



# Tell tale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

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



September, 2008

## From the Commodore

By James Nicol

Thanks to all those that came out to enjoy a wonderful Labor Day Lobster Boil on Monday. The event was, as usual, a great success. The glorious weather made us forget (almost) the rain that we've endured this summer. The food and company was outstanding, the house and grounds were looking great. We were even treated to a display of aerobatics and fishing by our resident bald eagle, and before dessert, the sound of the pipes echoed across Manning Cove. Rob Hayes' "Bad Haggis" was paddled in front of the club with a piper on the foredeck serenading us to wild applause from the shore. Truly a Lobster Boil to remember.

Its always amazing to me that so much great food can be produced (and consumed!) so quickly. The secret is all the work that goes on for days beforehand. Once again Shirley Waterfield orchestrated an army of volunteers who together made it all happen with apparent ease. From slicing and dicing, cooking, arranging to cleaning, many were involved, so a special thanks to Charlie and Kathy Koines, Jim Benson, Kathy Funk, Barbara Prince-Miller, Jayne and Emmett McCarthy, Vic and Kathy Roberts, Bill and Janet Hamilton, Dave and Trudy Hudson and John Hudson, Carroll Cook, Charles Smith, Harry Redgrave, Leslie Rafinello, Randy and Elly Rice, Bernie Zabeck. If I've missed someone, my apologies; many more helped out -- thanks to all that were involved.

## Social Summary

By Shirley Waterfield

Labor Day is the start of many wonderful fall activities, but for me it marks the end of our big social events at the club, and with that the opportunity to meet new folks and continue wonderful friendships that have come to mean so much.

There are a number of gatherings that happened during the year - the New Member Reception, the work parties, the budget and annual meetings. And of course the racing program (Paul made me put this in). But the exciting and fun events, the Memorial Day Brunch, July 4 Barbeque, and the Labor Day Lobster Boil are what I love most about the club. The menu planning, reservations, shopping, friends offering to help in many ways, working with so many of you to prepare, serve and clean-up. I love all the different appetizers and desserts that appear -- what's better than a dessert smorgasbord?

I love that you take the time to invest in these parties to make sure they can happen for all of us to enjoy. I appreciated the Bensons and Koines taking over the July 4<sup>th</sup> party, doing a fantastic job with everything.

Labor Day was blessed with the most perfect weather imaginable. That combined with the new kitchen hood meant a cool and smoke free kitchen- pure heaven! My last count was about 230 guests came for that dinner, with many, many of you helping to make it a success. Thanks, Auciellos, for making sure the fridge was sparkling clean and empty. Thank you all for coming on Sunday to prepare food. Thanks to Jim Koines for cutting all the steaks, and a big thank you to our grillers, corn and lobster crew and clean-up gang.

You are all welcome to volunteer to help with any of these parties! Even though we ask for alphabetical help, we appreciate any and all volunteers. There are jobs before, during and after each event.

In closing, I want to encourage you all to come to the work party on Saturday, October 18. There are inside and outside jobs to be done. If you can help with lunch preparation, please call or e-mail me. It's usually a hungry crew!

Thank you for such a great season! I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

## Upcoming Events

Sept 13.....Board Sailing Regatta  
Oct 4-5.....Thistle Kaydeross Cup  
Oct 11-12.....Indian Summer Regatta  
Oct 18.....Fall Work Party  
Nov 1.....Awards Party

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It is a rare opportunity, from our little corner of the lake, to impact the world, to build community ties, and to advance the causes of children through sailing. Our Sailing (instruction) program overall has, now, international ties, is led by sailors of top NCAA sailing schools, and some of the top sailors in NYS, so when asked if SLSC could support the special needs segment of the capital district, the answer was – yes, absolutely.

We should all be so proud of our institution and the outpouring of support rendered by SLSC. For the second year in partnership with STRIDE Adaptive Sports (under the leadership of Mary Ellen Whitney and her husband LJ) who provided the vision, administrative structure, program, and students. SLSC provided a world-class environment, know-how, boats, and most importantly, the selfless devotion of club and community volunteers over a five-week process, bringing special needs children into the fold of sailing.

