



Tell tale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club



web page: www.sailsaratoga.org

March, 2007

From the Commodore

Ray & Del Biedron, longtime SLSC members, died on January 22nd in an automobile accident in Florida. Ray was an avid musician, vocally and on several instruments including banjo and trombone. Ray & Del were in Florida so that Ray could perform with the Windjammers, a circus band associated with Ringling Bros., Barnum & Baily Circus.

I first got to know Ray as pick-up crew in Sunday series races. Ray later crewed for me in several series races and in a regatta or two. I know that he crewed for others frequently. Ray was a good man to have on board; a congenial companion no matter how the race was going.

I remember, in particular, a Sunday drifter where there was a lot of time for conversation while we were waiting for the wind to come back up. At the time (the mid 1990s) I was a member of the Saratoga barbershop group, The Racing City Chorus. This came up in conversation and that was how I found out that Ray was a singer too. We ended up singing an impromptu harmonization of Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies". Ray later introduced me to The Mendelssohn Club of Albany, where he and I sang together for many years, and where I still sing.

Ray was a "can do" man. The extended usable shoreline north of the committee boat shed was his personal project. Using only manual tools like axes, picks, and shovels, and the help of volunteers during spring & fall work parties, he significantly expanded usable space available to club members.

But the chief thing I remember about Ray was his cheerfulness, even in the face of bad fortune. Being in the presence of Ray and his infectious optimism was like stepping into warm spring sunshine after a cold, dark winter.

Please be sure to read the accompanying article from Ray's son Will (Scott) Biedron about the planned memorial service on March 24th.

Other Upcoming Events

April 12..... Board Meeting
May 5.....Spring Work Party #1

Commodore's Ball

Friday, March 30th
at
The Vista, Van Patten Golf Club

Cocktails at 6:30 PM
Dinner at 7:30 PM

RSVP to your written invitation
by March 22nd if you plan on attending.

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Ray Biedron

Letter from Will Biedron

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This is William Scott (Will) Biedron, Ray Biedron's son. (Dad called me Scott for my whole life, so don't be confused.) There are several topics that I'd like to touch upon in the context of remembering my parents and the upcoming memorial service in their honor.

Memorial Service

I am in the process of planning a memorial service for my parents. It will be held at St. Georges Episcopal Church in Clifton Park (on Rt 146 west from exit 9 on Rt 87, just past Moe Rd.) on Saturday March 24th at 2:30pm. It will be rich with many kinds of music that my parents loved, including brass, banjos and lots of choral music. I understand that the Mendelssohn Club would like to sing a piece or two at this service, and I'll be working with Carl and others to choose the most appropriate pieces. Please let him know if you are available to sing that day. To improve logistics during the service, we may ask you all to sit near one another.

Remembrance Book

Many of you knew my father for a very long time and you may have lots of wonderful memories of him. I would like to create a binder / scrapbook that contains as many of memories as possible, and I'd like to have this binder on display at the memorial service. I will certainly continue to add to the binder after that, but having something ready for the service on March 24th would be a nice a goal.

My cousin Diane Cramer has graciously volunteered to help compile the binder for us. To make this as easy as possible on everyone (except possibly Diane), I'd like to suggest the following:

If you would like to physically write a note (real paper and pen!) and have it included in the binder, please send it to this address: Diane Cramer, 620 Monches Road, Colgate, WI 53017.

If you would like to send an email with some thoughts, please forward it to Diane at this email address: tdcramer@netwurx.net.

Gifts in Memoriam

I've gotten a lot of calls from folks wondering what they can do to contribute something in my parents' names. After a lot of soul searching regarding what my parents would probably like to see done (as well as some research on tax-related matters), I've decided to create a charitable fund from some of their estate. This fund will be used to help pay for musical instruments for children that can't afford them, one or more music education scholarships, and some charities that my parents were already giving to, including the Alzheimer's Research Foundation.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make

checks out to "St. Georges Church" and send them to the church at 912 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY 12065. I will work with the folks at St. Georges to transfer these funds to the appropriate places.

