



Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter

May/June 2012

Commodore's Column

I apologize that this edition of the newsletter has been so long in coming, but it has been a very busy couple of months for all of the GRSC board members and volunteers in preparing for and successfully getting the 2012 GRSC sailing season under way.

First and Foremost; I want to thank all the members that have joined the club this year, and I want us to especially welcome these brand new club members:

- Mary Beth & Tadd Butler: General
- Christopher Chapman & Kelly Knapp General
- Chris Lonsberry & Rachel Tong: General
- Daniel (Dan) Oldham: General
- Greg Darrah: Cruise
- David (Dave) & Lynn Scarnati: Cruise
- Joe & Mimi Tomaric: Race & Cruise

With nearly all of the 2011 members returning, these new members joining, and many skippers now signing up for both racing and cruising; we have not only increased our total membership but also the size of our fleets. Thank you all.

The 2012 membership roster is now listed on the website (with a couple of late comers to be added). For any members that need the members only password, please contact me.

We will soon be updating the official email distribution lists. If you are not a member, and would like to continue receiving club emails and notices, please contact me. And please remember, it is never too late to become a club member, with the application form available on the website at (www.grsc.net).

Also, whether a club member or not, we could use support for our 2012 regatta. Keg and entertainment sponsors, cash and raffle donations, and volunteers are always needed to continue to make the regatta a successful and on-going annual event. This year any regatta proceeds (above and beyond costs) will benefit the Cleveland Society for the Blind, Cleveland Sight Center's Sailing Program.

2012 Official Calendar Changes / Additions

Please note that the following two changes have been made to the 2012 GRSC Calendar:

- Based on changes to the original CSA schedule we had received, Spring Wednesday Race No. 6, originally scheduled for June 20th, has been moved back one week to June 27th. Butch Miller and Excalibur as committee boat have agreed to this switch. This change was made to accommodate the GRSC boats that intend to participate at Cleveland Race Week (which might hopefully also help convince more of the Edgewater YC members to participate at our CSA regatta).
- From a proposal made by Fleet Captain Greg Darrah, an Overnight Flotilla/Raft Party has been added on August 11th as another of the 2012 cruising fleet events. This will be a local event conducted in after the MHYC Falcon Cup. Specific details will be provided before the event.

Racing Fleet News

I want to thank all that worked on preparing and setting the race marks. Special thanks to past commodores Bob Valentine and Mike Nolan for spearheading these efforts. All marks were spruced-up and set before the first scheduled race, with nearly all of them on station. (Please note that "E" mark is currently a little north of position – and we will work at resetting that in the very near future.)

The Spring Series club races have commenced with good turnouts. In order to have more boats available to participate, the Sunday races have been held using the new non-committee boat procedure; and it seems to have been working well so far. As this is a new race management method for us; if there are any problems, concerns, or improvement suggestions, please let us know.

The jointly-run, second annual CLYC/GRSC Invitational Race Weekend is slated for June 16th and 17th, and we have nine Grand River boats signed-up for this specialty race event. In addition to the CLYC and GRSC boats, several select invitees from Edgewater and Northeast YC's will also be participating. CLYC is graciously hosting the race and the after-party, with participating GRSC members providing the awards. I will be issuing a race plan to all participants with the specific details regarding the feeder and return races; and have been working with our friends at CLYC at organizing the dockage arrangements and race details.

(For any racing fleet members not participating in the CLYC races – please feel free to set-up a specialty club race that weekend.)

Cruising Fleet News

The Cruising Fleet Planning Meeting and Spring Picnic have both taken place, and thanks to Ron Toivonen for sharing his photos from the picnic. As both the Cruising Fleet Captain and your Commodore are new to the cruising fleet, any help, guidance, and/or recommendations that experienced cruisers can offer to Greg and I will be greatly appreciated.

