

New Castle Sailing Club

N E W S L E T T E R

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COMMODORE'S CORNER

The Spring work sessions are well underway and the unseasonable warm weather has even allowed for some bottom painting in early March – an NCSC first, I think. Much work still remains to get the fleet ready for launch on April 25th - so come on down on Saturday mornings, or check with your boat captain to see when there will be other opportunities to help out.

The annual Spring Dinner and Members meeting was held on March 20th at the David Finney Inn, and those who came were treated to a wonderful dinner and a fascinating presentation by John Wik on his "Delmarva Odyssey."

There was much trial and tribulation for organizer Kathy Leef when the original venue, Hockessin Memorial Hall, pulled out at the last minute. But Kathy, with lots of help from Dave Koppeser rallied and put together a wonderful catered dinner.

John and Beverly Wik, in addition to providing the entertainment, generously offered the use of the David Finney Inn, which turned out to be just the perfect space for our group. Thank you all for a wonderful evenings' food and entertainment.

To update you on the fleet –new sails have been ordered for Red Stripe Scot and Blue Stripe Scot (our latest acquisition), and we are still waiting for an estimate on how much it might cost to repair old 2906, which has some rot in the upper decking. The Thistle Fleet is in pretty good shape this year – no major repairs needed, just the usual assortment of rail dings, etc. that require extra attention.

Our membership numbers are still on the decline – something that tends to happen in parallel with the state of the economy. A Membership Committee met last Saturday to come up with specific strategies to increase our numbers by both attracting more new members and retaining the old. One proposal that came out of this committee, which the Board will consider this month, is to spread the initiation fee out over two years so that new members are not faced with paying the full amount all at once. We also decided to advertise the Sailing Club at local health clubs and YMCAs, and online with a site called "Meetup.com". Chris Poulouin has prepared a flier that any member can download from our web site to display at work, church etc. Please pass along to Membership Director Scott Buehler or me any ideas that you have to help bolster our membership. I want to remind you that this Saturday, March 28th from 10-12 is our first of three Open Houses for those who want to learn more about the sailing club. So if you know anyone who might be interested, please invite them to stop by.

I want to congratulate the Midwinters racers who represented our fleet at the annual regatta in St. Petersburg, FL, and especially Craig Quigley, Dave Deptula, and guest Stephanie Gajar, who sailed our Burgundy Boat (renamed "Pinot Noir" for the occasion) to a third place finish in the B-fleet. Craig wrote up a nice summary of the event, which you will find in this newsletter.

Finally, just a reminder about the Beach cleanup scheduled for April 4th. Please take an hour or so out from readying the fleet to participate in this important community event sponsored by our club.

Nancy Peffer Commodore



New Castle Beach Cleanup

The snow is gone and warmer weather is coming. Launch day will be here before you know. On Saturday, April 4th the Sailing Club is sponsoring the 19th Annual New Castle Beach Cleanup. Instead of classroom instruction and work session, the Club will be down on the beach. Join other club members and community volunteers as we clean up our waterfront. Activities start at 9am, rain or shine. Hopefully, we'll have good weather. Club members are also needed to help at the registration table. Please let me know if you can help.

Kathy Leef, vice-commadore



Thistle Mid Winters East!

While the NCSC was snowed under two weeks ago, 16 sailors and support folks, with 5 boats from our club were braced to start the first race of the week in Tampa Bay at the Thistle Mid Winters East (MWE) Regatta. Things were a bit chilly (52 degrees) and windy (16-22) for the first day with a lot of spills and excitement! But thru the week things warmed up to 80 by Friday. We got a record tying nine races in, but alas Friday's race had to be canned as the wind died -- which "forced" folks to poolside and cocktails at Wet Willies, the local watering hole!

Dick Harrison received stand up kudos at the sailors meeting Sunday for his great work encouraging our local sailors and mid-winter newbies (i.e. me and Jeff Mitchell) over the years. New Castle Sailing Club was again lauded at the Friday awards dinner as we were all asked to stand to the room's ovation for the most boats at MWE from ANY yacht or sailing club!

It was really like the GREATEST SAILING CAMP EVER! The best sailors helped us tune up our boats and skills -- with two Coach Thistle Class Association sessions on each day of racing -- before the races (setting up the conditions and strategy of the day) and after the races (helping us see what we did wrong and right) from the folks who won the race!

The races were phenomenal -- no one on the starting line at 1 minute -- all 44 boats fighting for the best clear air at 30 seconds and counting!. The team concept of sailing by the whole crew was ESSENTIAL! Each leg of the race was at least a mile long requiring compass sailing by the lead boats (not a problem for me). The St. Petersburg Yacht Club Race Committee were exceptional -- 27 folks on the water and a professionally run registration, sail measurement and protest committee.

Most of us stayed at a great house -- set up by Earl McMaster. We picked the best grapefruit from our front yard, and Dave and Tina Deptula made our 6:30 am breakfast feasts! Lots of great camaraderie -- beer, wine and conversation -- and we explored the great eating places of St Pete's -- especially "Buffy's Barbecue"!

