. The only problem was the steep terrain and the need to shelter the boat while doing the fiberglass work. They had to get a permit from Forest Hills Borough to build a temporary structure for the first 18 months while they put together the wood and fiberglass sheets for the exceptionally well constructed hull.

The amazing thing about this project is the incredible ingenuity and engineering skills used to tackle each problem. If a particular part was not easily available Bob and Rob figure out how to make it. That included anything in wood, fiberglass, copper, steel, or even lead. If a tool to make something was not available, then they made the tool or modified an existing one. When they needed to move the 3000 pound hull out of the shelter to the top of the driveway about 30' below, they figured out how to do that without heavy machinery. They have constructed their own cradles to hold the hull as well as scaffolding to work on it.

When taking a tour of the nearly complete cabin I was amazed how well constructed it is. Instrumentation and amenities are very well placed for functionality and convenience. The Universal M320 3 cylinder engine has been installed and a special refrigeration compressor was added to provide the necessary ice and food cooling needed for their trips which could be up to 6 weeks. The diesel engine instruments can be read inside the cabin or from the outside because they were placed on a small swinging door above the cabin entrance that sits behind a double thick glass window.

Rob took a leave of absence from his job as a first grade teacher to devote full time to completing the boat. He and his Dad work on it 7 days a week. Mary supplies lots of encouragement and also helps when she can. She was the one who stirred the 120 gallons of resin needed for the fiberglass hull in the early part of the project.

After 9 years on the project the end looks much closer. They are now working on the interior cabin panels and storage areas. After this they will need to construct the 28' mast, the rudder, make the 4 sails needed, and construct the 5 tanks needed for water, fuel, and holding. Rob has figured out how to make the mast in two parts in their basement which has become the fabrication and work area for most of the major boat parts. They will also be casting brick sized lead blocks for the keel. This 3000 pounds of lead ballast will be added once they get the boat to the water. The boat will weigh about 5000 pounds when completed at the house and 8000 pounds when finally set up in the water.

They hope to take Mary Elizabeth to Presque Isle on Lake Erie in about a year for her initial water home. From there she can, and probably will, sail just about anywhere in the world. They have invited all interested MSC members to stop by and check out the boat. We hope to report progress on a regular basis and invite club members to the next few key milestones including the boat launch

NEW MOTOR PROCEDURES

Following are some key point in the use of the new 15HP 4 cycle motor. Detailed instructions will be available on the Committee Boat or in the Equipment Hut. You can also talk to Gerry Brandt



- The Motor Runs on Regular Gas Only
- Do not under any circumstances run it with the oil-gas mix that is used on the other boats
- Be careful when connecting the fuel line to the tank. The fitting can be broken easily.
- Vent the tank
- Do not shift with motor stopped- if motor has stopped in gear. Pull slowly on the starting rope as you shift into neutral.
- Check that lower part of the motor is in the water.
- Make sure that the “dead man’s switch” is in place (otherwise motor cannot run).

COLD START

- Shift must be in Neutral.
- Advance throttle by squeezing the rear of the shift box and lifting the lever on the top to about 45 degrees (forward).
- With key at 45 degrees engage choke by pressing in key when motor falters.
- Warm up motor by pulling back throttle advance lever so that motor doesn’t race. After a few minutes of warm-up return throttle advance to its locked position.

WARM START

- Shift must be in Neutral.
- Turn key to farthest right and release once motor starts. Briefly choke by pushing in key if necessary.
- If motor doesn’t start immediately, squeeze primer bulb a few times and return to COLD START

SHIFTING

- Motor **MUST** be turning over at idle to shift. Throttle advance lever must be fully down and fastened by its clip.
- To shift into forward squeeze the red handle on the vertical throttle arm and gently move the throttle arm forward.
- Pulling back the throttle shifts into reverse. **DO NOT** shift from full forward to reverse without allowing the motor to slow to idle in neutral.

STOPPING THE MOTOR

Shift into neutral then turn off the motor by turning the key to vertical position (leave the key in the keyhole)

DO NOT RUN THE MOTOR DRY

Beyond the Water with Hedderik Van Rijn, and Simone Sprenger

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.

