

# New Castle Sailing Club

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

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Nancy Pepper, Jeff Arriza, and Kevin Foley

Photo by Tina Deptula

### Commodore's Corner

While I took a short vacation from writing this column last month (I was in Minnesota sailing, chopping, fishing, etc.), club activities continued without pause. Racing, teaching, boat maintenance, property maintenance, social events, club administration et al. were performed spectacularly as a result of hard work by dedicated club members. It isn't possible to cite all of the contributions, but I'll offer a representative sampling that illustrates their commitment. Most recently, the heavy rains threatened to swamp our boats. The combined efforts of Norm Yoerg, Kathy Leef,

and Mike Wong bailed out and secured the fleet. A new Clubhouse kitchen exhaust fan installed by Danny Rakus will attract the gratitude of many future cooks. Phil Iannelli and John Ingram have been replacing gudgeons (and thereby avoiding the sinking of) on the Scots. A highly-cited improvement is the photo-labeling of sailboat parts in the Barn performed by Connie Tait. Too numerous to mention are the many instructors who show up at the last minute to help out with the teaching responsibilities. For these and many other unnamed contributions, the New Castle Sailing Club is grateful.

We continue to feel optimistic about the increase in our membership. The number of active members has remained stable for a number of months (nearing 120 active members); a significant increase over the past years. Thanks to Louise Eliason and others for this effort. We are also benefiting from a steady influx of new members who simply walk up to the sail house asking about membership or who were referred by club members.

There are a number of city and state activities that potentially could affect our operations. These activities include proposed sidewalks/permanent easements around our Clubhouse property by DeIDot, a dock system off Battery Park by the City of New Castle, and a parking lot system by the same. We remain vigilant with regard to new developments; however, at this time, there is nothing new to report.

We are now starting the second half of our sailing season. As always, I encourage new members to get as much tiller time as possible; and hope that keyed members make extra efforts to get the new members on the tiller. Our racing series continues, and we will have a Holiday Cruise on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to see you on the water.

**Len Saari, Commodore**



## Capsize Drill- Rescheduled

The capsize drill is rescheduled for this Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am. Everyone on board should know what to do if the boat capsizes, including your guests for the day. You can read the procedures or you can watch a video; but the best way to prepare is to participate in our capsize drill. We will capsize a boat under supervision and under controlled conditions at the moorings. This is beneficial to both old and new members and is scheduled for Sunday **August 21<sup>st</sup>** at 11:00 a.m.

**Dave Koppeser**  
Safety and Instruction Director



Chris Getty and Chuck Shorten right the boat under the supervision of Scott Latham



Donna Powell practicing the proper technique

These pictures from last year's capsize drill show the proper technique for righting the sailboat. The committee boat will be nearby.



## Racing News

We are well into the racing season and participation has been exceptional. A couple of high points for the season include putting five of our own boats on the line for Central Atlantic Districts; along with five members who competed with their own boats. Approximately thirty club members raced in the Districts. There were also twenty or more club members who volunteered to help with shore support and dinner preparations.

We have been seeing a good turnout every week for racing even under trying conditions. The competition has been exciting and everyone has been having a great time. For example, last Saturday afternoon we put six boats on the line for the Founders Day Regatta, in spite of rainy weather. We were finally chased off the river by a thunderstorm, but we did complete two races in the rain.

This year's Frank Nelson Memorial Charity Regatta on July 16<sup>th</sup> had great participation with five boats on the starting line. Club members raised nearly \$400 for the March of Dimes, Delaware Chapter in honor of long time club member, Frank Nelson.

I have not counted how many members have been involved in racing this season, but I would guess almost half of our membership has participated at one time or another. It has been great!!!

A race clinic was held on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Some of the points that were covered included- "roll tacking" a Thistle, a powerful "go fast" technique; if your skipper keeps moving forward on the gunwale, he/she isn't getting overly friendly...there is a reason; Why is "flat" so "fast"; and What is an "S" turn and why and when do you do it.

Of course, you can never practice spinnaker jibes enough, especially with the wind speeds on the increase. Practice, practice, and more practice is the only way to get to Carnegie Hall. Or Thistle Nationals.

With the fall season only a few weeks away, the wind will be picking up and the temperatures will be dropping. So, get out the foul weather gear and be ready for the Fall Race Series and the final race of the season, the Delrippet Regatta where "**BIG WIND**" usually makes its appearance.

## Summer Series Race #3- This Saturday Afternoon

The third race in our four race Summer Series is Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. At the present time Jim Tait is leading in this series with Mike Evans and Dick Harrison close behind. With two more races in this series, anything can happen. Go to <http://newcastlesailingclub.org/raceresults/2011SummerSeriesResults.pdf> for a look at the standings.

