

New Castle Sailing Club

N E W S L E T T E R

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Editor: Kathy Leef



Commodore's Corner

I hope that you survived Hurricane Irene without any major problems. I'm happy to report that the boats and property of the NCSC were virtually unaffected. For this outcome, we have many club members to thank for helping with the haul-out and re-launch of the boats. All of the boats were hauled out on the Friday before the hurricane. On the Monday following Irene's visit, a crew assembled to shovel all of the sand that had been washed in front of the dinghy house doors. During the same week, the Scots, Hunter, committee boat, and Thistles were re-launched in two days. Just in time for cruising during the week and racing on Saturday. Because of this great volunteer effort, we moved quickly and avoided a potential catastrophe. Again, thanks to the many who helped with the Fleet Haul-out effort.

This time of year the NCSC Board of Directors will set the budget for the upcoming sailing season. The final budget will be approved at the October Board meeting. Major expenses will probably include new sails for the Scots (Thistle sails were replaced this year) and a new jib for the Hunter. This year we have been testing (on a trial basis) a Lazy Jack system on the Hunter that allows for a quick raising and lowering of the mainsail. The Lazy Jack system significantly reduces the time required for rigging/derigging the mainsail. Phil Iannelli, Scot Fleet captain, reports that the mainsail has suffered much less

wear when flaked using this system compared to the usual removal and rolling. Accordingly, the Board has decided to purchase and retain the Lazy Jack system as a permanent feature on the Hunter. Thanks to Lelan Hurst for giving the Club the opportunity to test this apparatus without having to invest any initial money.

Our Membership director, Louise Eliason, will be directing the NCSC Open House on September 24th (beginning at noon) which will coincide with New Castle's Art on the Green event. If you have friends or colleagues who might be interested in sailing, the Open House is a great opportunity to introduce them to the sport. The workings and facilities of the Club will be explained and free sailboat rides will be offered.

Finally, please begin to plan for our final regatta of the season- The Delrippet- on October 22nd. There are many chances for helping out with the regatta itself or working as crew with the racers. Our Racing director, Kevin Foley, would be happy to accommodate you. Enjoy the remainder of the sailing season.

Len Saari, Commodore



When Hurricane Irene came for a visit

The weather forecast predicted a Category I hurricane that would come ashore near us and travel up through Philadelphia and New York City. Emergency preparations all along the northeast coast took place, including hauling out the NCSC fleet and relocating it to the clubhouse property. The weather on Friday, August 26th was calm and sunny. From noon until 4 pm NCSC members hauled out the entire fleet and relocated the boats to the clubhouse property. Steve Stavrakis brought pizza from his restaurant to help feed the workers on Friday. The boats were secured and everything was tied down, due to the predicted high winds of a Category One hurricane. Despite the forecast, Irene turned out to be mild with winds 35-40 mph. The state of emergency declared by Delaware was lifted. There were some power outages, but the fleet and NCSC suffered no damage. The task of cleaning up and re-launching the fleet remained.



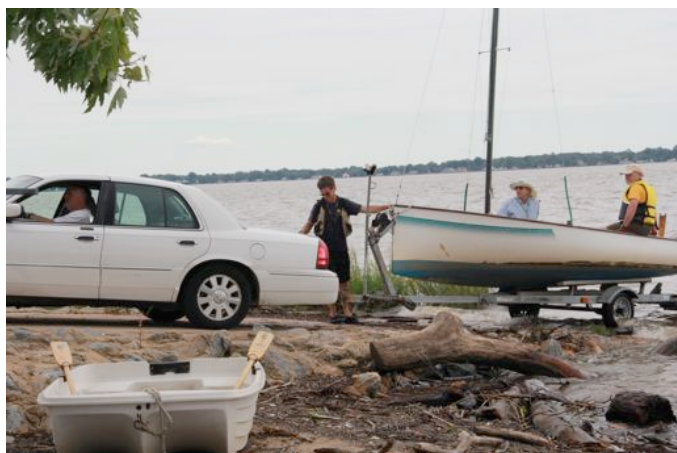
The hurricane left tons of debris on the beach and floating in the river for weeks. On Tuesday August 30th the Scots, committee boat, and Hunter were re-launched in a couple of hours. On Thursday September 1st the Thistles were re-launched. During the races on Saturday the skippers had a hard time dodging all the debris in the river. The sailing and Labor Day cruise went on as planned. A big thank you to all the members who helped out with the haul-out and re-launch.





