



Telltale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

Web page: sailsaratoga.org



March, 2009

From the Commodore

By James Nicol

Although the groundhog had disappointing news about winter recently, we're almost at that exhilarating time of year when the snow melts, the days get longer each week, and SLSC comes out of hibernation for a new season.

As I report in this issue, the membership approved a conservative budget for the year on February 8th, including special projects to keep the club moving forward. Thanks to all those who attended and to the committees that provided its input. Thanks especially to our Treasurer, Bruce Blackie.

Molly and I are planning an enjoyable evening for you on April 17th at the Commodore's Ball. This year we're calling it a "Taste of Scotland" (it will NOT involve haggis!), and include a musical group to help us celebrate. We are expecting strong attendance from the Thistles and Scots of course, and everyone else who'd like an enjoyable evening. We look forward to seeing you there. Invitations will be out soon, so mark it on your calendar.

Jim Benson is excited about leading the racing program this year. I hope you, like me, have resolved to sail and race more in 2009. The Sailing Meeting is announced in this edition of the Telltale.

At that meeting, we'll also consider and vote on a By-Law Change Proposal that deals with Membership Expansion. The exact wording of the change has been posted at the club's web site. (Click on Member Manual.) If you would like to provide input to the discussion on this change, please plan to attend the Sailing Meeting.

Lastly, the Board recently discussed the impact that the economy might have on membership levels. But our passion for sailing small boats at SLSC, due to our low membership dues, is one of the most economical recreational and social activities there is, for individuals and families. I would encourage you to think about your friends who are not members today, who might find 2009 a great time to apply to SLSC and discover what we love so much about our club, particularly when the economy is difficult.

Commodore's Ball "A Touch of Scotland"

Friday, April 17th
6:30 pm

at

**Manna's Restaurant
& Banquet House**
In Ballston Spa

Invitations will be mailed

Upcoming Events

March 12.....Board Meeting
March 15....."Early Bird" Dues Deadline
April 5.....Race Meeting

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SLSC Budget Meeting

February 8th, 2009

By James Nicol

As I reported in a recent e-mail, the membership approved the 2009 SLSC budget on Sunday February 8th. We had a good group of about 30 members in attendance. Thanks to all those that came, to Shirley for the excellent refreshments, and most of all to Bruce Blackie, who does a wonderful job as our treasurer and keeps us on a sound financial footing.

Highlights from the Budget meeting:

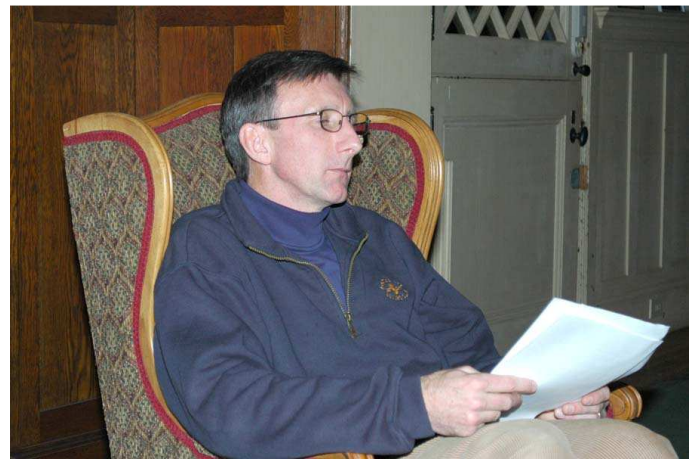
Operational budget

- Club finances are sound, with Treasurer Bruce Blackie having tight control on spending and income,
- No dues or fee increases are anticipated in 2009,
- The equity credit line we established last year is working well and gives the club additional financial flexibility due to our uneven annual cash flow,
- Offset accounts include a sizeable increase in sailing school revenue and expense, reflecting an expanded program. The program intends to be break-even.

