



Tell tale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

Web page: sailsaratoga.org



February, 2010

From the Commodore

As I write this message, I have just returned from an informative talk presented by our own Emmett McCarthy, along with five other sailing club members. As they talked of their adventures sailing the BVI, I was reminded that winter will end, and we will once again be sailing on our beautiful Saratoga Lake. The beauty of the lake is not limited to summer however. If you've never gone to the club in winter and just spent an hour or two sitting and reading, I highly recommend it. Although very different, there is immense beauty this time of the year also.

Since this is my first article as Commodore, I thought I would take a minute to tell you about myself, and how I ended up in this position. I was born and raised in central New Jersey. After two years of college, I decided to try my hand at a variety of physical jobs. I did everything from climbing and cutting trees to commercial clamming. Those experiences taught me that college was better than I had originally thought, so I returned to complete my degree. Soon I was teaching in the same high school from which I had graduated.

Knowing we did not want to raise our son in New Jersey, Patricia and I set out to find a small community to call home. A friend of ours mentioned Saratoga Springs, and by our third visit, we had purchased a house. In case you think you missed the part about us finding jobs, you didn't. Neither of us had jobs or family in the area. Oh to be young and ignorant... but it all worked out. By September I had a new position and so did Patricia. This March will mark the 21st anniversary in our house, and we have never regretted the move. Maybe we weren't so ignorant after all.

My first sail adventure was in Disney World in 1995. I had a coupon for an hour sailboat rental and wasn't going to let a good coupon go to waste. Although the wind never got over three knots, I fell in love with sailing.

As soon as I got home I started looking for a boat. I found a 14ft Paceship for four hundred dollars. I worked diligently on the boat, cleaning it, and painting over the 1970's orange paint. When I was done, it actually looked quite good. Now what?
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Save the Date!!

April 24th

6PM

The Commodore's Ball The Vista Restaurant Van Patten Golf Course Jonesville

Commodore Tony Bianchini

invites you to

kick off the 2010 sailing season
at a Caribbean themed evening.

\$38.00 per person or

\$75.00 per couple

Watch for an evite for more details.

Annual Budget Meeting

Sunday, February 8th

7:00pm

at

Our Clubhouse

Refreshments will be served!

I went to the library and got everything I could find on sailing. After all, how difficult could it be? For our first sail of course, I packed up the family and headed for the nearest ramp. After spending an hour in the parking lot waiting for me to set up the boat, the family had had enough of sailing. But we persisted. We were out for about ten minutes when we realized we were in over our heads. A few broken parts later, and we were being towed in.

I had heard about the sailing club and thought that might be a good place to learn to sail. I drove around the lake looking for it, to no avail. A few weeks later Patricia and I were riding around and saw someone towing a sailboat. It seemed only natural to follow it. So we did. As the road turned to dirt I began to think that might have been a mistake. I pictured myself trying to explain why I followed this guy into his driveway. It turned out that we had followed him to the sail club. We got out and looked around the grounds. We met Bruce and Nancy Backie, and they were so nice, we knew we wanted to apply for membership. We were not accepted that first year, but we were the following year.

I sailed my Paceship for three years, and slowly improved my skills. I soon had the opportunity to trade the Paceship for a Kestrel. I jumped at the chance. In a few years I was asked to captain the Kestrel fleet. Then a few years later I got the call from Allan Miller to be Flag Lieutenant Boats, and two years later Vice Commodore.

The more I get involved at the club the more I enjoy it. There was a time when I thought about not renewing my membership. I then realized that if I wanted to maximize my membership I needed to be at the club sailing and enjoying the people. This club truly is a fantastic opportunity no matter where you are in life. It doesn't matter if you are single, have children or retired. If you want to get the most out of the club, get involved, spend time at the club, and get sailing. Thank you for the opportunity you've given me to serve as commodore. I trust it will be a rewarding experience. -- Tony