Vlad Kilimnik and I are organizing the Port Stanley Cruise June 29th through July 1st. Dockage is being arranged through the Port Stanley Sailing Squadron. This is the same weekend as the Ashtabula to Port Stanley International Race, and plenty of docks should be available from Friday through Sunday afternoon. Please contact me by Wednesday June 13th if you are interested in joining us on this journey to this highly recommended destination. (Neither Vlad nor I have ever been to Port Stanley; so, again, any recommendations and/or experienced tour guides willing to join us will be greatly appreciated.)

USCG Auxiliary Safety Inspection Offer

We have received the following offer from our local USCG Auxiliary:

Commodore Rogers,

I'm the Flotilla Staff Officer of Vessel Examiners for USCG Auxiliary Fairport Flotilla. I see people are getting their boats ready to get underway, and I've seen many out on Lake Erie and Grand River as well. The question I have is how many have had Vessel Safety Checks? How many will have the proper safety equipment aboard, navigation lights properly working, etc.? As Vessel Examiners we check everything to ensure the boater has what they are required to have as per State & Federal laws. As a VE, I've found that many kayakers are not aware of what they're required to have on board as far as State & Federal laws.

Our VEs check all vessels from UPVs to kayaks. I assume that your members moor up at different yacht clubs. We can make arrangements to inspect your vessels at USCG Station Fairport's south lawn. Or we can make any other arrangements that are suitable for the members, such as going to wherever they're moored up at. Tony Ruque, one of our examiners, moors up at FHYC along with Dennis Steffy. We could possibly make arrangements to inspect your vessels at FHYC.

Let me know what works for the members. We're pretty flexible with schedules and days for inspections. If this is something that you or your members would be interested in, please let me know.

Very Respectfully,

Dana Kirk FSO-VE
USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 07-06
Email: 4kayakfun@gmail.com
Cell: [\(440\) 622-5047](tel:4406225047)

An ounce of prevention is always worth a pound of cure! If you are interested in having a safety inspection performed, please contact me and/or Dana Kirk directly.

The May 27TH Seiche

Large waves associated with a seiche hit our area on Sunday, May 27th, around 5:00 or 6:00 PM. These waves actually swept some youths off the beach in Madison. Fortunately all were quickly rescued. A seiche is a phenomena caused by wind, earthquakes or underwater landslides. Lake Erie is particularly prone to wind-caused seiches because of its shallowness and elongation.

Mark Thornton, the local meteorologist that provided us the Chi Mac Race presentation this past off-season, is contemplating a short article on the storm system that crossed the eastern end of Lake Erie that afternoon. Mark is looking for any first-hand accounts to add to his article. If you happened to have witnessed the seiche or any of its effects that afternoon, please contact me and/or Mark Thornton directly at lakeeriewx@wowway.com.

ODNR / University of Rhode Island Study

John Deller from the local Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources has again requested placing an organic contaminant sampler on our "D" mark as part of an on-going regional study that is being conducted by The University of Rhode Island. Their harness was still on the mark from last year, and we have advised John that they can again place the inconspicuous apparatus at the base of the mark. The scope and findings of this study are to be published later this year.

Website Accolades

I want to again thank Sandy Woodthorpe and Dennis Steffy for all the effort they put into updating the GRSC website. We have received various inquiries over the past several months from people wanting to sail and to learn to sail, and we've already begun getting them involved with the racing fleet. What truly amazed me was that one of these new folks drove over three hours, all the way from Bradford, PA, to race with us last weekend. When asked why he didn't try some of the clubs in Buffalo or Erie, he said that our website made our club the most welcoming.

-Todd

Vice Commodore's Report

What's New

Happy Summer!

While Butch and Todd have been working non-stop on racing and edutainment events, I'm continuing with club promotion to increase our visibility and attract new members. Bob Ulas, of the [Lake County Visitors' Bureau](#) has requested an eye-catching shot of our regatta for the Bureau's website and calendar. Also, he will help promote sailing by getting the word out to media about our regatta, which makes for a nice tourist draw to Fairport Harbor. Then, there's the upcoming boat parade that Fairport Harbor's Bicentennial Committee asked John Ollila to organize. (See below for more on that). Our revamped GRSC website is serving as an effective resource for members and crew, as well being discovered by people searching for sailing opportunities.

