



# Tell tale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

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



September, 2010

## From the Commodore

Now that the sailing program has come to an end, I wanted to take a minute to recognize some people as well as tout the benefits of a well organized committee. The sailing program is one that is close to my heart. My son Greg went through the program more than ten years ago, first with Rachael Miller as his instructor and then with John Powers. Steve Olson was the assistant instructor for all the years Greg was in the program. The confidence Greg gained in those few years through the independence of sailing, served him very well in those difficult early adolescent years. As for me, it provided an opportunity to spend time at the club and make friends I probably would not have made otherwise.

Then two years ago, when the program was without a director, I stepped in and filled that role, one which was much more demanding than anticipated. I realized then that the role had many facets. These facets, while linked, all required very different skills. There was boat maintenance, registration, public relations, dealing with the students, dealing with the staff, dealing with the members, the parents, the payroll, and so on and so forth. It occurred to me that if the requirements were so varied, maybe we need a committee, each with different skills which could all work together to accomplish a single goal. So that's what we did. I asked Allan Miller to head up the group to find and deal with the instructors. I asked Mathew Sweeney to oversee the registration and finances, Greg Tkai took over the maintenance of boats, Maggie Locke arranged for on shore help from the parents, James Nicol, saw to special projects like ordering shirts and certificates, and to head the whole program I brought in business owner, and my crew, Mark Welcome. After several meetings throughout the winter we had what looked to be the perfect team to do the job, and I was right. From the first summer night when we had everyone over my house to meet the instructors, to a get together bar-b-que at Mark's in August, it could not have gone better. With help from certified instructors at the club (Greg Tkai, and Jerry Zell), and much help from the on shore helpers, like Bruce Blackie and others, we serviced approximately fifty children and sixty adults. This is about twice the number of students of programs in the past. Due to the diligence of Allan and Greg we were able to add two lasers to the fleet and we hope to add a Flying Scot before next season. With the goal of promoting sailing in the capital district as one of the tenets of the club, I believe this year's sailing program has gone a long ways in doing so. I offer a special thanks to all involved, especially Mark Welcome for all the time and effort it take to head a committee such as this. - Tony

## Annual Awards Banquet

**Saturday, November 13**

Wheatfields Restaurant  
440 Broadway, Saratoga Springs

Cocktails at 6:00, Dinner at 7:00

\$40.00 per person includes: salad, dinner, dessert  
and nonalcoholic beverages

### Entrees:

Chicken Rigi (Mushrooms, bell and cherry peppers, pink sauce, ziti)  
Chicken Marsala or Picatta  
NY Strip Steak (Gorgonzola, asparagus, mushroom risotto)  
Shrimp Scampi  
Shrimp and Spinach Risotto  
Atlantic Salmon (Butternut squash risotto, asparagus)  
Sea Scallops (Citrus beurre blanc, angel hair pasta, asparagus)

**RSVP dinner selection by  
Monday, November 8  
[cbensonfly@aol.com](mailto:cbensonfly@aol.com), 882-6267**

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## Upcoming Events

Sept 23.....SCORE Meeting  
Oct 9-10.....Indian Summer Regatta  
Oct 16.....Thistle Regatta  
Oct 30- Nov 19.....Captains Course  
Nov 13.....Awards Banquet

# Sailing School

By Mark Welcome

The Sailing School has just wrapped up a very busy and successful season of sailing classes. We were very gratified by the response to the school as all of our classes were filled to capacity with over 50 kids and 60 adults taking either the Learn to Sail or Intermediate sailing classes. To accommodate all the demand we had to add a number of weeks of classes and also bring in extra instructors. We were able to accommodate all the members and their children who wanted to take classes, but eventually we did need to cut off classes and were not able to handle all of the demand from outside the club. All in all, a very good problem to have. Financially, the school did very well and brought in enough money to purchase/repair a couple of boats, a variety of parts and upgrades while still ending up well in the black.

As we wrap up the summer classes, we want to thank all of our instructors for their hard work. Full time instructors Kirsten Petro and Jason Marcil worked tirelessly with both the children and the adults throughout the summer while also running private lessons and still finding time to race with members on Sundays. Junior club members Peter Hudson and Jack McCarty were a great help with the childrens Learn to Sail classes. Club members Tony Bianchini, Greg Tkai and Jerry Zell chipped in as instructors and were invaluable during the adult classes.