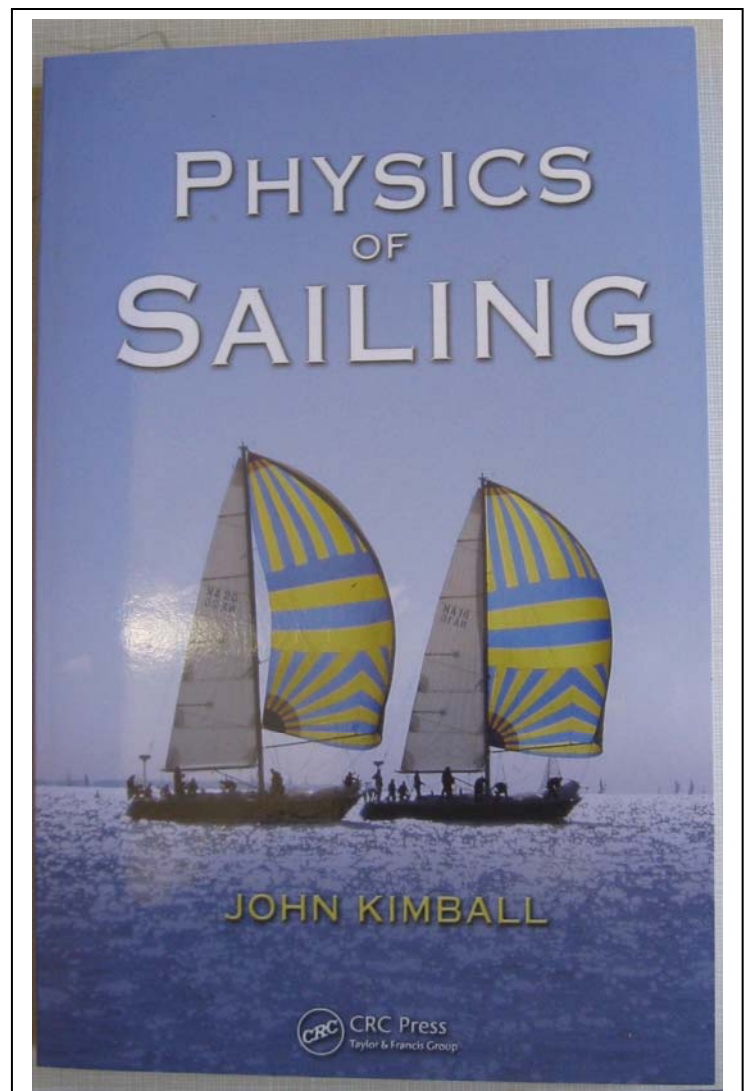
PHYSICS OF SAILING

By John Kimball

I have written a book called "Physics of Sailing." Unfortunately, this book has more equations than jokes, so reading it may not be everyone's cup of tea.

Despite the equations, there are three aspects of this book which are unquestionably fine. These come from Club members. First, Hunter Currin's picture of the sailing bagpiper is included. Second, many of Sally Snowden's sailboat pictures illustrate sailing physics. Sally's pictures are from Saratoga Lake, so some club boats are in the book. Finally, Steve Olson proofread some of the manuscript. Steve (Mr. Nanoscience) also assisted with the measurement of a piece of gelcoat. This measurement, which used an atomic force microscope, means we now know (in ridiculous detail) how smooth my Flying Scot #3493 really is. Of course FS#3493 is less smooth now because of its missing chunk of gelcoat. As a bonus, the book includes a picture of Steve on a Hobie, taken by his father, Richard.

(John's book is available at amazon.com – Editor)



Saratoga Sailing School 2010

By Mark Welcome

We are happy to announce that planning for the 2010 Sailing School program is well underway and moving along smoothly. Here are some of the highlights:

New Expanded Committee

As the school has grown over the years, so has the required effort to keep the school operating smoothly. In 2009, the school saw over 40 participants go through the junior program and over 25 adults took the adult learning programs. As a reflection of this growth, the club has formed a larger committee to oversee the school with all committee members sharing in the work.

If you have any questions at all about the Sailing School (or would like to help out), please feel free to talk to any of the following sailing school committee members:

Tony Bianchini
James Nicol
Allan Miller
Matthew Sweeney
Maggie Lock
Greg Tkai
Mark Welcome

New Instructors Sought

As many of you know, Aaron and David will not be returning to teach in 2010. We are very sorry to see them move on but, thank them for all their hard work. We know the kids will miss them as well. Allan Miller is heading up the search for new instructors and we have already begun receiving resumes. If you know of someone who may be interested in the positions, please feel free to have him/her send a resume to Allan at allan.miller@nycap.rr.com.

Summer School Schedule

Enrollment has already begun for the 2010 schedule with a number of people contacting us through the Saratoga Sailing School web site: www.saratogasailingschool.org. Full information can be found on the web site, but here are the highlights:

In 2010, Adult sailors will have two classes to choose from depending on their level of sailing skills. Class sizes will be limited to promote a focused learning environment. The classes will primarily use Flying Scot sailboats. The hours will be 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Each class will run for 5 evenings.

Adult "Learn-To-Sail" is designed for those new to sailing or who have little experience. This class will teach the basics of sailing, "cruising", boat handling, crewing, and water safety.

Adult "Intermediate Sailing" is designed for those who have done some sailing before. The class will help students improve their technique, as skippers and crew, including more advanced boat handling for "cruising" and for racing: starts, mark rounding, and tactics.

The adult schedule for 2010 is:

Adult Learn-To-Sail	1-week, M, T, W, Th, F	June 21 - June 25	5:30 – 8:30pm
Adult Intermediate Sailing	1-week, M, T, W, Th, F	July 5 – July 9	5:30 – 8:30pm
Adult Learn-To-Sail	1-week, M, T, W, Th, F	July 12 – July 16	5:30 – 8:30pm
Adult Intermediate Sailing	1-week, M, T, W, Th, F	July 19 – July 23	5:30 – 8:30pm

The cost of courses in the Adult program is \$150 per week for SLSC members and \$175 per week for non-members.

