

New Castle Sailing Club

N E W S L E T T E R

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COMMODORE'S CORNER

Let the sanding begin! Winter break is over, and the time has come to ready boats for another season of sailing on the Delaware. Work sessions were officially kicked-off on February 14th, topped off by the Annual Hot Dog Lunch. Many thanks to long-time member Chris Collins for continuing this fun tradition. It's great to reconnect with old friends and to get to know all of our new members as we gather each Saturday to work on the boats.

Norm Yoerg and a group of Thistle experts have been hard at work over the winter developing a 'how-to' manual for all the steps involved in getting a Thistle ready for launch, which will be a great resource for the Thistle work crews and help bring consistency to our maintenance procedures. Look for this manual to appear at one of the upcoming work sessions.

Phil Ianelli has taken on the role of team leader for the Flying Scot and Hunter work crews. With Phil's leadership and the renewed enthusiasm among the club members for the Flying Scots, we are well on our way to having the bigger boats fitted out in top-notch form. Our new Scot, 3900 is temporarily residing in Phil's barn, which has the height to step the mast indoors and determine the rigging needs. The fate of our oldest Scot 2906, which suffers from severe damage to the balsa core, is still in question. It is currently being looked at by a boat yard in Havre de Grace to see if repairs are a viable option. New sails for the two sailable Flying Scots have arrived, and with consultation from sail maker Greg Fisher, the Scot teams will be readjusting the rigging from a 'tight rig' to a 'snug rig.'

The classroom sessions began on February 7th with a new group of enthusiastic students. One project currently underway is to convert our instruction materials into Powerpoint presentations. You might have noticed Sally Rusk, who is leading this effort, capturing instructor Denny Dolan's pearls of sailing wisdom on video for inclusion in the curriculum. The plan is to assemble all the materials into Powerpoint this year and provide next year's instructors with a ready-to-go presentation.

In preparation for the 2009 on-the-water instruction, Sailing and Instruction Director Bob Cann will be recruiting instructors. We have extended on-the-water instruction through the end of the sailing season this year to accommodate new members who join late in the season, which means we will be asking for even more volunteer effort from our members. Please sign up for as many dates as possible. If each qualified instructor can commit to one instruction session per month, we should be just about covered. If you are not yet sure of your summer schedule - that's ok - make your best guess. Trading slots is perfectly fine and part of the process.

Similarly, Racing Director Tom Bayliss will be recruiting volunteers to serve on race committees as race chair, helmsperson, or assistant (no experience required for the latter). Even if you are not a racer it is a great way to get out on the water, help the club racing program, and have fun in the process.

There are a few upcoming events I want to call your attention to. The annual St. Patrick's Day lunch will be held on March 14th, hosted once again by chef extraordinaire Chris Collins. The Spring Dinner is fast approaching on FRIDAY, March 20th at a new venue this year, the Hockessin Memorial Hall. We are excited to have as our speaker fellow club member and environmental scientist John Wik, who will be telling us about his "Delmarva Odyssey" circumnavigating the Delmarva Peninsula by canoe. John began his trip last May to raise awareness about the natural history, ecology, and culture of the Delmarva Peninsula. His travels were recorded live on the internet and made available to classrooms to "excite people about the natural world through exploration and discovery", the mission of the Delaware Museum of Natural History where John serves as a Board member. Be sure to send in your check this week to reserve a spot.

Plans are also underway for the Beach Cleanup on April 4th. I urge all members to reserve an hour or two to help out with this important community service organized by our club.

Finally, I want to wish the best of luck to our Thistle racers who are journeying to St. Petersburg, Florida for the Midwinters East regatta in early March. The club will have five (!) boats competing this year – an all time record. Craig Quigley and crew have been working hard to get the old Burgundy boat in to racing shape, while the other skippers will be taking their own personal Thistles. Here's the lineup:

Chris Annand and Scott Buehler (probably will two-hand)
Dick Harrison, John Ingram, and Jeff Mitchell
Craig Quigley, Dave Deptula, and Stephanie Gajar
Earl McMaster, Mark Sullivan, and Jon Virden
Scott Latham, Mike Gillum, and Mardi Gillum

Good luck and fair winds!

Nancy Peffer Commodore



Work Session and Hot Dog Lunch

The first work session was off to a great start. The weather was chilly, but sunny. Boat captain Craig Quigley and crew were getting the Burgundy Thistle ready for Midwinters Regatta in Florida. Denny Dolan continued the tradition of sailing instruction for new members. The yard was busy as boat captains and crew inspected the boats and equipment for season readiness. Lorna Lee and Ellen Woytowich were upstairs in the sail loft preparing the sails for the new season. And Chris Collins prepared the Annual Hot Dog lunch to kick off the 2009 sailing season. After the luncheon Tom Bayliss directed a racing clinic and led a presentation on Windshifts 101.

