



Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter

July/August 2012

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS:

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Last summer was the wettest and also one of the coldest on record, and it seemed like every time I went sailing it was "blowin' like stink". (That's official racing terminology!!!) Now this year we've been suffering through a drought and heat waves, and most of my sailing has been done in light to moderate conditions.

As an old small-boat sailor, I am not complaining. Especially since I've nearly always been blessed with enough breeze to get us around the race course, to our cruising destinations, or out for some terrific day-sails this year.

I want to thank Butch Miller and Vlad Kilimnik for organizing two great cruising fleet events this past month. The Port Stanley Canada Day weekend cruise and last weekend's trip to Edgewater YC were both terrific. There was wonderful weather, fine food, magnificent music, (although coupled with some disturbing dancing), and fantastic friends at both of these events.

Our Cruising Fleet Captain, Greg Darrah, had planned to sponsor a rafting party next weekend, but has had to cancel those plans, as he is now focused on helping with the regatta and organizing the Labor Day Weekend cruise to Ashtabula.

The racing fleet turn-out has been great this year, and continues to increase; and the individual races and series have often been very close and exciting.

The Geneva Weekend (combined) Race and Cruise is slated for September 22nd - 23rd, and I hope that you all might plan to join us for this popular and growing, annual event.

WELCOME

In the last newsletter, I happily announced that we've increased our membership this year, and introduced our brand new members. Well that trend continues, and I would like us all to now additionally welcome:

- Erin and Jason Fabian, with the Seafarer 22, *Ripple*
- Jeff Whitaker, who recently acquired the Soverel 33, *Breakaway*

I would also like us to welcome Roland Walrath who has been racing his Hunter 31, *Corona* with us during the open enrollment Summer Wednesday Series - and doing very well I must say!!!

Thank you all for becoming a part of our club, and helping to continue to make it a fantastic, fun organization.

THE REGATTA IS FAST APPROACHING

The GRSC regatta is slated for Friday, August 24th through Sunday August 26th. This year, there are some significant changes.

Mentor Harbor has changed their regatta to the weekend immediately following the Falcon Cup, pushing our regatta back one week. It is hoped that this may increase participation for both the MHYC and GRSC regattas. There will be a short feeder race from MHYC to GRSC on Wednesday, August 22nd, with a cook-out afterwards. This will give MHYC and GRSC regatta participants yet one more race to compete in.

Per a request from the small-boat one-design fleets, there will be two days of dinghy races this year instead of just one. With depleted water levels at many of the inland lakes (Berlin reservoir is supposedly completely dry), the interest in sailing on Lake Erie from the small-boat fleets has intensified, and we are hoping for a good turn-out.

To facilitate the small-boat, trailer-sailors, and anyone else that just doesn't want to go home, Grand River Marine is allowing camping on Friday and Saturday in the GRM field. (This will make it just like many of the regattas that I traveled to when I was young.)

Unfortunately, Chester's Legacy Tavern has closed its doors; and their former employees, our good friends and caretakers, will not be catering the food for us this year. Their support will be missed. To replace Chester's, we are currently looking to have several local gourmet food trucks and/or BBQ caterers serve their cuisine for us on Saturday and Sunday.

This year, regatta proceeds, above and beyond costs, will be used to benefit the Greater Cleveland Society for the Blind/Cleveland Sight Center's Sailing Program; a truly worthwhile and deserving program, which will be introduced to regatta participants by its director, Greg McGrath, as part of the Friday night opening ceremonies.

The Friday opening night party will again include a GRSC sponsored pot-luck dinner and cook-out, and the *Bad Monkey* rock band will be performing. The *Katty Whomp Us* band from Granville, Ohio will be entertaining us on Saturday afternoon. And on Sunday, The *East-Side Irish-American Pipe Band* will again be part of the closing ceremonies. These generous entertainers are performing for free or at greatly reduced fees in support of the Cleveland Sight Center.

Ladies Diane and Michele will again be coordinating the afternoon fund-raising events, and are requesting (i.e. challenging) each GRSC racing team to donate a basket to be auctioned off. (If you don't know what to fill a basket with – please contact us and we will provide you with plenty of ideas.)

Advertisement and (\$50.00) keg sponsorships are again being requested, and a donation request form is attached to this newsletter. Also, donation buckets will be placed out during the regatta to help off-set expenses, and to support the Cleveland Sight Center. So please invite family, friends, sailors, old-salts, and non-sailors alike to join us for the racing and/or the parties – (and tell them to all to bring some cash).

A regatta event flyer, poster, and Notice of Race are all available on the website, and have been distributed to various local yacht clubs for display during their recent regattas and events.

As always, GRSC members will also be needed to help with fee and donation collections, race committee and organizational duties, and event set-up and tear-down.

With everyone's help and support, I am again expecting another great GRSC regatta.

VOLUNTEER SKIPPERS AND BOATS NEEDED

Former GRSC member Donald Wayne McLeod has recently contacted me with the following request:

The Leadership Lake County Youth Program is interested in taking their 32 students out on Lake Erie the morning of September 12th. There are roughly 32 students participating who will be seniors in High School this coming year. The event will not only open the eyes of these young people to sailing (and all that it has to offer), but teach them the basic principle of team work.

So far I have Wish and Wild Things committed. I believe they could handle half the students. Any help you can give, Todd, would be greatly appreciated. I am hoping we can get all the boats to pick the students up at one location possibly the sailing center.

