

# New Castle Sailing Club

## N E W S L E T T E R

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Editor: David Koppeser

### Commodore's Corner – July 2010

I hope that many of you were able to participate in the recent Frank E. Nelson Memorial Charity Regatta. It is a great cause and brings good publicity to our Club. Please try to work in the next regatta; that is, the Founder's Day Regatta on August 14<sup>th</sup>. As always, be sure to take advantage of the upcoming racing clinics, Wednesday night fun sails, and Saturday series races.

A few safety issues have come to mind as we have been able to get an increased number of sailing opportunities in July. First, it has been exceedingly hot so use sunscreen and bring plenty of water. Second, please remember to recognize the conditions that can lead to "gybing around the mooring". That is, when the wind and current are opposed, a dangerous situation can occur (probably capsize) if the mainsail is raised and gybing around the mooring begins. The recommended action is to drop the mainsail as quickly as possible. Usually, however, one can not raise the mainsail fully, and the boat tries to sail possibly moving the mooring. The solution in both cases is to keep the mainsail down, and leave the mooring under the power of the jib alone. Once in the clear, head into irons and raise the mainsail. One day in early July, three boats had to practice this maneuver in order to successfully leave the moorings.

We encourage our members to become as proficient at sailing as possible, and for some, this includes learning to sail all three classes of our boats (Thistle, Scot, and Hunter). Please adhere to Club rules regarding the sailing of these vessels; that is, do not sail on any boat class on which you have not been checked-out, and get checked-out only by certified trainers (Bob Cann, Safety and Instruction Director, has a list).

Hoping that you have a great month of sailing!

*Len Saari*  
Commodore



### Charity Regatta

The 23rd Annual Frank Nelson Memorial Charity Regatta was held this past Saturday with favorable weather, despite earlier forecasts of showers/thunderstorms. Six thistles and 15 racers competed in the Regatta. The race committee with Tilo Stahl and Mark Scott set up the course. The winds were about 5-8 mph out of the S/SW, and increased throughout the day. First race kicked off at 11am and all races were finished by 2 pm.

The BBQ dinner and auction followed at 4 pm. Norm Yoerg did a great job as auctioneer this year. Patrick and Nancy Martin were the Masters of the Grill; and Patti Parziale made some delicious desserts. Many thanks to Chris Poulouin, the Getty family, Jim Tait, Faith McGovern, and Norm Yoerg for their help with the Regatta and dinner. We even had live entertainment when Mike Evans and Earl McMaster played guitar.

Skipper Earl McMaster and crew Bill Davis came in first place, skipper Chris Poulouin and crew Tim Evans came in second place, and skipper Norm Yoerg and crew Jim Tait and Donna Powell came in third place in the Regatta. Pam and Jen from the March of Dimes, Delaware chapter, were our guests for dinner. Nearly one thousand dollars were raised by the Regatta to benefit the March of Dimes. Thank you to all for your participation and support.

*Kathy Leef  
Vice Commodore*



## Greg Fisher Sailboat Racing Clinic

The Greg Fisher Sailboat Racing Clinic was held on Tuesday, June 29th and was organized by Earl McMaster and Norm Yoerg.

As Earl wrote- " For those unfamiliar with Greg's accomplishments, he is the winning-est one-design champion of the era. He is the winner of 21 major championships in 7 different classes, including the Thistle, Flying Scott, J/22, Lightning, Highlander, and Johnson 18 classes. Not only is he a fantastic sailor, he is an excellent coach who gets a real kick out of giving back to the sport that he loves so much."

The racing clinic started at 5 pm as Scott Latham set the race course. Greg was in the committee boat videotaping and commenting on tape as the racers went through the course. Greg emphasized trimming the sails for speed, depowering, rounding the mark, and other suggestions. Afterwards, everyone gathered in the clubhouse for a lasagna dinner that was prepared by Norm. The videotape was reviewed by all; and Greg critiqued and offered suggestions on racing techniques.



## Racing

We finally had both good weather and hence good participation for our latest races, the novice 2 races on June 19th as well as Spring 4 races on June 26th and Spring 5 on July 3rd. However, we had to cancel the Summer 1 races in view of all the rain falling that day. But we look forward to clear skies, nice winds, and hence even more participation for the upcoming Novice 3 races on July 24th, Summer 3 races on July 31st, and Novice 3 races on August 7th as well as the Founder's Day regatta races on August 14th. So mark your calendar and show up about 8:30 AM to sign on as skipper or crew for those exciting events.

We also inaugurated our race crew training program this year on Tuesdays at 5 PM starting on June 15th and going through to July 13th. The most highly attended and successful one of course was Greg Fisher's training program on June 29th, when we were able to send out all of our Thistles in perfect weather for an on the water session, followed by an off the water training session. For the on the water training, Greg followed each of the participant boats in our committee boat and simultaneously gave individual instruction to the skipper and crew on each successive boat while also videotaping the boat maneuvering along the race course. He then was able to edit that videotape and showed it that evening back at our Clubhouse accompanied by his excellent commentary on how to get the best performance from the boat in varying conditions. The crowd was hungry for that knowledge but also were ravenous consumers of the lasagna dinner served that night. Thanks to Earl McMaster for organizing this event. We of course have not had as great attendance at the other crew training sessions, in part due to the quite extremely high temperatures lately but also because the wind conditions haven't been that ideal.

Finally, we had a fantastic Charity regatta set of five races on July 17th, with Tilo Stahl doing a great job of running the committee boat duties along with Mark Scott as crew. We had out six Thistles in quite gusty and challenging conditions, but all had a rousing good time; and many applied the skills they had acquired during the race crew training sessions to race a bit better.

I want to take this opportunity personally to thank all of you who have volunteered to help out in running the committee boat this season. As with the rest of our activities, the extensive racing schedule we have at our Club almost every Saturday from May through October could not be done without your support in volunteering for committee boat duty. And this year, with the addition of the crew training program, we have 35 days of racing and race crew training, which means at least 70 spots needed

to be filled by volunteers for committee boat duty. And all (except for the last event, the Delrippet regatta, at the end of October) were filled by volunteers by early May. I also wish to acknowledge and thank Tom Bayliss for the time, effort, and skill that he has devoted to fixing up our aging committee boat so far this season, from starter to steering mechanism failures. Our Club only functions through our volunteer efforts and thanks again to each one of you for this service to our Club and our racing program.

*Norm Yoerg*  
*Racing Director*

## Time change for Saturday instruction in August

Saturday instruction will be held at 9:30am until 12:00pm to accommodate racing. The winds tend to be stronger in the afternoon in August. Sunday's instruction time will remain the same at 1:30pm.

*Bob Cann*  
*Safety and Instruction Director*

## Capsize Drill For August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

I would like to have a Thistle capsize drill on the first Saturday of August at 10:00am. The tide will be high around 9:50am so we'll have plenty of water and little current. I want to encourage students to come to this and see what it's like to capsize and right at Thistle in a safe environment. I would also like to get some volunteers to help man the committee boat and help with the capsizing. Send me an email at [cannrh@yahoo.com](mailto:cannrh@yahoo.com) if you would like to help.

*Bob Cann*  
*Safety and Instruction Director*