That's it for today. Thank you for being such great friends to my father and for helping to making his musical life so vibrant for such a long time. His life was vastly richer for being a part of your organization, and we are all lucky to have had him in our lives for so long.

Sincerely, Will Biedron Mobile / Messages 617-970-1600

A Memorial Statement: Ray & Del Biedron, 2007

by Randall Rice

At age 82, your historian can look back over 42 years as a member of SLSC. Although now not an active sailor, I feel the same strength of belonging that I found when Elly and I joined the club in 1964.

As new members, we were quickly aware that this was a club made up of people with diverse personalities and talents. Regardless of age, occupation, gender or ability, there was one common thread that bound all together - and that thread grew stronger as the days and years of membership passed. That thread was dedication!!! And that thread could not be found stronger than in the lives of Ray and Del Biedron.

Ray and Del joined the club shortly after we commissioned our present property. Ray introduced his Rebel to the club, which turned out to be quite fitting, as Ray was quite a rebel himself. Over the years, there were several occasions where he vocally and vigorously opposed some of "managements" rulings and procedures.

On the other side of the page, Ray was an accomplished musician and sang with some of the most prestigious choral groups in the area. He also played guitar and banjo at some of our festivities.

Ray had the spark that kept the club's kettle boiling: fortunately Del was there to put a lid on the pot before it spilled over.

Ray was basically a day-sailor, but because of the club's emphasis on racing, he replaced the Rebel with a Rhodes-19 (a racing version of the O'Day Mariner) and later bought a 470 for his son.

But the one trait that he preserved over the years, was dedication. I don't know that he ever missed a work party and his specialty was the area near the boathouse. One person commented, "he cleaned it up so thoroughly, it looked like he was building a road to Saratoga!"

Ray and Del were killed last month in a tragic car accident in Florida. We will miss the fuse that set the spark!!

Grounds and Waterfront Improvements

by Allan Miller

Thanks to the membership who voted in favor of the improvements our committee recommended (it was unanimous). That was the easy part. Now that we have the funds, we need to prepare to do the work. Fortunately, right now we are in the preparation stages so the needed work is easy but very important.

One of our most ambitious tasks is to prepare the lower section of the upper barn for efficient storage of both club and members sailing equipment and to ready the sail shed for demolition. The last thing we want to happen is for any member to lose track of their equipment. To help prevent this, we need each member that has anything stored in any building on club property to spend a little time marking everything with your name so we don't inadvertently adopt it for the sailing program or dispose of it. We will be planning work parties to start the cleaning process as soon as the weather is cooperative and expect this to be well in advance of the spring work party. So pick a nice winter day, go over to the club, enjoy the beauty of the snow covered lake and woods, and mark your stuff.

The work that will need volunteer assistance is listed here.

North Ramp Replacement - The deteriorated north ramp concrete sections will be replaced with a solid concrete slab.

Fuel Containment - Action will be undertaken to protect the environment from a possible fuel spill in the race committee shed.

Boat House Transition - The boat house is a safety hazard to the membership and cannot be used. We will be adapting the lower level of the big barn as an interim storage facility until the issue of a new boat house is resolved.

New Dock Sections - The planned yearly replacement of dock sections has been a successful program and should be continued. In addition, a new ramp connecting the middle dock to the crane will be constructed.

Crane Work - Paint the crane

Water rack relocation - Moving the water racks to the North to free beach access

Beach Improvements - Removal of rocks along the main beach in front of the lower lawn to facilitate all uses of the beach/shore line.

Board Boat Rack Improvements - Relocation and consolidation of boats, removal of the section paralleling the shore in front, refurbishing sections needing work, and moving the section paralleling the sail shed closer to the house to get it out of the low wet area.