SLSC volunteers graciously shared the basics of sailing, seamanship, self-reliance and the many joys felt simply being in and around the water. You can see the joy in everyone's faces as they returned each week. This year we doubled our class size to 14, and as well, the accompanying need for volunteers, boats, sponsors and contributors. SLSC responded in grand fashion throughout – the first three nights we encountered this summer's all too common afternoon rain, and we adapted with some round robin, dry land, training on weather, safety, parts of the boat, points of sail, wind, knot-tying and rigging. The rain did leave us a magnificent double-rainbow on the first night and we were closely monitored by a large Blue Heron from the dock on night two as the rain came down, and we had to settle for more training on the porch.

Night three, rain challenged us still, but a brief storm passed and we actually sailed in a light southerly as black clouds passed miles away. Spirits were high out on the water as Bruce Blackie, Vic Roberts and I shoved off for the middle of the lake. The kids at first a little unsure soon grew accustomed to the heel of the boats, the pull of the sheets and the feel of the tiller as each took turns at task. Sailing in and around each other the gentle banter displayed between kids who ordinarily struggle with communication opportunity, was heartwarming as the competitive spirit could be felt and their display much like their age-on peers. Later one mother shared that her daughter counts the days between sessions - she is so excited.

On Saturday morning Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, we did a modified lesson in Optis for one boy who has participated with Stridesail in the past, but cannot do evenings as the demands of a normal day make focus an issue for him at night, we placed him, one other boy from the current class and my unflappable daughter, Cameron - each in a boat. Their courage and persistence were tremendous as they fought to escape the weeds and took to the middle of the lake in the warm August morn. Sailing towards Snake Hill on port tack in the morning thermal, it occurred to me how very normal this all appeared. Heads up, reading tell tales, sheets and tillers in

hand. Sailing may indeed be the one true, level, playing field.

Night four, Saratoga Lake showed her strong side as we sailed out in 8-10 kts and built with gusts in the 10-15 range. This excited the kids and volunteers alike as conditions demanded greater focus and quicker reactions by all in crew - applying their knowledge under the most demanding and adventurous conditions of this session.

As an enhancement and a celebration, we culminated this class in a picnic and regatta attended by Assemblyman Roy McDonald as MC. Roy engaged the participants in discussion about their efforts and congratulated them, as well as the volunteers. Roy also shared with us his understanding of special needs in his own family and what is being done at the state level to enhance the cause on many fronts under his influence. Commodore Nicol welcomed the Assemblyman and echoed the sentiments of the club and our pride in participating in this unique program in support of STRIDE and the special needs community of the Capital District.

We then took to the water and regatta, with five boats employing volunteers Mary Kate McCarty, Emmett McCarthy, Bruce Blackie and Vic Roberts and their boats attended by volunteers, James Nichol, Mike Funk and lead instructor LJ Whitney. A light breeze of eight knots beckoned as we paraded out to the racecourse honing tactics en route. Race Committee of one, Jim Benson sent us off at a great rate as we all hit the line. The weather leg was full of calls from the kids – "starboard," "leeward," "coming about," as they displayed their knowledge and their speed to the turning mark. Mary Kate and crew were off like a shot and not looking back. Bruce Blackie and company looked sharp as they chugged up the weather leg, the big jib up and full, LJ and crew at the ready. McCarthy and Funk had a brief main only attempt at psyching out the fleet as the Commodore and Vic Roberts remained steady to take fourth. FS 718 under the helmsmanship of Andrew Paolano managed a second, as the spinnaker flew under crew threatening mutiny to their instructor, yours truly, and respective volunteer crew my son Nick.

Race two, the breeze clocked more to the West as usual. Katie-Bird & Co stepped into a hole off to the left as McCarthy, Roberts and Blackie went right to pick up the breeze. The kids, a little louder this time made their marks in a close weather leg. Down wind, the pressure diminished as McCarthy and Paolano duked it out to the line with McCarthy & Co. finishing in a loud cheer to celebrate the bullet. One of Emmett's crew remarked immediately that she had never won anything before. Blackie and Roberts had close finish for 3<sup>rd</sup> and fourth. The chatter, the enthusiasm and joy as the kids and volunteers simultaneously experienced the teamwork, competition, and the pursuit of speed under sail over the course as it all came together.

