

River Debris

Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter – River Debris

January 2010

From Commodore, Bob Valentine

Hello All,

Well, with the holidays behind us and the boat show over, I believe it is official. *We are in the doldrums of winter* (No offense Mike Nolan and all you other ski bums and winter enthusiasts) There is not a lot going on at the old boat yard, at GRSC or anywhere else around the water for that matter. It's the time of year you sleep a little longer, eat a little (or a lot!) more and try to remember what it feels like to have the sun in your face and a warm wind at your back.

This *doldrum* time gave me a chance to research the meaning of the word *doldrum* and I found that its meanings listed below are strikingly familiar to terms Jim Hogan uses on Thriller to describe this crew!! listlessness, despondency, inactivity, stagnation, or a slump !! yea, that's us!!!

In colloquial usage, "being in the doldrums" refers to being in a state of listlessness, despondency, inactivity, stagnation, or a slump, as characterised in [Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*](#):

All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody Sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast did stand,
No bigger than the Moon.

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

There you have it.....doldrums.....

If you recall I sent out a flyer in early January inviting all to meet Tania Aebi, the youngest American woman sailor to sail around the world. A few of us from GRSC, including myself made it out to The Club at Hillbrook to hear Tania speak about her adventures. Seeing the homes on the drive up to The HillBrook was an experience in

itself. We actually stopped in front of the first house on the road leading to the club, thinking that it was the Country Club!!

Tania's talk and slide show was really interesting. I had this preconceived idea that people that sail around the world are always pushing themselves and their boats, racing to get around the world. I'm reading to must Sailing World I guess. Listening to Tania, I realized that isn't true. She made her way around the world the way I think we all would like to do it, 5-months in Tahiti, a few months in Australia, 10-week in the Mediterranean. If she liked the place, she stayed. If the weather was bad, she stayed.

Tania rounded sailing from the East to West so toward the end of her trip, as she left India, sailing West she choose not to sail around Africa but to sail up into the Red Sea, thru the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean Sea. She said the hardest part of her journey was sailing in the Red Sea. Lots of wind blowing directly down the length of the sea the whole time she was there which meant she would spend days tacking back and forth across the width of the Sea and only make small gains to weather. She also said it had the most abundant sea life. She wrote two books on her adventures, one called *Maiden Voyage* which I am sure you can find online.

That's it for this month!!!!

From Vice Commodore, Mike Nolan

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you all had a good holiday.

Well, your board is starting to get things ready for the 2010 Season. I've made a preliminary race schedule, which we will be refining in the next couple of months. The way the calendar is working out, we should have many open dates to schedule Specialty/Fun races.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for a Specialty/Fun race or questions/comments about our regular race program, please contact me at oldefarm@windstream.net

Try to enjoy the rest of the winter. For those who share my frozen water sport.....See you on the slopes !!!!

From Rear Commodore, Todd Rogers

Living in Chardon, I annually experience my own peculiar, seasonal hydrologic cycle: Sail on it all summer - shovel it all winter!!!

We conducted an initial discussion group session on Wednesday, January 20th. I was pleasantly surprised... Okay... overwhelmed by the turn-out. It was an eclectic mix of GRSC members, guests, youths, newbies, old salts, yachtsmen, scalawags, and rogues!!!

Although Chester's Tavern is a great place for post-race and crew training get-togethers every Wednesday night - and deserving of our year-round patronage for accommodating our unpredictable racing schedules - a more private setting, with less distractions, might be better suited for a planned educational training session!!! Based on the amount of interest/continued participation, I'll plan on scheduling any additional meetings at either GRYC or private residences, and eventually on the water!!!

Future meetings will be aimed at more specific/isolated topics such as; boating safety, laws and regulations - boat handling/crew work - racing rules/strategies/tactics - man overboard procedures - and John McLeod's Foredeck University Prior to any meeting; I will publish agendas, topics to be covered, and sign-up lists.

I hope these sessions are found to be worthwhile! If for nothing else - it is a great excuse for us to get together during this long winter season!!!

Speaking of which - I am going to schedule the "GRSC HOCKEY FIGHT NIGHT" for the 3:00 PM Sunday, February 28th Lake Erie Monsters hockey game. This coincides with the final day of the Winter Olympics, and should get us in the mood for the closing ceremonies! (The next weekend home stand is not until March 19th.) For those interested in attending - please confirm with me during the next week so that I can get ticket pricing information from Gary Nelson's daughter Lauren. Let's all go watch some body else fight it out on the water!!!

Thanks and have a Great Day!!!

-Todd

GRSC

Club Calendar

- Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the Month.
- Crew Training- every Wednesday night at Chester's Legacy Tavern in Painesville.
- Tuesday Libations-at Capp's in Leroy.
- Sunday Breakfast dates for 2010 - 1st Sunday of each month. - ~~January, 3rd~~ February, 7th March, 7th April, 4th May, 2nd
- February 28th Lake Erie Monsters hockey game
- Upcoming - Discussion group on boating safety, laws and regulations - boat handling/crew work - racing rules/strategies/tactics - man overboard procedures.