St. Pete's Yacht club put up three truly great dinners with great food, live music, and a great awards ceremony plus a "Pool Day" (think "caddie shack"). Free beer at the days end with thistle movies, the "CLAN PARTY" (a two for one night at Cha Cha Coconuts), and a pre-Awards Ceremony afternoon Friday at Wet Willies rounded out the social calendar. St Pete's Yacht Club also set up spectator boats at no charge -- right on the starting line (about 2-3 miles or 45 minutes out in Tampa Bay)!

Dave and I would not have been able to make it to St Pete except for all the help we got from our club members. We really appreciate the veteran help we got from Chris Annand, Dick Harrison, Earl McMaster, John

Ingram, and Scott Buehler who really were our "Pit Crew" for "Pinot Noir"-- they and the other club members dropped everything when something on our boat broke or needed tuning. Thanks also to Tina Deptula as photographer extraordinaire (see the NCSC web site) and Megan Annand for forward crew "on the job" training and keeping us "mentally grounded".

In terms of the results -- Greg Fisher -- who taught us and tuned us all week ran away with first place (we threw him in the pool). From NCSC Scott Latham with his expert crew of Mike and Mardi Gillum finished 22 despite an OCS ("on course side") at the start (where they would have placed 2nd that race). Pinot Noir (formerly Burgundy) with Stephanie Gajar forward, and co-drivers Dave Deptula and I grabbed 3rd place in the B fleet (36th overall) with pictures taken and trophy to boot.

On a somber note, Scott and Chris had a close call with a drunk driver on the way home and ended up having to junk their trailer. Chris and Dave retrieved the injured boat just this weekend. But thank goodness there were no personal injuries.

It was a great experience -- the house and the daily food bill came to under \$200.00 for the whole week - - you can't beat that! The fun and learning were exceptional!

NCSC member and co-skipper of "Pinot Noir"

NCSC Crews

3981 CHRIS ANNAD and SCOTT BUEHLER
 3766 DICK HARRISON, JOHN INGRAM, JEFF MITCHELL
 1329 SCOTT LATHAM, Mike Gillum, Mardi Gillum*
 3952 EARL MCMASTER, MARK SULLIVAN, Jon Virden
 3902 CRAIG QUIGLEY, DAVE DEPTULA, and Stephanie Gajar with NCSC club boat "Pinot Noir"

And

TINA DEPTULA - photographer
 MEGAN ANNAD - forward crew teacher and morale officer

*(NCSC members in capitals)

Please also see for additional photos and info
 -- www.spyc.org
 -- www.thistleclass.org
 -- newcastlesailingclub.org

Thanks, *Craig Quigley*



Spring Dinner

On Friday, March 20th NCSC members embarked on a "Delmarva Odyssey" as environmental scientist and geologist, John Wik, gave a presentation on the geological history of the Delmarva peninsula and his experience of circumnavigating the peninsula. The experience began as a means to involve schoolchildren with the Delaware Museum of Natural History and to bring the classroom to the outdoors. The Adirondak guide boat and the equipment used was on display for the members to see and ask questions. Be sure to check out the website-- www.delamarvaodyssey.com -- for more information. The food was provided by Pamela's Gourmet in the Shoppes of Louviers. Many, many thanks to John Wik for his fantastic presentation and generous hospitality and to guest bartenders, Heather Leef and Dominic Cautillo.



Kathy Leef, Vice-Commodore



The Sea of Cortez



Where is it? What is it?

For information please go to the NCSC website and scroll down to the links on the left side of the home page and click on Sea of Cortez an article written Don Hurst, one of the captains for this trip. Thirteen people have already registered. Club members are encouraged to participate.

Don Hurst



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:

Joe Christensen,
Julia Klein, and daughters Lily and Fiona
Tom Werner and Amy Micka

WELCOME ABOARD!!





Class Room Instruction Make Up Session

If you missed the mandatory class on Local Hazards we will have a make up session on April 11th at 10:30am. If there are other classes you missed or have questions about we can cover those as well. In the event you can't attend the make up class you can contact me and we can set up another session.

Bob Cann
Sailing and Instruction Director
cannrh@yahoo.com
302-737-4653



CLASS SCHEDULE

- March 28 Thistle Rigging Demo & Boat Maintenance
- April 4 BEACH CLEANUP – no instruction
- April 11 Optional Make Up Class (Holiday Weekend)



The stern view



Ready to launch



Upcoming events:

- Sat. March 28th 10-12 Open House
- Sat. April 4th 9-12 Beach Cleanup
- 12-1 Racing clinic
- Sat. April 25th 9-11 Launch!
- Sun. April 26th 1:30-3:30 On-the-water instruction begins
- Sat. May 2nd 9-1 Race Crew Training
- 1:30 – 3:30 Barn cleanup
- Weds. May 6th 5-8 Wednesday fun sail
- Sat. May 9th 9-1 Boat Captain's Race