



Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter

September/October 2012

COMMODORE'S COLUMN:

2012 GRSC FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - NOVEMBER 10TH

The 2012 GRSC Fall Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet is slated for Saturday evening, November 10th, at the Grand River Yacht Club.

For the last four years we have combined these two events. Prior to that, the Membership Meeting was held in October and the Awards Banquet later in the year. To hold the Membership Meeting in November instead of October will require a change to the GRSC Code of Regulations. The 2012 Board has voted to present this change to the membership at this time so that we can formally incorporate it at next Tuesday's Board of Trustees Meeting.

The reason we are requesting that we be allowed to be hold the meeting in October OR November is that October is normally a very busy time of the year for most boaters; a time when we're trying to get that last cruise in, pulling and cleaning the marks, and ultimately pulling and winterizing the boats. This will also afford us more time to acquire nominations for next year's open board positions, prepare the trophies, acquire worthy awards, and organize the party.

If anyone has an objection to changing the regulations or having this year's event conducted the second Saturday in November, please let us know before or during next Tuesday's board meeting.

NOMINEES NEEDED

Mike Nolan, as the immediate Past Commodore, has already started soliciting nominees for next year's open GRSC board and officer positions. All positions are open for nominations.

Regrettably, we have recently been advised that Sandy Woodthorpe will not be able to serve as our 2013 GRSC Commodore due to other personal conflicts and constraints. Sandy has served this club admirably for the past two years, and has implemented numerous marketing, publicity, educational, and other communication and social media improvements. Sandy will be missed as Commodore, but it is hoped that she may continue to offer her leadership and support in these other important areas.

Over the past several years we have made significant strides in increasing membership, event participation, and club offerings. In order to maintain this trend, we need volunteers willing to help. If interested and willing, please contact Mike Nolan or any of this year's board members.

2012 GRSC REGATTA

Through the concerted efforts of many volunteers, contributors, and supporters; this year's GRSC regatta can only be considered a huge and tremendous success. Through these efforts, we were able to provide more than three days of great racing, great entertainment, great food, and a well-organized and professionally ran event.

Racing fleet participation increased at this year's regatta. This may be attributed to a variety of reasons that included an increase in marketing efforts, with flyers distributed electronically via the website and Facebook, and posted at nearly all prior 2012 Cleveland Sailing Association (CSA) events; the convenience afforded by having the Mentor Harbor regatta rescheduled to the weekend after the Falcon Cup; or the establishment of a feeder race from MHYC to GRSC. Whatever the reason(s), the combined big boat classes experienced a 20% increase in participation, and the dinghy fleet increased by more than 100%. Participation also increased off the water, with more attendees, volunteers, and many more financial contributors.

A preliminary accounting review reflects that we made over \$2,400.00. The majority of this will be donated to the Cleveland Sight Center's Sailing Program. A lesser percentage of the total amount will be put towards next year's regatta, and will hopefully allow us to continue to increase and enhance our offerings. Greg McGrath, Director of Sight Center's Sailing Program, was extremely surprised and elated when advised of our estimate donation, and he intends to use it to help maintain and/or purchase new equipment for their boats.

Throughout the weekend, many of the visiting participants expressed how great an experience they were having. A post-event review by the regatta committee and the GRSC board of trustees revealed a few minor opportunities for improvement (i.e. "glitches"), but a vastly greater majority of things that went well this year. If you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations for next year, please let us know.

LEADERSHIP LAKE COUNTY YOUTH SAILING ADVENTURE

The Leadership Lake County Youth Sailing Adventure held on September 12th was a terrific event. Six boats took out more than 35 students and LLC staff on what turned out to be a perfect morning for sailing – sunshine, blue skies, and a 10-15 knot southerly breeze. The event was designed to introduce the students from various Lake County high schools to each other; to instill the importance of first impressions and teamwork; and to introduce the students to sailing. Thanks to Donald Wayne McLeod for organizing the event and to all the skippers who volunteered their time and their boats.

GENEVA WEEKEND: "A BUST" – THE MOONLIGHT RACE: "A BLAST"

Unfortunately, shallow channel depth coupled with high winds and waves forced us to cancel this year's Geneva Race/Cruise Weekend event. Next year, we can only hope that the conditions improve, or we may have to plan head to Ashtabula instead.

In contrast, last weekend's annual Moonlight Race turned out to be a terrific time. Although starting in very light wind, a cool and building off-shore breeze coupled with a clear night and nearly-full moon made for a fantastic race around the break-wall. The after-race get-together at the pavilion went on to well past midnight.

Thanks and fair weather to all,

Todd

FROM THE VICE COMMODORE

As Vice Commodore, my goal has been to promote sailing to a wide audience and contribute to a growing, revitalized GRSC. Here are a couple of the blurbs about us:

<http://blog.lakevisit.com/tag/grand-river-sailing-club/> and
<http://pinterest.com/newsheraldinoh/things-to-do-august-2012/>

The News-Herald ran regatta pictures – front page, above the fold – on Sunday, August 19th. The caption included GRSC's web address, which is about the best free advertising you can get. The hardcopy is posted on the club bulletin board at the Grand River Sailing Center. The photos can be found in the paper's online archives.

Facebook activity spiked following the regatta. To my amusement, posting pictures late at night elicited instantaneous comments. Now I know what people do when they are not sailing. Keep posting and sharing GRSC FB posts with your networks!

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grand-River-Sailing-Club-Ohio/271156339561329?sk=app_2309869772

BTW, we need action videos –you can upload to FB or to the GRSC YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/GRSCOHIO> If you need help, let me know.

I had a small number GRSC bumper stickers and business cards printed. They will be available for sale at the club's fall election meeting. I stuck two on the back of my car – lots of thumbs up, nods and smiles. No middle fingers – really! If you want to show your pride and help promote the club, buy a sticker and grab a handful of cards to pass out. Both the cards and stickers show the GRSC website address.

Speaking of the website, the updated copy was the first phase. Stay tuned for graphical redesign and updated functionality. Please contribute to the club's History page with write ups and photos.

It's been an incredibly busy and productive year for me professionally, and with the club. I want to thank everybody for the opportunity to serve as Rear Commodore and then Vice Commodore. I will **not** be running for Commodore, however. This is mainly due to an increase in my communications consulting work and other responsibilities. Sure, I could sit on my laurels, but being a figurehead is simply *not me*. Butch Miller is certainly qualified to take over the helm, and I trust you all will support him. I hope that GRSC continually revitalizes with innovative leadership, novel ways of reaching out and putting on events, and also that racing and non-racing members can find creative ways to enjoy the club together.

See you later this fall, if not before.

Best,

Sandy

GRSC

Club Calendar

- The October Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 9th at 7:00 PM, at GRYC
- The Fall Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet will be Saturday, November 10th, starting at 6:00 PM, at GRYC