A large part of the schools success can be attributed to the hard work of all the committee members and volunteers who helped all season long. In addition to just being our fearless leader, Tony Bianchini helped teach classes, fix boats, talk to unruly children, and was the go to guy for all problems big and small. Matthew Sweeney handled the hundreds and hundreds of phone calls and e-mails necessary to register and schedule all these people while at the same time working with Bruce Blackie to keep the books in order and collect the money. Allan Miller was in charge of the instructors and we are happy to say he did his job very well as Kirsten and Jason did a great job for us this summer. Greg Tkai was in charge of getting the boats ready and keeping them running, which is no small task with our fleet! James Nicol handled all the materials we gave away during the classes including t-shirts and certificates. Maggie Lock was in charge of all of our volunteers and did a fantastic job in making sure that someone was always around to lend a hand during the kids classes. A number of members including Don Zeibig, Erik Eddy, Norman Strominger, Jerry Burr, Bruce Blackie, Anthony Benson, Nat Corwin and Cynthia Herbach volunteered to be on-shore during the kids classes to lend an extra hand.

We'd be remiss if we did not also thank a few people who contributed to the school this summer. Gwyn and Joyce Gummer were very kind to make a donation to the school which was used to purchase prizes for the kids classes which were awarded for the kids attitude and Corinthian spirit. Members Al & Susan Easton and John Kimball allowed the club to use their boats all season long which was a great help in running the adult classes. The Howe family was kind enough to donate one of their lasers to the club to expand our fleet for next year.

As you can see, the success of the school was the direct result of all the help we had from so many members. We are already busy planning for next years school and are always looking for people to help. If you would like to get involved with the school in any way, please feel free to contact Mark Welcome at [Mark@interactives.com](mailto:Mark@interactives.com).



# COLLISION AVOIDANCE – PART 1

By John Hudson

## Introduction

This year's racing at SLSC has seen an unusual number of collisions between boats on the race course. In the hope of reducing this number, I would like to make a few comments on both the causes of boat-to-boat collisions and on ways to avoid collisions, or at least minimize the damage when a collision does occur.

Three main factors are involved in most race course collisions: inattention, distraction and bad decisions. In this article, we will look at the first two of these problems. In a second companion article next month we will look at some potentially dangerous situations and consider how to deal with them.

## Inattention

On the race course, just as on the highway, it is important to be aware of the presence of all other boats that present a possible collision hazard. On the road this is relatively simple because the number of directions you need to monitor is limited. On the race course, other boats can come from any direction. Thus it is necessary to have 360 ° surveillance at all times. The best way to do accomplish this is to assign each crew member areas of responsibility. For example, on our Thistle, upwind, the forward crew (Peter) is responsible for watching for boats on the opposite tack and for keeping the skipper (Dave) informed when action must be taken. This includes both maneuvering to avoid a starboard tacker and hailing an approaching port tacker. My responsibility upwind, as middle crew, is to be aware of other boats on the same tack that may be affecting our wind or would pose a hazard if we were to tack. Downwind, I fly the spinnaker and look for problems ahead, while Peter looks aft for problems from that direction.

It is also important that your circle of surveillance is large enough that you can see far enough ahead to allow time and space to make whatever course changes are necessary to avoid problems and that you will be aware that you may have to avoid more than one boat at a time. Another factor that you must be aware of is that in races involving boats from different classes, with different speed, acceleration and maneuverability, you must be aware of how rapidly the relative positions of two boats may change. The Thistle that was way behind you the last time you looked back may be right on top of you when you decide to tack a little later.

A corollary to this necessity to be aware is the necessity to communicate, both on your boat and with other boats in the race. Peter may say "Zell is coming and we aren't clearing him." Or "It's close on crossing. We should tack." Or "We can clear him by dipping behind him." Looking to windward I may say "Fahy is on our hip." Or "We have a clear lane if you want to tack now." When you encounter a port tack boat, it is important to tell him what you want him to do, either by calling "Starboard!" to make sure he realizes that you are there and that he has to take action, or "Cross!" indicating that you would rather he not tack right under you. (Note that he is not bound by your hail to cross, he may still tack if he wants to, but he knows that you are prepared if you do decide to cross.) You will also sometimes hear the port tacker hail "Tack or cross?", hoping that the starboard tacker would prefer to remain on starboard without another boat on his wind.