Medals were presented to the kids and commemorative

T-Shirts given to kids and volunteers in a ceremony immediately following. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and supporters listed as:

Assemblyman Roy McDonald  
Board and Membership of SLSC

Joan Link	Bruce Blackie	Jim Benson
Mark Dailey	Tony Bianchini	Vic Roberts
Cameron Parry	Sean Hickey	Sarah Nicol
David Nichol	Emmett Mcarthy	Caroline Parry
Dan Spillane	James Nicol	Mary Kate McCarty
Nick Parry	Katherine Sutton	Mike Funk
Ian O'Brien	Alex Parry	

Sponsors: The Zurich Foundation,  
The Christopher Dailey Foundation  
Supercuts

Pictures by Joan Link, Ann Paolano, and  
Mary Ellen Whitney



Safety begins on land



I think he needs a large



Climb up and check it out



Raising the chute



Katie-Bird takes flight from the start



Roberts/Nichol & Co. looking sharp



Bruce and Vic come down to the wire



Close finish, but McCarthy & Co prevail



Fast friends made in class.



Chatter boxes fore and aft



The boyz



STRIDE Cup Winners, with two deuces



STRIDE Sail Class of 08

Here's an overdue recap of the racing results so far:

#### Zephyr

Twelve of sixteen scheduled races were completed in our Spring series. Historically the Zephyr isn't well attended. In fact coming out early in the year is a great strategy since uncontested first place finishes are common. Dave Hudson (Thistles), Bob Barringer (Kestrels) and Bill Hamilton (Open) all benefited from some sort of Zephyr Flu pandemic in winning their respective series. In light of this it's remarkable that fourteen (14!) skippers contested the Laser series won by Scott Meyer over Mike Kitner and Allan Miller. Bernie Zabek got by Glenn Miner, Peter Seidman and six others in Scots while Bruce Blackie continued his dominance in Ensigns. Tony Cannone gave Bruce his only defeat (a second place) in the series.

#### Manning

Eleven of twelve Wednesday night races were sailed. Only ten were counted due to a blunder by the race captain who requested anonymity after misplacing the results of the pivotal sixth race. Forty three skippers participated and 25 helped set a record for qualifying by sailing at least four races. Bill Barringer set a record for burgers and dogs grilled without setting off the smoke alarms. Bill and Janet Hamilton won the hotly contested series over Scott Meyer, JT Fahy, Dave Hudson and Bernie Zabek. Losers, please note that I reconstructed the sixth race as well as I could and can certify that Bill would have won the series even if he hadn't lost those results.

#### Robinson

This series falls between Memorial Day and Labor Day when a lot of members are doing other things. Participation was incredible with fifty-one skippers but only eleven qualified by sailing at least five out of the twelve races. Bernie Z won his second Scot series by a tie breaker over Ann Seidman. Peter Ebert was third. No Thistles qualified but Dave Hudson was given a three week pass to attend the Thistle Nationals in Pensacola and Scott Meyer needed only one more race to qualify and claim first place. Joe Choi won his umptieth Kestrel series. Seven others sailed but only John Collins came close to qualifying with four finishes. Lasers turned out in force again (17 skippers!) but qualifying was limited. Allan Miller edged Mike Kitner 1.44 to 1.50 and Dave Burtis was third. Eight Ensigns came out over the course of the series but only Bullet Bruce Blackie (he had five) and Fred Barker had the necessary number of finishes to qualify. John Kimball turned the table on Bill Hamilton for first in the Open Fleet.

#### Season Championship

With only five more races to sail in the Kaydeross series and Bill Hamilton's Race Captain assignments in the rear view mirror it appears that Dave Hudson has the Championship within reach. Stay tuned.

#### **Indian Summer Regatta**

**Saturday and Sunday October 11-12**

**Skipper's Meeting: 0930**

**\$ 30 US Sailing Members**

**\$ 35 non-US Sailing Members**

**Cost includes coffee, doughnuts, soda, beer and prizes  
Overall and Fleet scoring for fleets of 5 or more boats.**

#### **Racing Awards Party**

**Saturday November 1**

**6:00 Cocktails**

**7:00 Dinner**

**Wheatfields in Saratoga Springs**

#### **Sailing Program Continues to Grow**

By Tony Bianchini

Building on the success of last year's sailing program under the direction of John Gallagher, the program continues to grow. Our returning head instructor Aaron Holland and his new assistant instructor David Nichol bonded quickly, and together delivered four weeks of fun filled instruction to students both young and old.

This year's program saw 43 students, ranging from age nine to seventy two years old. There were 24 adults and 19 children. Of the 43, only nine were club members. These numbers show that our goal of reaching the public with the joys of sailing is being met.