Junior sailors between the ages of 9 and 17 can choose from three programs using Opti's and/or Laser Radial sailboats.

The first program is "**Junior Learn to Sail**" where sailors will learn the basics of sailing over a 2-week period. The program includes: boat rigging, parts identification, wind direction, boat handling, water safety and fun! The hours will be 9 AM to 4 PM each day. The program will run for 10 days over 2 weeks (Monday through Friday each week).

The second program, "**Junior Intermediate Sailing**," is designed for Juniors who have some prior sailing experience. The class will help students improve their technique, as skippers and crew, including more advanced boat handling and racing: starts, mark rounding, and tactics. The hours will be 9 AM to 4 PM each day. The program will run for 5 days over 1 week (Monday through Friday each week).

The third program, "**Junior Advanced Sailing**," is for Juniors who have mastered boat handling and want to challenge their skills against other sailors. Opti's will race against other Opti's on a short course while Laser Radials will sail against other Laser Radials on a slightly larger course. The hours will be 9 AM to 4 PM each day. The program will run for 5 days over 1 week (Monday through Friday).

The junior schedule for 2010 is:

Junior Learn-To-Sail	2-weeks, M, T, W, Th, F	June 28 – July 9	9am – 4pm
Junior Intermediate Sailing	1-week, M, T, W, Th, F	July 12 – July 16	9am – 4pm
Junior Intermediate Sailing	1-week, M, T, W, Th, F	July 19 – July 23	9am – 4pm
Junior Advanced Sailing	1-week, M, T, W, Th, F	July 26 – July 30	9am – 4pm

The cost of courses in the Junior program is:

Junior Learn-To-Sail - \$300 for SLSC members and \$350 for non-members.

Junior Intermediate - \$175 for SLSC members and \$195 for non-members.

Sailing School Goals and Needs

As in previous years, SLSC offers two types of sailing programs, one for children age nine or older, and one for adults. These programs are designed to teach and improve sailing skills in a safe and fun environment. For children it represents our commitment to teach the next generation of sailors this wonderful lifelong sport, as well as the values of cooperation, responsibility and sportsmanship. For adults our goal is to increase their enjoyment and participation in the sport, or introduce them to it if sailing is new to them. The SLSC Sailing Program is designed for families from both the club membership and the general public. It is our hope that the sailing program acts as one more vehicle for fostering a life-long love of sailing.

In order to meet these goals, as always, we need your support in the following areas:

1) Boats

Greg Tkai is heading up the boat effort for the committee. If you have a boat that you would be willing to donate or just lend to the sailing school during lesson times, it would be much appreciated. We could also use some help in the spring getting our existing boats up-to-snuff for the season. Please contact Greg at gtkal@verizon.net to offer a hand.

2) Instructors and helping hands.

As was already mentioned, Allan Miller is heading up the effort to hire new instructors. If you know anybody who is looking for a great place to work (and live) during the summer, please have him/her contact Allan at allan.miller@nycap.rr.com. In addition, we could always use some extra hands around the club house when the Junior program is running.

3) Rainy Day materials

As much as we hate to think about it, sometimes the weather doesn't cooperate with our sailing plans. For the Junior program, this means we need to keep the kids occupied and having fun. We are trying to build up a store of activities to keep the kids occupied during these times and are looking for:

- A television and DVD player as well as appropriate DVD's ;
- Board games;
- Outdoor games (i.e. Horseshoes, Volleyball, Bocce, etc.) and anything else to keep them in the fresh air and active for those days when the wind just doesn't blow.

If your kids have grown up and moved out and you were wondering what to do with this type of stuff, please keep us in mind.

4) Getting the word out

All this preparation will be for naught if we don't fill the classes. Any assistance you can give getting the word out will be appreciated. Many schools will send out announcements for Not-For-Profits, if asked, so please ask your kid's schools if they will distribute materials that we provide promoting the program. Mark Welcome is heading up the advertising/promotion effort and you can contact him at mark@interactives.com to get copies of flyers and registration forms for distribution. Matthew Sweeney is heading up the registration effort and you may contact him at msweene5@nycap.rr.com if you know some people who would like to register. Thanks in advance for all your assistance with the program, and we look forward to another successful school year.

2010 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Commodore.....	Tony Bianchini
slsc_commodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	583-4514
Vice Commodore.....	Gene Auciello
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Treasurer.....	Bruce Blackie
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Flag Lt. Boats.....	JT Fahy
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Flag Lt. Grounds.....	Jerry Zell
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Flag Lt. House.....	Samantha Butler
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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
slsc_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.....	Rob Hayes
	429-5002
Kestrel.....	Tony Bianchini
	583-4514
Laser.....	Barbara Brown
	446-0426
Sailboards.....	Dick Blackmer
	399-0541
Thistle.....	John Hudson
	374-0228