



# Telltale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

Web page: [sailsaratoga.org](http://sailsaratoga.org)



July, 2008

## From the Commodore

By James Nicol

My comments for this Telltale have both a dose of celebration and great sadness, as we must announce the death of long-time member Ed DeFeo. Tragically, he died before we could let him know that the Board just last week voted him an Honorary Member of SLSC due to his long service to the club.

The club's constitution lays out a class of membership called Honorary Member. It is intended for "a person whom the club wishes to honor for their contribution to the club...They are entitled to all the privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office."

The SLSC Executive Board unanimously voted to award three members honorary membership status. Honorary membership is rarely given, so it is indeed an honor to recognize these individuals for their many years of unstinting service to SLSC, in fair weather and foul, and in countless ways that we all have benefited from.

We are granting honorary membership to the following:

Danny and Joan Goldstein  
Gwynfor and Joyce Gummer  
and of course Ed DeFeo.

Ed passed away before we could let him know of his honor, but that doesn't diminish our gratitude we will continue to feel for all he did for SLSC. Please congratulate Danny, Joan, Gwynfor and Joyce when you see them.

In addition to celebrating Ed's life, as this edition of the Telltale goes to press, we're also looking forward to an enjoyable July 4th and the BBQ at the club. I hope you can come and enjoy the day, as well as the fireworks on Saturday evening being provided by the Saratoga Lake Homeowner's Association. The club should be a great spot to view the fireworks being set off from a barge on the lake, starting at about dusk.

## Saratoga Derby Laser Regatta

By Allan Miller

The key to the day on Saturday June 14 was being patient to wait until nearly 3:00 PM for the wind to build to allow racing to be held. The outstanding race committee work by Jerry Burr, Jim Benson, Bruce Blackie and John Kimball

facilitated three races in what began as a light westerly and settled into a very nice steady southwest breeze that made great close racing for the 16 boat fleet. The usual outstanding, excellent and consistent sailing by Charles Williamson of Ithaca won him the regatta with three first places.

Sailing very well, the Laser sailors of Saratoga brought up the next four places with Mike Kitner, second, me third, Scott Meyer fourth and James Nicol fifth. It was great to have eleven of our club members participating, including Jerry Zell (9th place and 3rd Sr.), Dave Burtis, 10th, Bill Hamilton 11th, John Howe (2nd Jr, 12th), Greg Tkai 13th, Devon Howe, 14th, and Sarah Nicol 1st woman.

Going to the Empire State Games from the Adirondack Region, all from SLSC, are Sarah and James Nicol, Scott Meyer and me.

Many thanks to the Howe family for helping with the breakfast arrangements. My special thanks to Barbara who always comes to my rescue doing a large portion of the planning and arrangements and whose creativity was the suggestion for the embroidered towels as awards.

## Upcoming Events

July 7-11.....Adult Sailing, Level 2  
July 14-25.....Junior Sailing, Advanced  
July 14-18.....Adult Sailing, Level 1  
July 21-25.....Adult Sailing, Level 2  
July 25.....Junior Regatta  
July 26.....Kestrel NA Championship  
Aug 9-10.....Flying Scot Invitational

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## STRIDESAIL 08 Join Us

By Skip Parry  
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Some of you recall our community outreach effort last summer in which we supported the ongoing efforts of STRIDE, an adaptive recreational group which provides sailing, among other activities, to the physically and cognitively challenged. We took six kids out in my Scot and Tony Cannone's Ensign on two light but spectacular evenings on the water.

This year we would like to open up the effort a little and expand the possibilities for the 6 children who participated last year, returning as veterans, by getting them into small boats for their own independent experience(s). In addition, we are looking for six more special needs candidates to start the next wave (ideally we are seeking the under 21 crowd, but exceptions certainly are possible) to begin the "learn to sail" efforts that begin on shore as many of us have. We will then move them onto the water in small groups or in multiple boats which ever **you** would prefer. I say **you**, because this is an effort **we** can all participate in, as the process is, at its core, as timeless as learning to walk or ride a bike. I will need volunteers to assist with dry land training, and on-the-water efforts for both groups for 4 consecutive Mondays beginning Aug 4th through Aug 25th.

In the end, my vision is to culminate in a regatta Saturday August 30th, where all the kids win and SLSC members facilitate some round the buoys racing as we do on Sundays, but more in community as we did for the anniversary last year. We will end the day with an awards ceremony and a little Stride festivity **all** can enjoy on many levels.

Please look up StrideSail under events at [www.Stride.org](http://www.Stride.org) in addition to the many other services Stride provides the community. You will also note that SLSC is listed as a Stride sponsor thanks to the many generous gestures made by SLSC members, you, and I, know who you are.

Thanks so much. See me or e-mail me about volunteering - you know what we need to do.



## ADIRONDACK THISTLE INVITATIONAL

By John Hudson

Sixteen visiting Thistles joined six members of the SLSC Thistle Fleet for the annual Adirondack Thistle Invitational. This regatta, held annually on the third weekend in June, drew boats from as far away as the Philadelphia area. Saturday dawned cloudy, with a southerly breeze that was light, but still enough to get the boats on the water for a 10:30 start. Race chairpersons Ann and Peter Seidman set a good Thistle length course, and we were able to get in four races in increasingly strong south to southwest winds. By the end of the day the wind was up to about 15 knots and all participants were ready to head for shore after the fourth race.

The day ended with the traditional hors d'oeuvre spread and a grilled steak and chicken dinner prepared by master grillers Dave Hudson and Ann Seidman. (Reputation around the Thistle circuit is that our fleet always provides the best regatta food anywhere.)