Kathy Leef, Vice-Commodore





Spring Dinner

The Spring Dinner will be held on Friday, March 20th at the Hockessin Memorial Hall from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. All members, family and friends are invited to attend. Our guest speaker will be John Wik who had an amazing adventure circumnavigating the Delmarva Peninsula. Come out and enjoy yourself as we experience a "Delmarva Odyssey". The price is \$31 per person. Please send your payment by March 10 to the New Castle Sailing Club, P.O. Box 46, New Castle, DE, 19720.

Kathy Leef, Vice-Commodore

2009 Member Survey

We are conducting a survey this season in order to obtain feedback from the NCSC members, to help drive initiative to build our membership, and to promote increased participation. For those of you who have already completed the survey this past Saturday, thank you for taking the time. For those who haven't, look for a communication soon with a copy of the survey and instructions. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey - it will be very helpful as we make plans for the upcoming season.

Thanks!!
Scott Buehler, Membership

2008-2009 New Members

As we kick off the 2009 season with classroom instruction and work sessions, please help in welcoming our new members. Look for the "New Member" indicator on the name tags and be sure to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met yet. The following people have recently joined and will be looking for assistance to get acquainted with the clubs preparation activities:

Danielle Bower
Anne, Cliff, Katherine, and Brenna Robinson
Diana and Joseph Dimattia
Andrew Faulkner
Les Proctor
Andy and Kristin Laughlin
Dan Rakus
Veronika Miketa
Jack Ziegler
Jeff, Samantha, and Kathryn Sayers
Mary Davis
Erik and Frances Mancini
Fred and Tish Gallagher

WELCOME ABOARD!!

Racing Rules Seminar

The North East River Yacht Club is organizing a racing rules seminar. Check the website for information.

http://www.neryc.com/pages/sail_racing_at_NERYC.htm

Discussion Board

As the 2009 season kicks-off, be sure to sign-up for the NCSC discussion board. Instructions can be found on the web-site:

<http://newcastlesailingclub.org/sitedocs/discussionboard/>

The discussion board will be an extremely useful tool for coordinating membership activities. I encourage new members to use the board to ask questions about the club and to get acquainted with the club and other members. Boat captains should look to use the board to coordinate boat preparations with their crews. We will also be posting club activities on the board as the season gets under way. Once the boats are in the water, people should use the discussion board to coordinate day sails, while skippers and crews can use the board to "hook-up" for the Saturday races. This is an extremely useful tool -- let's use it!

If you have any questions about how to use the discussion board please feel free to contact membership director, Scott Buehler (sgbuehler@comcast.net, 302-420-8945).



Upcoming events:

Sat. March 14 th	12PM	Annual St. Patrick's Day corned beef lunch
Friday. March 20 th	6:30PM	Spring Dinner and meeting – featuring John Wik's "Delmarva Odyssey" presentation
Sat. March 21 st	12PM	Racing clinic
Sat. March 28 th	11:30AM	Open House
Sat. April 4 th	9AM 12PM	Beach Cleanup Racing clinic
Sat. April 25 th	9AM	Launch!



The stern view

An old sea captain was sitting on a bench near the wharf when a young man walked up and sat down. The young man had spiked hair and each spike was a different color.... green, red, orange, blue, and yellow.

After a while the young man noticed that the captain was staring at him.

"What's the matter old timer, never done anything wild in your life?"

The old captain replied, "Got drunk once and married a parrot. I was just wondering if you were my son!"

CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes for 2009 Sailing Season begin February 7. All classes are from 10:30 to noon.

Feb. 7	Welcome, Basic Sailing I (Welcome 10:00-10:30)
Feb. 14	Basic Sailing II Start of fleet work sessions Annual Hot Dog Lunch
Feb. 21	Tides and Currents
Feb. 28	Knots and Rules of the Road
March 7	Charts & Local Hazards (Mandatory class to earn a key)
March 14	Weather, Emergencies, & Personal Gear St. Patrick's Day Lunch
March 21	Moorings: Departing & Arriving
March 28	Thistle Rigging Demo & Boat Maintenance
April 4	BEACH CLEANUP – no instruction
April 11	Optional Make Up Class (Holiday Weekend)
April 18	Flying Scott Rigging Demo and Review
April 25	FLEET LAUNCH DAY
May 2	On the Water Instruction Begins (Every Sat. & Sun. until the Delripett Oct. 17)