We will continue with **afternoon races throughout August**. Sign-ups start at 1230, Meeting at 1300, start first race at 1400, last race not started after 1630.

**Kevin Foley, Racing Director**



## Thistle Class National Championship 2011

The Thistle Nationals were held this year in Pensacola, FL during the first week of August. Fifty-four boats were on the starting line with the top skippers and race crews from around the country. Among this group were four NCSC skippers, Earl McMaster, Scott Buehler, Chris Annand, and Dave Deptula with NCSC members Danielle Bower, Mike Hennessy, and Sally Rusk as crew. Sally also competed as skipper with Danielle as crew in the Women's Race and placed third. Congratulations!!

Six races using an Olympic course and lasting at least an hour each were completed. Alan Terhune who conducted our Race clinic in June placed third at Nationals.

**Congratulations to the NCSC members for putting the New Castle Sailing Club on the racing map.**



Another Wednesday night sail for Lloyd Johns



## Upcoming Events

**September 5<sup>th</sup>**- Labor Day Holiday Cruise- Join the fun as we sail south to Fort Mott and (if the current and weather cooperate) moor the boats for a picnic on Fort Mott. Be sure to pack a lunch and some water for this cruise. Afterwards, there will be ice cream sundaes!

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**- Pea Patch Island Regatta. Different every year, so we'll have to wait and see.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>**- Fall Open House- Volunteers are needed- skippers, crew, and ground/registration support.

**Wednesday Night Fun Sails**- Every Wednesday night club members meet at 5 p.m. to go out for a pleasure sail. Great time to relax!



## Newly Keyed Members

A **Big Shout** goes to Hans Gass, Tom Gorman, and Jeff Arriza for obtaining their keys. Congratulations!



Patti Parziale and Lorna Lee on a Wednesday night sail



Ken Cavender and Kevin Foley after the Founders' Day Regatta

## Founders' Day Regatta

The New Castle Sailing Club was established fifty-eight years ago by a group of avid sailors who wanted to sail on the Delaware River. Each year a Founders' Day Regatta is held to commemorate our humble beginnings. Despite rain and thunderstorms, six boats (five Thistles and one Flying Scot) were on the starting line. The Regatta is a fun, yet competitive event and two races were completed before the thunder and lightning chased everyone off the water. There were no group pictures of the participants. Hope everyone had dry clothes in their cars. Ken Cavender and Len Saari were on race committee. Thank you!

Skipper Kevin Foley with Mike Hennessy and Kathy Leef as crew came in first place.



Skipper Tilo Stahl with crew Anita Stahl and Steve Stavrakis came in third place



Skipper Chris Poulouin with crew members Donna Powell and Scott Diestelkamp placed second.

Norm Yoerg skippered the Flying Scot with Faith Zimmer and Lloyd and Sally Johns. Mike Evans and Danielle Bower raced in a Thistle. Skipper Dick Harrison with crew members Trish Cavender and Lisa Matthews rounded out the participants of the 2011 Founders' Day Regatta.



Despite the rain, everyone seemed to have a great time. And the tradition continues. In less than two years the club will be celebrating **60 years!** Plans are underway for a great celebration to mark our anniversary. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please give them to any Board member.



### Life of a Sailor

I am now reading a book about the history of the Atlantic Ocean and the sailors who plied its waters. I just finished reading in that book a poem called "The Seafarer" by an 8th century Gaelic writer. It recounts a tale of the terrible trials of a voyage on the North Atlantic seas. One line from it reads (as translated in 1912 from the Gaelic by Ezra Pound)- "Storms, on the stone-cliffs beaten, fell on the stern. In icy feathers, full off the eagle screamed with spray on his pinion."

I thought it suggested that sailors are sometimes a bit aloof from ordinary land-bound folks, maybe with a more positive attitude or even a bit of swagger as we encounter the challenges of the water. One example of the challenges can be the recent thunderstorm that popped up this past Saturday afternoon. And I felt a bit of spray on my pinion as well.

In any case, since I love to learn the origin of words, the word "aloof" is actually a nautical term from the 13th century. It comes from the order given to the steersman (or in our case, the person with his or her hand on the tiller) to keep "a-luff" or away from a lee shore. So many of the words we use today are derived from those early times. They remind us how much our culture in the early days of our country (as well as Britain) was maritime, steeped in the tradition of the sea.

### Norm Yoerg



### Newsletter Articles

NCSC members are encouraged to write articles and/or submit photographs for inclusion in the club's monthly newsletter. You can email articles, announcements, and photographs to [khleef@verizon.net](mailto:khleef@verizon.net).



Photo by Chris Getty



The pot of gold is a beautiful day of sailing

Photo by Tina Deptula