

New Castle Sailing Club

N E W S L E T T E R

PO Box 46, New Castle, DE 19720

(302)-328-1570

Editor: David Koppeser

New Castle Beach Cleanup.... April 10



Commodore's Corner

Spring has finally sprung, and many activities have occurred at the Club. On Saturday and for the first time this year, there was a lot of outside work readying the boats for the eventual launch in late April. Also, classes for the new group of NCSC sailors have been going well. In the last three sessions, Norm Yoerg and Scott Buehler have covered hazards, personal gear, and moorings. Norm prepared a great lunch for the group on Saturday and that was followed by a racing clinic given by Earl McMaster.

Congratulations to the crews returning from the 2010 Thistle Midwinters East Regatta in Florida (see the article by Mark Hennessy). It is astounding that the NCSC has had the largest number of entries from a club in this national race for two years running.

In this edition of the Newsletter, our Safety and Instruction Director, Bob Cann, will be asking for keyed club members to sign up as on-the-water instructors. I urge all members to make a special effort to assist in teaching this year because we have an unusually large class of prospective sailors. We want to give them every chance to get keyed. Let's not allow a lack of instructors be the limiting event.

Finally, I hope that many of you will attend the upcoming NCSC events which include the Spring Dinner on March 27th, the beach clean-up on April 10th, and of course, the launch of the fleet on April 24th. Until then, keep up the good work on getting the boats ready for launch.

Len Saari, 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 10th the Sailing Club is sponsoring the 20th 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-commodore

Make Up Class For The Mandatory Hazards Class

If you missed the Mandatory Hazards Class you can make it up on April 3rd at 10:30am. If you have any questions about other sailing topics I will try to answer those as well.

*Bob Cann
Safety and Instruction Director*

Plea For New Instructors

If you are a keyed member who feels confident about their sailing ability and would like to pass along some of your knowledge of sailing, we would like to have you as an on the water instructor. Instruction sessions are Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30PM or if other times are better we can put you on the by appointment call list. If you're interested call me or send me an email. Remember that someone showed you how to sail and it's only fair turnaround to show someone else. Instructing will help improve your own skills while giving back to the club.

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

Class Instruction Schedule

March 27	Thistle Rigging Demo
April 3	Easter Holiday Make Up Class
April 10	Beach Clean Up – No Class
April 17	Scot Rigging Demo
April 24	Fleet Launch Day
April 25	On The Water Instruction Begins (1:30PM)



2010 Thistle Midwinters East Regatta - St. Petersburg, Florida

"Fun, we are going to have fun. We will beat some boats and some boats will beat us. But, we are going to have fun!" This was part of the invitation made by Dick Harrison to go to the Thistle Mid-Winter East Regatta on Tampa Bay. Dick has made the trek to the Florida Regatta 19 of the past 20 years so Jeff Mitchell and I knew we were in for both fun and great sailing.

New Castle Sailing Club registered six skippers which was the most of any "Yacht Club".

- Boat 1329 - Scott Latham with crew Emory Williams and Tom Goddard
- Boat 3952 - Earl McMaster with crew Mark Sullivan (former NCSC member) and Laura Bolin (Seattle, Wa)
- Boat 3766 - Dick Harrison with crew and fellow NCSC members Jeff Mitchell and Mike Hennessy
- Boat 4021 - Chris Annand with daughter Megan Moore as crew
- Boat 3867 (Moo Cow) - Scott Buehler with co-Skipper and fellow NCSC member Dave Deptula and Stephanie Gajar (Newark, DE) as Crew (also very fortunate to have Tina Deptula as official "shore support" crew)

The trip started off with a challenge – snow in the mid-Atlantic region prevented many from getting the planned early start and even resulted in Mike and Jeff being stranded in the Hockessin Wawa for four hours waiting for the roads to be plowed.

The rest of the trip down was uneventful and the NCSC tribe arrived at the rental house on Saturday. The house was in Pass-A-Grill on the Gulf of Mexico with a view of both the Gulf and a channel off Tampa Bay. Earl McMaster did a great job finding and renting the place. The décor of the house included flying monkeys and frogs which somehow resulted in the mysterious disappearance of the yogurt inventory and rearrangement of cereal. The boats were then dropped off at St. Petersburg Yacht Club (SPYC), rigged and prepared for racing.