Sunday found us waiting for a series of thunderstorms to clear out. By 11:00 the storms had dissipated, but so had the wind. At that point we called it a regatta and awarded trophies. First place went to former Thistle National Champion Eric Gesner from the Rochester Canoe Club. John Baker from the Seneca Yacht Club was second, followed by Doc Gates, Bobby Bryant and Doug Kaukeinen, all from RCC. The top local finisher was team Hudson (Dave, John and Peter.) Other SLSC finishers were Jerry Zell (14), JT Fahy (16), Max Peter (18), Tom Kilcer (21) and Bill Barringer (22).

Thanks go to the SLSC Flying Scott fleet for providing race committee members and help with on-site logistics. Special thanks to the Seidman's for running the races and to Rob Hayes for rounding up all the volunteers.

### Ed DeFeo

Many of you have known Ed DeFeo longer than I have. We all thought that he would be around forever, but he passed away Wednesday night, 25 June 2008.

He will be long remembered for his unique sense of humor, many stories, and enjoyment of a good argument (win or lose). He was never afraid to get his hands dirty or his feet wet. He was always willing to help in anyway possible and eager to do many of the little jobs around the club that were overlooked.

Ed will be missed by all.

A memorial service is being planned for later in July.

- Howard Ghee

## Boat Usage

By Peter Renders, Flag Lt. Boats

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I hope you all have been enjoying our 08 racing season as much as I have. Blustery weather during many of our races has kept the race committee busy making sure someone was always available to provide assistance to sailors when it was required. For those of you taking part in race committee activities please take a moment to read the following motorboat usage guidelines. I will also place copies in each motorboat.

### Guidelines for Safe Motor Boat Usage

1. ***No smoking or open flame in fuel shed and around motorboats.***
2. ***Operator is responsible in seeing that motorboat is properly equipped – PDA worn by each person, fire extinguisher, bailer, paddle, throwable flotation device, boat pole and whistle.***
3. ***Safe boat operation at all times – No wake zone between shore and outer limit of mooring area, approach overturned boats and docks at engine idle, engine fuel economy is maximized at ¾ throttle.***

The club motorboats are primarily for use in support of our sailing programs. Clear other uses in advance with a board member. All persons who are using a club boat are responsible for the boat's safe operation. Start motors at minimum idle. Insure that the boat is properly equipped while allowing the motor to warm up for 1 to 2 minutes. Follow the no wake operation guideline within 500 ft of shore. (While swimming is not permitted from club grounds, persons are regularly observed in the water!) Be considerate and keep engine at ¾ throttle when cruising to maximize fuel efficiency and minimizing engine wear.

### Lower Barn Update

By James Nicol, Commodore

As I outlined in the last Telltale, the Board took up the question of what to do with the lower barn at its meeting last week, and reluctantly decided that the only rational option was to recommend demolition.

This is a disappointing outcome, as I know most members would have preferred to keep it. But the cost involved to repair the roof and correct problems such as rotted floor joists and sill plates discovered by the structural inspection was substantial, over \$20,000, and that was just to bring it back to a condition suitable for boat storage. If we then wanted to consider other uses for the barn, and properly maintain it, substantial additional investments improving access, lighting, etc. would have been needed, adding another \$5-10,000 to the cost. The Board concluded that the scale of these investments could not be justified when we have so many other pressing needs.

Due to the numerous areas of rot in both of the floors of the lower barn, it has been closed. NO ONE SHOULD ENTER THE BARN. This includes members, their families and guests and visitors to the club. Many areas of the second floor are unsafe, posing a severe safety hazard. Signs will be posted at the entrance.

Meanwhile, we plan to invest in our other (upper) barn, which currently houses equipment, to ensure that it remains well maintained and usable for a long period of time, and which, along with the house, preserves the ambiance and unique historical feel of our property. We have signed a contract to paint it, and expect to make other improvements to it.

Many people contributed much time and effort in developing options for the barn. Lois Haignere in particular, took up the cause along with Vic Roberts to bring awareness to its problems.

### Boat Park Usage

By Tony Cannone, Flag Lt. Grounds

In an effort to prepare for assigning Boat Park spaces, Fred Barker and I will be cleaning out the Boat Park area of undecaded boats beginning Friday July 11th. Boats without current year SLSC decals (expires May 2009) will be subject to relocation to the back meadow area of the club grounds. In addition we will start marking spaces with stakes by the end of July and record boat decal numbers for each marked storage space. Each assignment will be based on the current location of the members boat. We hope to have assignments completed in August and will post an Assignment Map on the utility shed at that time.

Once assignments are completed and posted we ask that you maintain your storage space by ensuring litter and equipment is properly handled. We have made an effort to put trash bins in strategic locations and expect all members to utilize them. As for storage of boat equipment, we are encouraging members to place a "deck box" directly behind their boat to store their sailing equipment in order to ease the strain on the sail storage area while we transition to a new boat house.

As usual if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me.

### Windsurfing Cleanup

Over the years we have accumulated old and unloved windsurfing equipment. To conserve space in the new sail area, after August 1st, any untagged windsurfing equipment will be stored in the meadow until next spring. If still unclaimed by cleanup day, it will be disposed of. If you have any equipment, please claim it.

Thanks, Gene Altman

## 2008 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Commodore.....	James Nicol
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Newsletter/Publicity.....	Fred Barker
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.....	785-7965
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## 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.....	Rob Hayes
	429-5002
Hobie 17.....	Don Railton
	584-4866
Jet 14.....	Al Tedrow
	371-8765
Kestrel.....	Tony Bianchini
	583-4514
Laser.....	Alan Miller
	885-5510
Sailboards.....	Dick Blackmer
	399-0541
Thistle.....	John Hudson
	374-0228