Special projects: the following special projects were approved:

- Exterior Painting of Large Barn
- Water System Improvements addressing both quality and reliability
- Battery-powered Back-up Sump Pump
- Caretaker Apartment Upgrades
- Boat Park Fill
- North Ramp Extension
- New/Used boat Purchase, a 15' or 17' Whaler type motor boat
- Lower Barn Foundation Removal and Grading
- Dock Replacement

Thanks to the Long range Planning Committee (John Hudson, Hunter Currin, Matthew Sweeney, Jerry Zell), and the budget committee (Bruce, Dave Hudson, John Hudson, Allan Miller, Vic Roberts) for their work in preparation for the budget meeting.



House Matters

By Vic Roberts

As many of you know, we ran short of water in the house at many of our social functions last year. By the time you read this, the first part of our 2-part plan to solve the water problems in the house, approved by the membership at the February 8, 2009 Budget Meeting, will be installed and operational.

During the winter we use water from a deep well. The well has a very low flow rate, so we use the well to slowly fill two large water storage tanks in the basement of the house which then provide water for Kathy Johnston's apartment and for the occasional social events that are held at the house during the winter. During the summer we add a lake water intake system since even with water storage the well cannot provide enough water for our summer activities.

We ran short of water last year because our lake water intake was drawing in too much sand from the bottom of the lake, and the filters in the house designed to remove that sand were clogging, in part because the systems they use to clean themselves were no longer working. We have also had a long-standing problem with bacteria that was growing in the basement water storage tanks. We kill the bacteria with a UV sterilizer, but we still had to clean the water storage tanks on a regular basis.

The first phase of the water upgrade involves repairing the existing sediment and charcoal filters that process lake water. We are also adding a system to inject small amounts of liquid chlorine, diluted laundry bleach, into the water storage tanks to kill the bacteria that grows there and also any bacteria that may be in the lake water. A new charcoal filter is being added after the water storage tanks to remove any residual chlorine. At this point, the water should meet New York State standards for drinking water. Well water tests conducted last December showed that the well water has a sodium level of 336 mg/liter of water. New York State recommends that water with greater than 270 mg/liter of sodium not be used by people on moderately or severely restricted sodium diets. To solve this last problem, and give our water "the best taste on Saratoga Lake", we are adding a reverse osmosis (RO) system that can supply up to 50 gallons of very high quality drinking water per day. Water from the RO system will be available at a special faucet installed on the sink in the kitchen alcove, near the location of the coffee maker. (This faucet will be marked.) A second faucet from the RO system is being installed in the kitchen of Kathy Johnston's apartment. This system was designed by, and is being installed by, Verity Water LLC of Ballston Spa.

The second phase of the upgrade will take place at the first work party in the spring. We plan to install a very large filter screen over the lake water inlet that will allow us to filter sand, while reducing the possibility that the zebra mussels that inhabit our lake will clog the filter screen. In addition, we will be using a metal frame to hold the water inlet off the lake bottom, which will also reduce sand intake.

Any members who have questions about the water system, would like a copy of the well water test report, or would like information about the publicly-available test reports on the water quality in Saratoga Lake, should contact me at 518-399-4410 or through the e-mail address listed on the club's website.

Whatever Happened to the “Long Tom”?

By Randy Rice, Club Historian

Life is full of quirks; thus, it wasn't too surprising when a call from Vic Roberts, Flag Lt. House, informed me that even though we wear blue jeans instead of white ducks, we are considered in the elite of Saratoga and beyond society. Therefore it wasn't too surprising when he said that the club had been selected for a high society wedding last fall.

During preparations the day before the wedding of SLSC members Kelly Carrone and David Podrid, Kelly's father, Donn Erickson, was approached by a woman who said she had grown up in our clubhouse. He was able to get her phone number and pass it on to Vic Roberts. Vic then called me and suggested there may be an interesting story here.

So I called the lady (who had a Vermont area code) and asked her if she was a Melander or a Manning. “Neither”, she said; “I'm a niece!” (Note for our newer members. Our clubhouse was built at the turn of the century (1899-1900, that is) by the Manning family, who owned a large sandpaper company in Green Island. Later, they sold the property to the Melanders who owned a plastic company in Ballston Spa. End of history lesson.) So, the lady said that to contact the Manning descendants, I should call Florida. So I did!