Launch, anyone?

Thanks to Past Commodores, Mike Nolan and Bob Valentine, Commodore Todd and Rear Commodore Butch, along with a host of willing mariners who braved the weather to prep and set the racing marks.

Our webmaster, long-time GRSC member and officer, Dennis Steffy, launched Bird of Prey and is racing again “after two years and a hell of a lot of work,” he says. Congratulations, Dennis. Sandy LaCivita’s boat, Adagio, underwent a virtual makeover and was launched in Ashtabula after work was completed at Sutherland’s. Sandy and husband, Bob, “surfed” their way to Fairport in mid-May with a mighty NE wind at their backs. She says, “We made it in record time – about 6 hours!” New ports and paint – “It’s like having a new boat,” Sandy reports.

Fred Lorenz (who isn’t a GRSC member, but probably should be) launched his beautiful wooden boat, Viking. With Tim Knott and Paul Canfield as crew, he had what he called “a perfect maiden voyage” hitting 61/2 – 7 kts. on May 24th. You may recall that Viking had suffered damages from a major storm that ripped through the Sailing Center last year.

There have been quite a few launches of all types this spring. Jayson and Erin Fabian launched their new crew member (Baby Alisz); Kelly Knapp launched her D.V.M. career after graduating from OSU (you will find her at Meadowlands Veterinary Center in Willoughby); Cathy Newpher received her paralegal certification, thus launching her new career officially; Diane Rogers has launched OUT of the wheel chair and it well on the mend, following her recent knee surgery; Tim Knott re-launched his racing participation with Pegasus bearing a new, mean-looking Goth logo. Congratulations to all! *If I missed your news, send me the notices and I’ll get the word out there.*

Boat Parade

Save this date: Saturday, July 7th 6 p.m.

A boat parade to celebrate Fairport Harbor’s bicentennial is in the works. Members of all yacht and boating clubs along the Grand River are being invited to participate.

Contact Parade Chairperson, John Ollila at jeollila@hotmail.com or myself (sandywoodthorpe@gmail.com) with questions and to register. To take part, all you have to do is show up at W mark near the East end of the Fairport Harbor breakwall before 6 p.m. From there, the parade of boats will proceed in front of the beach to the river entrance in groups according to club affiliation.

Afterward, around 7:30 p.m., participants can enjoy a BYOB BBQ party at the Sailing Center pavilion. Although late parade entries will be accepted, we need to get an idea of the number of boats participating so we can apprise the USCG and other authorities. *Yes, you can wear costumes and decorate your boat.* Stay tuned for more details.

Butch is working on putting together a man overboard and water safety training. Looking forward to that. Go to Examiner.com to read my article about hypothermia.

Have a great summer. See you ‘round!

--Sandy

Rear Commodore's Report

To All: The season seems to be off to a great start for both the Racing and Cruising fleets and I am sure that things will only get busier as time goes along. We have had good turnouts for both groups, but I would like to remind all the racers that the potluck/cookout at the Sailing Center pavilion still goes on every Sunday after the racing. Although we realize that everyone has busy schedules, it would be great to see more people show up as the season progresses.

With other tasks ongoing the scheduling of extra club events have fallen astern just a little, but here are two that we are looking forward to organizing shortly. Once again we will be scheduling a Captain's baseball night out and the dates will be sent out soon so everyone will have time to plan. This will probably be a weeknight game because everyone's weekends seem to be jam packed this year. The second event will be held when the water warms up slightly, and will be a MOB and Cold Water Rescue presentation. A few club members have offered up their expertise as well as a few outside professionals.

Hope to see everyone at the pavilion this coming Sunday.

-RC Butch Miller