When we were having lunch, after boat cleaning in April, we had two Brits, John Bridges and Jim Miller, Hedderik Van Rijn, from the Netherlands, and three Germans Simone Sprenger, from Wesel, her brother and his friend. Cliff Johnson, my old sailing buddy, and new Community Sailor, got to use his German, and I sat back and thought how wonderful it all was.

Yet another benefit of sailing revealed itself that day; meeting people from abroad, hearing about their experiences, and finding out what they think about our little piece of the planet.

Here is one we take for granted. Hedderik said he chuckles when people say how crowded Lake Arthur is." Sailing is so popular in the Netherlands that there are so many boats in the water on a nice summer day that it can probably be best compared with the couple of square meters before the starting line just before the start signal is given on race day at Lake Arthur."

Hedderik found the sailing club a few months before Simone joined him in Pittsburgh in a roundabout way. "...on the website of the youth hostel, as they accidentally still referred to Bob Zavos as "person to contact" if one wanted to get sailing. Although Bob wasn't involved in that program anymore, he and Sara were extremely friendly in getting me up to the lake in the first couple of months before I had a car." (So maybe we should ask the Pittsburgh AYH to give us a link to our website.)

Hedderik and Simone are both doing postdoctoral projects in psychology here in Pittsburgh, Simone at Pitt and Hedderik at CMU. "I try to construct computer models of how people process words," said Hedderik. "This is not to create a "speaking robot", but purely because of theoretical reasons. I am more interested in what characteristics in words make some harder to retrieve from memory than others, than in perfect behavior. That's just boring. In other words, the computer models are just a tool to be able to study human behavior, not to replace humans." Simone is working on a research project on language and memory at the University of Pittsburgh.

They share an interest in the outdoors. "Pittsburgh has so much nature around that we often don't know where to start exploring. That is definitely one of the things I'll be missing when we've returned to Europe," said Hedderik. Simone also likes to cook, and Hedderik especially enjoys her "fabulous cakes."

Simone is eager to learn about sailing, so that she can share Hedderik's enthusiasm. The Community Sailing Program, she said, is the perfect answer. "I like to meet people outside the University and I love being outside. Besides, I really need to learn how to sail."

Hedderik pointed out an additional advantage. "It is a marvelous way to be able to continue sailing, even when only here in Pittsburgh for too short a time to invest in a sailing boat for myself. Even more, it is also great that by joining one program, one both gets access to the nice, small Sunfish and to



Simone and Hedderick also enjoy hiking in Western PA

the Scots."

Hedderik has been sailing since he was eight years old. "My father bought a second hand Zef (an open French 4 meters long boat) and taught himself sailing. After having been on the boat a couple of times with too much wind or too enthusiastic a father, I became rather scared of sailing. It took me about 4 years before I really started to enjoying sailing again. When I was 15, we discovered two old "Vrijheid" (meaning Freedom, first built just after the Second World War) sailing boats (open, Dutch design, completely wooden, 5 meters). Both of them were in pretty bad shape. Both of the owners still had to pay the barn costs of a couple of years, and if we paid those fees, we were free to get those boats. As the barn owner was only too happy to get rid of those boats, we suddenly had two old, leaky boats. After quite some work in a very, very hot (for Dutch standards, anyhow) summer, we managed to combine both boats into one perfectly sailing Vrijheid. We were quite proud of her."

He remembers the first time he capsized. "It was late October, just two days before the end of the season, when I capsized in the Zef. I could not get the boat straightened up, so I swam and pushed the boat all the way to the shore, then biked about 20 minutes before I was home. According to my mother, she had never seen me that blue. She ordered me to get into the bath, and that I was not allowed to get out before my lips were pink again. I was 13 years old."

That blue-lipped chill resonates with all of us. Welcome, Hedderik and Simone May you only have smooth sailing on Lake Arthur.

Batten The Breeze

Moraine Sailing Club Newsletter

Robert Zavos, Editor
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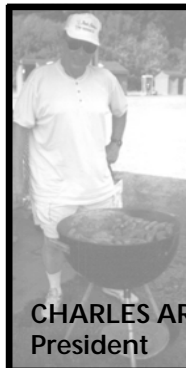
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