The Hurricane Aftermath

All that debris didn't stop anyone from sailing or racing in the weeks following the hurricane. The flooding upstream deposited tons of tree limbs on our beach. In preparation for the Open House on September 24th Dan Rakus organized a Beach clean-up on Sunday September 18th. The City of New Castle had already removed 2.5 tons of debris from the beach midweek; and a City representative was surprised on Sunday that there was still so much trash that needed to be cleared. With chain saw in hand a gang of NCSC volunteers cleaned up the beach. Nice job!



The Hunter goes in with Mike Wong and John Ingram



Jim Tait directs the Hunter to its mooring



The last minute effort to secure the fleet before the hurricane; and then to turn around, return the boats to their moorings, and to remove tons of debris from our beach was truly amazing. A BIG Shout Out to all who helped in this effort and to those who wanted to help, but had to work.



Before the clean-up

Photo by Herbert Harvey



The Chain Saw Gang

Photo by Herbert Harvey

The pictures on this page were taken by Herbert Harvey who was walking in the park during the beach clean-up. He was able to capture the event for us, and submitted the pictures for us to use in our newsletter.

Everyone is welcome to submit pictures and/or articles for the club's newsletter. Even if you're "not good at writing", give it a shot.



Open House- Saturday, September 24th

Now that we have a beautiful beach- The club's annual Fall Open House is scheduled for **this Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.** The City of New Castle is also having their annual Art on the Green. Be sure to come to the Open House, meet guests, volunteer to help with the event, and promote the club. Contact Louise Eliason, Membership director at eliasonlr@verizon.net, if you can help.



A pristine beach afterwards

Photo by Herbert Harvey

Labor Day Cruise

Members met Monday morning for the club's Labor Day Holiday cruise on a warm, partly cloudy day. The winds were light at first as the two Scots left the moorings, but increased throughout the cruise. Eight sailors, including one guest, enjoyed the sail as they crossed the river to the Jersey side and followed the jetty line south to Fort Mott. We had a nice, up close look at the jetty as we sailed parallel to it. Bob Cann was our "cruise director" and we planned how to beach/anchor the Scots off shore so that we could picnic on the beach at Fort Mott. One boat made it, but was soon chased off by the park ranger who told us that sailboats were not allowed to launch from Fort Mott. Oooops! Couldn't resist staying long enough to get a picture.



Bob Cann, guest Dudley Cunningham and Tom Gorman



Malcolm Carlock and his son Alex with Ruth and Mike Evans

Everyone had a great time. After the cruise we had ice cream sundaes back at the clubhouse. Thanks to Mary Davis, Vice Commodore.

Unfortunately, the Labor Day cruise was the club's last holiday cruise for the season. There are only **38** more days to sail this year. The fleet will be hauled out on **Saturday, October 29th** and tucked away for the winter. Get your sail on, there's still time to get your key, practice racing skills, and go for a cruise.



Upcoming Events

Sept 24- Race- Fall Series # 1, 08:30 to noon.

Sept 24- Fall Open House, noon to 3 p.m.

Oct 1- Race- Fall Series # 2

Oct 8- Race- Fall Series # 3

Oct 15- Race- Fall Series # 4

Oct 22- Delrippett Regatta



Pea Patch Island Regatta

Each year this fun, yet competitive regatta is different. One year Delaware City hosted a city festival and the club ran a series of races off Delaware City. This year three Thistles and two Flying Scots lined up on the starting line near the club's moorings. The race course was a downwind leg to Pea Patch Island, round the island and come upwind on the Jersey side, pass north of the jetty, and finish upwind near the moorings. Winds were 6-8 knots, some white caps, and cloudy. There was a nice mix of novice crew and skippers with experienced crew and skippers. Norm Yoerg and Jim Tait acted as race committee. Every boat successfully rounded Pea Patch Island. Two of the Thistles had a great downwind run with their spinnakers flying. The first boat finished in about one hour and forty-five minutes. The winds did calm down towards the end of the race.



First place- Dianna DiMattia, Mike Hennessy, Tilo Stahl (Thistle)



Second place- Nana Kutateladze, Patti Parziale, Veronica & Larry Giglio (Flying Scot)



Third Place- Ruth & Mike Evans, Donna Powell (Thistle)