There were 43 boats that attended the 2010 Thistle Midwinters. The temperatures were a little colder than normal but the atmosphere on shore was as warm and friendly as ever. After abandoning sailing on Monday and Tuesday (high winds resulted in two broken masts), the always terrific SPYC race committee ran 7 races in the final three days of the regatta. Wednesday's race was sailed in heavy winds (gusts to 28) and featured numerous capsizes. Moo Cow broke it's mast on Wednesday 5 minutes into the first race of the regatta. They sailed both races on Thursday with a replacement

mast after re-rigging on Wednesday with a spare donated by very friendly Thistlers named Charlie and Amy Hitlin, who were adopted as part of our clan for the rest of week and treated to oysters at the local raw bar. The two races on Thursday were also sailed in high winds with a few more capsizes and breakdowns. Chris Annand also suffered equipment damage but was able to fix the issues with the help of their fellow Thistle sailors. Friday had wonderful conditions with winds in the 10 to 15 knot range and temperatures in the low 60's. The PRO, Carol Bardes, ran 4 races and still got us on shore with enough time to pack for the trip home, and attend the Awards Banquet.

Greg Fisher, with crew Jeff Eiber and JoAnn Fisher, won the event with an 18 point lead over Jim Barnash, who finished in second. Erik Goethert finished in third, Brian Swingly in 4th and Lloyd Kitchin in 5th. Our own Chris Annand and Megan Moore placed third in the "B" Fleet.

The days began with Dave Deptula preparing breakfast at 6:00 am and Tina preparing lunches for all boats. The crews generally got to the club by 7:30, weather presentation at 8:00, boats in the water and out to the course to start the first race. Courses were laid out with 4 legs (up to 0.8 miles per leg): windward, leeward, twice around. When we weren't on the water racing, we were in class, learning from the top skippers in the country. At the end of each day's racing we would gather and discuss, with the top 3 skippers that day, what their thoughts were at the start, around the course, weather observations and decisions, teamwork on their boat. Dinners were either at SPYC or at the local restaurants. Dick Harrison found an excellent steakhouse and German restaurant. After dinner, the evening highlight included eating popcorn while watching the weather channel and Scott vacuuming the house. Megan also spent many hours studying her textbook, Mike suffered from coffee deprivation, and Jeff had a sore throat from talking so much. Chris won enough at online poker to put a down-payment on some prime Florida property (his race info listed him as a Florida resident). Earl and Mark were always the last ones to get to the house after extensive boat prep and Earl* always drank too much water.

The trip home was uneventful with a two hour shortcut discovered by driving the "long" way through Orlando.

*Ask Earl to explain.

Pictures of the MWE can be seen at the link below:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=tinadeptula&target=ALBUM&id=5447520155840569681&authkey=Gv1sRgCOLogfnb042aRg&feat=email>

Mike Hennessy – NCSC Treasurer

Racing News

Last Saturday at noon, Earl McMaster gave a fantastic racing clinic presentation on upwind sailing, including his expert views on that subject as well as a video by Greg Fisher, both a Thistle and Flying Scot national winner, on the proper techniques to achieve maximum boat speed in races while sailing upwind. The event was well attended, with over 18 sailors overflowing the Clubhouse to absorb these techniques and simultaneously enjoying a lasagna lunch. Thanks to Earl for sharing his knowledge and to Nancy Martin and Faith McGovern who helped prepare, serve and clean up for the lunch.

As our final event before launching our boats, Tom Bayliss on April 17th will be giving from noon to 1 PM a racing clinic presentation at the Clubhouse on a topic yet to be determined.

We also will have an on-the-water race crew training from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, May 30th; an on-the-water racing clinic with Greg Fisher (in person) at 5 PM on Wednesday, June 9th; and an inaugural series of additional informative and fun on-the-water racing clinics at 5 PM on Tuesdays from June 13th through July 13th. We will be giving you more details on those exciting, educational, and fun clinics in future newsletters.

Norm Yoerg

Racing Director



The stern view