A Nancy Thomas answered the phone. I was expecting a 90 year-old voice, but it was much younger. Mrs. Thomas explained that she was the granddaughter, not the daughter of the Mannings. She was very interested in what changes we had made to the house. I tried to tell her what we had done. I told her we have an expert photographer in the club who would take pictures of each room. She was very appreciative. Then she said, “What about the gunroom?”

I couldn't think of any room we have that would be a gunroom, and then the thought struck “would it have been between the parlor and the kitchen” I said. “Yes” was the answer. As you know, that area is now divided into two rooms labeled Men's and Women's heads.

“Oh”, she cried, “What happened to the 8-foot shotgun in the room?” Fortunately I had read James Mitchner's book “Chesapeake” and remembered his description of goose hunting on Chesapeake Bay. They used a flat bottom skiff with square bows, called a punt. In the bow, they would mount a huge 6-gauge shotgun called a Long Tom. They would load it with carpet tacks, ball bearings, or other things, and sneak up to a flock of Canada Geese sitting on the water. At ¼ mile or so, they would let blast and perhaps get 4 or 5 geese with one shot.

If any club member finds an 8-foot shotgun between the walls, let me know and perhaps next Forth of July instead of chicken barbeque, we can have a goose barbeque!!!!

Proposed Bylaws Change

A Recommendation to modify the membership limit to allow only sanctioned fleet boats memberships beyond 175 members to a limit of 185 memberships.

The change proposed below was presented to the membership at the 2009 Budget meeting on February 8. It will be voted on at the 2009 Race meeting on Sunday, April 5th.

A change is proposed to Section 1, paragraph D, Limitations on Membership, in the current bylaws of the Saratoga Lake Sailing Club (last revised Feb, 2007).

Proposed Wording

D. Limitations on Membership

1. The total number of Regular memberships in the club shall not exceed 185. There shall be no limit on the other categories of membership. Whenever the total number of Regular memberships is less than 185, such vacancies may be filled by the Executive Committee at its discretion from among the applicants for membership in accordance with the following rules:
 - a. When Regular memberships reach 140 a quota is placed on pending applications such that memberships are accepted on a 60/40 ratio of sanctioned fleet to non-sanctioned fleet owners. The Executive Committee determines sanctioned fleets by the first March Executive Board Meeting.
 - b. When Regular memberships reach 175, new members will be admitted only from applications of owners with sanctioned fleet boats to a limit of 185 memberships.
 - c. After July 15th, any pending applications will be addressed without regard to the 60/40 ratio in section (a.) to reach 175 memberships.

Current Wording

D. Limitations on Membership

1. The total number of regular and student memberships in the club shall not exceed 175. There shall be no limit on the other categories of membership. Whenever the total number of regular and student memberships is less than 175, such vacancies may be filled by the Executive Committee at its discretion from among the applicants for membership.
2. When club membership reaches 140 members, a membership quota is placed on pending applications such that membership is accepted on an 60/40 ratio of sanctioned fleet to non-sanctioned fleet owners. The Executive Committee determines sanctioned fleets by February 1st.
3. After July 15th, any pending applications will be addressed without regard to the 60/40 ratio in section 2.

2009 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Commodore.....	James Nicol
slsc_commodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	449-3537
Vice Commodore.....	Tony Bianchini
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Rear Commodore.....	Dave Hudson
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Secretary.....	John Kimball
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Treasurer.....	Bruce Blackie
slsc_treasurer@sailsaratoga.org.....	583-0759
Flag Lt. Boats.....	Peter Renders
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Flag Lt. Grounds.....	Gene & Jeanne Auciello
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Flag Lt. House.....	Vic Roberts
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Flag Lt. Race.....	Jim Benson
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Membership.....	Allan Miller & Barbara Prince-Miller
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Newsletter/Publicity.....	Fred Barker
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Sailing Program.....	Tony Bianchini
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Social.....	Shirley Waterfield
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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.....	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