The success of the program is directly related to the efforts of the instructors and our volunteers. Aaron and David came together to create a unique team, delivering instruction in part, through song and merriment. It was not uncommon to show up midday only to hear pop tunes being sung from the flattop through a bullhorn. Their love of sailing and children is obvious, and was felt by all the students. This approach quickly turned scared child into competent sailors.

On-shore help was under the watchful eye of Matt Sweeney. Matt moved his work schedule around so that he could be at the club the entire two weeks of the beginner session. With the number of students registered, boats became an issue. Many club members allowed their boats to be used for instruction. From the Scot fleet we used the boats of Samantha Butler, John Kimball, Mary Kate McCarty and Al Easton. From the Laser fleet, generously volunteered were the boats of Joan Link, Mike Kitner, James Nichol and Doug Davis. Without these boats the program would not have been the success it was. I would also like to thank Dave Burtis, Mike Kitner, Tom Walker and others who helped get the club boats ready even before the program started. Finally, I have a request. With the increased interest in the sailing program comes the need for more boats. If you have a boat that you may think appropriate for the program, please let me know. If we are to continue to grow, or even continue at the size we are, we will need more boats. Thanks again for all those who supported the sailing program this year and for all the support over the years on which this program has been built.



## A Day in the Life of Flag Lt. Boats

By Peter Renders

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I am looking for club members willing to spend some time helping maintain the clubs motor boats and or trailers. What follows is a short story detailing a typical day in the life of the Flag Lieutenant Boats. (This story illustrates why I need the help :-)

A couple days after a particularly windy sailing day I was notified that our 17' Whaler and the Flat Top had collided a number of times and the Whaler was damaged. I talked to three different persons about what happened and heard three different stories with different details of what was damaged and how bad it was. After examining the Whaler's hull closely I found two punctures, one on either side of the bow just below the rub rail. One of the punctures expressed water when pressed so I decide the boat needed to come out of the water for a couple of days to sit in the sun and dry before carrying out fiberglass repair work on the hull.

Thursday morning I showed up early to haul the boat out of the water. As my ball hitch is a 2" and the Whaler trailer is a 1 7/8" I needed to use the club tractor to pull the Whaler out of the water. There was a club sailboat in the only sunny spot with access to electricity so I decided to move that boat first. I immediately saw that the tire on the sailboat trailer was flat, but the boat was light and I was not going far so I was able to move the sailboat to another parking spot. Then I switched the tractor to the Whaler trailer to get the Whaler.

The Whaler trailer is a tilt design with a broken tilt latch. To take the Whaler out of the water I had to lash the tilting part of the trailer down. Upon pulling the Whaler out of the water I saw that this trailer also had a flat tire. As the Whaler is much heavier than the tractor I became stuck and was unable to move the Whaler. (I got the Whaler just far enough out of the water to totally block the ramp.) I decided I would replace the tire on the trailer but to take it off I needed to jack up the trailer.

I used a jack from my truck (I had never used the jack which unfortunately was missing a key piece). Improvising I got the jack to work and raised the trailer to the limit of the jack only to find it was not high enough to get the boat's weight off the wheel.

I dealt with this problem by digging a hole under the wheel and removing it. Off to my local mechanic I asked if the tire could be patched. He said he would do it right away but the tire was so badly cracked that it would not last long. I only had to move the boat 15' so I told him to go ahead. Back to the sailing club I installed the tire and lowered the trailer only to watch the patched tire fail.

I then went to a local everything store and bought two new tires (the other trailer tire looked pretty bad too), each for twice the cost of the repair. Back to the Whaler and this time I was successful in replacing both trailer tires (using my hydraulic jack from home to raise and lower the trailer – Hey I'm no one's fool). I then replaced the flat on the sailboat trailer with the "good" used tire from the Whaler trailer. Finally I moved the Whaler, let the hull dry in the sun for two days and then did the fiberglass repair. The

repair itself took about 2 hours :- ) – getting the Whaler out of the water and replacing the trailer tires took about 8 hours :- )

I am looking for club members who would enjoy spending 5 to 10 hours during the next season maintaining a boat or a trailer or helping me from time to time with specific maintenance issues. This is an opportunity for members to become more directly involved in supporting your club. Interested persons should e-mail Peter Renders at: [PRenders@nycap.rr.com](mailto:PRenders@nycap.rr.com)

### ***New Club Members in Residence on the Flat Top***

By Peter Renders

These four barn swallows were ready to leave the nest a couple weeks after the picture was taken. While the swallow chicks were a minor inconvenience during their residence, as insect eating adults they will help reduce the population of flying pests. Once they were out of the nest we removed the nest as barn swallows may lay a second set of eggs.