The proposed schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, September 12th

7:30 – 8:15 am: Breakfast and morning icebreakers (with YMCA facilitator) in pavilion

8:15 am: SAILING INTRO....activities... return to land at 11:45 am

12:00 pm: Lunch at marina pavilion

More information can be found at: www.leadershiplakecounty.org

Elizabeth A. Petro
Youth Program Manager
Leadership Lake County
391 W. Washington Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077
440-352-7520 office (M,W, F)
440-352-7530 fax

Please contact me if you are able to volunteer for this worthwhile opportunity to introduce local youths to sailing.

Thank you,

- Todd

VICE COMMODORE'S VIEWPOINT:

SUMMER 2012

First of all, thanks to Todd and Butch for all their efforts that resulted in a successful spring racing series. Thanks, also, to GRSC webmaster, Dennis Steffy, for promptly forwarding all the queries to the bridge so we can get new people involved in sailing

Be sure to visit the Grand River Sailing Club-Ohio Facebook page to check out posts and pictures from this season so far. http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grand-River-Sailing-Club-Ohio/271156339561329?sk=app_2309869772

If *anybody* has pictures from the Cooper's Classic, please post! It was a tremendous blast, and a perfectly good day for a water fight.

Our two cruises, made possible also through the efforts of Vlad, Todd, and Butch, with input from Ron Toivenen and Greg Darrah, were terrific fun. It was a real thrill for me to make it to Canada and Cleveland by water finally, after all these years of day sailing off Lake County. And, it was great to share the EYC experience and get to know new members, Joe and Mimi Tomaric (Jetstream). Remember, there's going to be a cruise to Geneva next month. Be there!

John Ollila scored a win on his Port Huron-Mackinac singlehand race. He also plotted the course for a successful and fabulously fun July 7th boat parade that caught the attention of The News-Herald. Great job, John! We scored a hit with Adagio on the front page! If you go to the web page with the article about the boat parade, you can add your comments. Go to: <http://www.news-herald.com/articles/2012/07/08/news/nh5702796.txt> I just sent News-Herald reporter, Rhonda Colvin and photographer, Jeff Forman, a thank you email and invited them to be special media guests at our upcoming regatta. Everybody cross their fingers that the editor gives them the assignment! Meanwhile, I am looking into other ways to get publicity that can attract new members and new boats, as well as promote the sport we all enjoy so much.

Please invite your friends and family to the regatta festivities later this month. Michele, Kurt and the Regatta Committee have cooked up a super weekend of music, food and fun events to go along with the excitement of racing. Looking forward to seeing many of you there, even if we haven't connected earlier this year. C'mon out!

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB)

Please be aware that harmful algal bloom (HAB) occurred at this end of the lake last month. Click [here](#) to read the Examiner.com article I wrote on it that includes some helpful links. Because we boaters usually swim offshore, we may not know about beach warnings. This stuff can make you pretty sick. – Sandy

WEATHER APPS FOR SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS

I have no fewer than eight weather/water conditions apps on my iPhone. What can I say? It's the one thing about technology I find addictive. Here's a brief rundown of what I have. Oh, first, bear in mind that developers include disclaimers about the accuracy of their programs. Recall what meteorologist, Mark Thornton told us about the lag time between radar data acquisition and weather radio broadcasts. (If you missed his talk this spring, click [here](#) to read my write up.)

Thanks to a tip from Secretary, Kurt Kachler, I downloaded the freebie version of [WindAlert](#), which has been close to right on for wind speed and direction. It has a predictive feature that's neat. Another thing I like about WindAlert is I can set it to alert me for my preferred conditions. If you pay the monthly subscription, you get more functionality.

Mark Thornton, suggested [WeatherBug](#). It has an interesting graphical dial to show the wind direction. I like watching the needle spin.

The [Weather Channel](#) app is useful year 'round. The graphics are pretty much the same as on TV and it also has an alert feature you can set. I forget and set the audio alerts in both Weather Channel and Weather Radio apps and then things get pretty exciting when a storm is coming and they all go off at the same time. I have to remember to mute the phone if I am out somewhere in public because it scares the crap out of people.

When Channel 5 News offered a free download of its sponsored program, [WeatherRadio](#) by iMap a couple years ago, I pounced. It has all kinds of useful features, from animated radar imagery to a bunch of different alert settings for all seasons.

The most recent app I installed, [SurfingLakes](#), has conditions for all the Great Lakes – wind, waves, water temps, the Nearshore Forecast (text of the NOAA forecast you hear on VHF), buoy data and weather map that shows millibar animations so you can see where the fronts are. In

fact, the application was developed for NOAA.

Before leaving on the Canada cruise, I downloaded [The Weather Network](#). That's the Canadian weather service channel. So now I can keep track of conditions in Port Stanley. I even downloaded a nifty Celsius-Fahrenheit-Kelvin converter, [TempConvert](#).

Last, but not least, I like knowing where the surf is up, so I have [Surfline](#). Just because.

There are many other apps available and more are being created all the time. It might be fun for members to share their favorites – so email us yours. - Sandy

<http://www.windalert.com/>

<http://www.weather.com/services/mobilesplash.html>

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/surflinglakes/id418090924?mt=8>

<http://www.wired.com/geekmom/2012/04/iphone-app-review-imap-weather-radio-stay-informed-stay-safe/>

<http://weather.weatherbug.com/mobile/android.html>

<http://www.theweathernetwork.com/>

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tempconvert/id350028121?mt=8>

<http://www.surfline.com/home/index.cfm>

- Sandy

REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT:

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



Butch Miller is either out racing, cruising somewhere, or practicing for the upcoming Falcon Cup, Mentor Harbor, and GRSC regattas.