Please send me an email amille2@nycap.rr.com or give me a call 885-5510 and we will get you on the team of your choice.

Annual Budget Meeting

by Bruce Blackie, Treasurer

The annual budget meeting of the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club took place on Sunday February 11, at which time the 2007 budget plan for Club operations was presented and approved by the members in attendance. To meet the short and long-term needs of the Club, which have been identified by the several special study groups, the 2007 budget includes a dues increase of \$75 for all regular, young adult and senior memberships and an increase in boat registration fees from \$15 to \$25. The last dues increase was in 2003.

With the dues and fees increase, the 2007 operational surplus will enable the Club to carry out a sizeable special project agenda which will maintain and improve the Club's facilities and member services. Funds have been identified to address the house foundation and drainage problems, which is critical to the long-term benefits of any siding decision that may be made. On the waterfront, the yearly replacement of dock sections will continue and the deteriorated north ramp concrete sections will be replaced with a solid concrete slab. Funds will also be available to assist in the transition of sail and equipment storage from the boathouse to the lower level of the big barn due to the safety hazard concerns of the existing building.

While significant, the funds available for special projects in 2007 do not address the more significant long-term needs of the Club, which have been identified. These needs include the replacement of the club house siding, the repair or tear down of the small lower barn, the need and configuration of a redesigned boathouse building, replacement boats and motors, and improved boat park fill and drainage. Without a doubt, these needs will require long-term debt financing by the Club. Hunter Currin has agreed to chair a group to take on the formidable task of combining and reconciling the many study group recommendations with the various alternatives for the structure and capacity of long-term debt for the Club. Hunter's report and recommendations to the Executive Board and Club members is targeted for a midsummer completion.

If you would like a copy of the budget presentation, which includes the financial details of the 2007 operating budget of the Club, please email your request to treasurer@sailsaratoga.org.

Your Sailing Program Needs You!!

By James Nicol

The Cooper family recently announced exciting and happy news, that Sara is getting married in the spring and moving to California. Our offer to Sara of running the SLSC sailing program couldn't convince her fiancé to postpone the nuptials! Sara grew up in our sailing program, and then did a fantastic job last year working with John Power to run it, so we will miss her greatly. But we wish her all the best for the future and hope that she'll be back to sail at SLSC from time to time.

I'd like to review some key points about the program and ask for your help:

Format:

The program details are now up on the SLSC website. Like previous years, we'll run 2 levels (beginner and advanced) for children, but this year the program will be two weeks long. More days means more time to learn and apply skills and hopefully more days to offset any inclement weather. The adult session has proven to be wildly successful, so our plan is to run multiple evening adult sessions, split between beginner and experienced levels, from late June through mid August. Once again, we're opening the program to the public, and will be doing some promotion to build more awareness.

Head Instructor:

John Gallagher, Allan Miller, John Power and myself, have begun the process of selecting a Head Instructor and have received several inquiries from experienced and qualified people, so we're confident we will be able to bring in a top-notch instructor team for the program.

Boats:

Our goal is to build on the successes of last year, and again ask members of the Laser and Flying Scot fleet to lend their boats for the program. Borrowing boats is obviously not ideal, but it worked well last year and until we acquire and maintain suitable boats for the program, we are asking for the continuing generosity and trust of Scot and Laser fleet members to help support it. Thank you in advance.

Volunteers:

We could really use the help of some club members to help instruct and assist, particularly for the adult sessions. Are you a retiree or a teacher with some time during the summer you could devote to the club? Would you be able to help share your skills and love of sailing with our students, if even for a few days or evenings? Are you a Scot sailor who would like to skipper and instruct in your boat? If so, please let me or John Gallagher know, and again, thanks in advance.

The 2007 program details are on the SLSC website. Help us make our 50th year program a wild success. Encourage your kids or friends to participate. If you have relatives staying this summer, they should really learn to sail to help explain this obsessive behavior you have exhibited all these years!