### **Misplaced Life Jacket**

I got Barbara a new life jacket and promptly misplaced it at the club. It has her name inside - Barbara Prince-Miller. If you have noticed it around please direct it back to us.

Thank you very much - Allan 885-5510

### Club House Painting Project Complete

Those of you who attended the Labor Day Lobster Boil or have been at the club recently for other purposes have probably noticed how great the house looks. The project we started in the spring to repaint the house and install new storm/screen windows, was completed before Labor Day. The work was done by SLSC member Menno Burmeister, through his company, Greater Saratoga Remodeling, and painting contractors hired by GSR. I want to personally thank Menno for the excellent results, and for completing the job on schedule in spite of one of the wettest summers in this area that I can remember.

### House Water Supply

The most pressing item in the house right now is improving the reliability and quality of our water supply. We temporarily lost water during cleanup for both the Fourth Of July Chicken Bar-B-Q and last night during the cleanup for the Lobster Boil. The problem in both cases was traced to a clogged activated carbon filter, though an earlier problem was traced to a clogged screen filter on the lake water intake pump. Dave Hudson and I are working to replace both the sand filter and activated carbon filter in the basement, provide a more secure lake water intake to insure it is kept off the lake bottom to reduce the intake of sand that clogs the screen filter, and add a pellet chlorinator to our well, which will improve water quality during the winter when the well is our only supply of water. Until the two filters are replaced, any member planning to use the house for a group activity should contact me or Dave to make sure that they understand how to backwash the carbon filter if that should become necessary during their event.

### Upper Barn

Due to the very wet summer, the painting of the upper barn has been delayed until next spring. This project will also be conducted by Greater Saratoga Remodeling and Menno has told me that we are first on the schedule for the spring.

### Lower Barn

In the July Telltale, James Nicole explained the Board's decision to remove the lower barn instead of repairing the structure. Based on estimates we have, commercial demolition and disposal of the barn would cost the club at least \$9,000. The Board decided to see if we could find someone who is interested in reusing the wood from the barn and who would take it down for no cost to the club in exchange for the lumber. Based on a listing placed in the local Craig's List web site we located about a dozen interested parties in just a few days. After four couples inspected the barn and reviewed our terms regarding insurance and bonding, we have one couple left on the list. They want to use the lumber to build one or more structures on property they own in Saratoga County, so the barn should live on. I met with this couple and two professional barn deconstruction contractors. The couple is awaiting final estimates from the contractors. If this couple decides not to take the barn, it will be relisted on Craig's List and another site devoted to the sale of old barns.

It is important to remember that it is dangerous to enter the barn in its present condition. There are holes in both the first and second floor and individuals could get injured or even killed if they were to fall through the hole in the second floor.

In preparation for the demolition of the lower barn, we will have a special work party on Docks Out Day to clean out all remaining club equipment from the barn. Allan Miller has graciously agreed to lead this work party. In addition, we will need to keep space clear on both sides of the barn over the winter to allow for potential demolition. The coordination of winter boat storage to insure we have sufficient clear space near the lower barn will be done by Tony Cannone, Flag Lt. Grounds, and Bruce Blackie, who assigns space for Ensigns in the meadow.



Steve and Neil Peltier painting the SLSC house.

### 2008 Kestrel Regatta (Addendum)

By Ann Patman

( Most of the following was inadvertently omitted from the article in the August issue describing this event. -ed )

Other participants were Ken and Erika Choi, Mel Chudzik and Aaron Holland, Bob Barringer and Brenda Johnson and Tom and Ann Neufeld. Dinner, arranged by the Auciellos, was a delicious and welcome event with entertainment by Mother Nature who provided torrential rains, winds, and lightning strikes galore, and topped off the whole show with an elegant rainbow that arched directly into Saratoga Lake. All present readily agreed that we had indeed found the pot of gold.

## Labor Day Lobster Boil



## 2008 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Commodore.....	James Nicol
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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.....	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