Information Request

Barbara Prince-Miller is gathering information about previous commodores for our 50th celebration. If anyone knows the address, telephone, or e-mail address of the following:

Hugh (Tommy) E. Thompson,
Robert C. Ewell,
William Webb,
Ted Clark,
Frank Ryan,

please contact Barbara at 518-885-5510 or e-mail her at amille2@nycap.rr.com.



On the Block

Ensign Sailboat:

23 ft. full keel daysailer. Hull number 174. Very good condition. Cabin top refinished by Deluke Marine, rudder repaired using marine ply and WEST system, cockpit seats and bright work varnished and well maintained. Mainsail (with reefing gear), no. 1 genoa, no. 2 genoa, working jib, spinnaker. Nissan 3.5 long shaft outboard. Canvas mooring cover that totally encloses cockpit and cabin top currently undergoing restoration at canvas shop. Steel cradle and 150lb. mushroom anchor and mooring chain included. \$5500.00

Call Larry Smith @ 482-3307 or send email to larsman76@hotmail.com

Ice Boats:

Free: Two ice boats. Need a little maintenance.
Call Allan @ 885-5510

Hobie 17:

Good condition, newer mainsail with low usage, aluminum trailer, stored indoors winters except last winter, water rack included. \$2200

Call Fred Barker @ 518-355-7581
or send email to fbarker@nycap.rr.com

Optimist Pram Jig & Tooling:

Free to a good home: jig and tooling for building wooden Optimist prams. I used this jig to build two Optimists for my grandchildren a few years ago, but have no plans to build more. If anyone (or any group) is interested in a building project, I can make myself available as a consultant.

Call John Hudson @ 374-0228, or send email to jhudson@nycap.rr.com.

2007 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Commodore.....	Clark Cooper
commodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	372-9607
Vice Commodore.....	James Nicol
vicecommodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	449-3537
Rear Commodore.....	Dave Hudson
rearcommodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	370-4894
Secretary.....	Joan Link
secretary@sailsaratoga.org.....	439-2471
Treasurer.....	Bruce Blackie
treasurer@sailsaratoga.org.....	583-0759
Flag Lt. Boats.....	Tony Bianchini
boats@sailsaratoga.org.....	583-4514
Flag Lt. Grounds.....	Tony Cannone
grounds@sailsaratoga.org.....	271-0246
Flag Lt. House.....	Rick & Carol Fish
house@sailsaratoga.org.....	899-6717
Flag Lt. Race.....	Paul Waterfield
race@sailsaratoga.org.....	584-5552
Membership.....	Allan Miller & Barbara Prince-Miller
membership@sailsaratoga.org.....	885-5510
Newsletter/Publicity.....	Fred Barker
publicity@sailsaratoga.org.....	355-7581
Sailing Program.....	John Gallagher
sailingpgm@sailsaratoga.org.....	793-5859
Social.....	Shirley Waterfield
social@sailsaratoga.org.....	584-5552
Historian.....	Randall Rice
.....	785-7965
House Attendant.....	Kathy Johnston
kmorrisjohnston@aol.com.....	583-9646
House Phone.....	584-9659

SARATOGA LAKE SAILING CLUB

The Saratoga Lake Sailing club promotes and develops interest in sailing and sailboat racing.

The Club cooperates with and aids individuals and groups interested in sailing and requires in return, observance of such rules and regulations as are set forth by this organization.

ACTIVE FLEETS

Ensign.....	Bruce Blackie
	583-0759
Flying Dutchman.....	Bill Hamilton
	877-5203
Flying Scot.....	Peter Seidman
	877-8731
Hobie 17.....	Don Railton
	584-4866
Jet 14.....	Al Tedrow
	371-8765
Kestrel.....	Tony Bianchini
	583-4514
Laser.....	Alan Miller
	855-5510
Sailboards.....	Dick Blackmer
	399-0541
Thistle.....	John Hudson
	374-0228