## Distraction

I have seen (and been involved in) a number of collisions that have taken place because one or both of the skippers involved was distracted from his usual awareness by some extraneous event. Collisions of this sort often happen before a race or between races, when attention has turned to making adjustments to the boat or to eating lunch. (I was involved in one such many years ago, during a series of round robin races. Before a race, I was checking sail trim on a boat that I was in for the first time when I collided with my own boat, being sailed by another club member, who was picking a loose thread off the main sail. I was on starboard at the time, but this did not make the damage to the rail on my boat any easier to repair.) We also had a minor collision in a race this summer when the other skipper was paying more attention to the spinnaker his crew had dropped in the water than to where his boat was headed. Episodes of this type reinforce the importance of always maintaining vigilance and of not letting problems that the crew must deal with distract you from your main mission of steering the boat. Let the crew deal with them. They may be slow, but not as slow as the 720 you will have to do if you bump someone.

## Summary

1. Always be aware of where other boats are around you – through 360 ° and in as large a circle as possible.
2. Always look behind you before you tack.
3. As soon as you see that you (or another boat) will have to take action, prepare for that action – anticipate.
4. Maintain good communication – both on your boat and with other boats that you may interact with.
5. Keep focused on your job – don't let problems on the boat distract you.

## 2010 Ensign Regatta

By Bruce Blackie, Captain Fleet 72

The Ensign Fleet 72 Regatta was held on September 11 with picture-perfect weather conditions. The weather gods teased us a bit in the morning as we sat on the shore under sunny skies and watched occasional bands of breeze work their way across the lake. By noon, however, the breeze began to fill and a very patient race committee made the let's-go decision. An afternoon of sailing was held with winds in the 4 to 6 mph range. The occasional puffs and lulls at various locations across the course made for challenging, tricky, and competitive racing conditions for the three races that were held.

As testament to the competitive nature of the regatta, the top four finishers were separated by only two points. Jim Benson, and crew Paul Waterfield and Bernie Zabeck, had 8 points to edge out Al and Mary Jean Tedrow and son, David, for the top spot by one point. With a tie for third place at ten points, Bruce Blackie, with crew John Kimball and Tony Bianchini, recovered from a poor first race showing to gain first place finishes in races two and three and snatch the third place position from the grasp of co-contestants Fred Barker and Tony Cannone who were joined by another Ensign owner, Trevor Powers. In fifth place, and only two points behind this pack, was Emmett McCarthy, with crew Mary Kate McCarty and Glenn Miner. The complete regatta results appear elsewhere in this issue of the Telltale.

There were 13 contestants participating in the regatta. With one Ensign owner crewing and another Ensign owner running the race committee, the fleet participation in this regatta was 80%. That's fabulous! Competition was close throughout the entire fleet. Only four points separated Hunter Currin, Jim Ferris, and Carmelo Kona. Dave Miller, Vic Roberts, Doug McGivney, Dan French, Sr., and Skip McEwing were also tightly packed.

A NASCAR-quality-level pit stop was executed by Doug McGivney assisted by crew Steve Hadcock and Jack McCarty. On the way out to the race course, Doug experienced the Ensign nightmare of losing the genoa halyard to the top of the mast. Doug and crew returned to the dock, unstepped the mast, retrieved the halyard, stepped the mast and returned to the race course in time for the second race. Perhaps this will inspire a mast step and unstep competition each spring and fall at haul out time. What could possibly go wrong with that?

A first-class race management team was organized by Bill and Yvonne Barringer who were joined by John Power, J.T. Fahy, Clark Cooper, and Nelson Snowden. On the club porch before and after dinner, John Power played back his video recordings of the races, and was able to point out to the leading contestants the moves and missed opportunities that might have led to a regatta championship for any one of them. We plan to make these videos available to those that would like to have a copy.

Regatta participants enjoyed a chicken BBQ dinner and other shore-side refreshments which were co-coordinated by Nancy Blackie with the assistance of Kathy Roberts, Brenda McEwing, Jayne McCarthy, and Ellie Elletson. Many willing hands pitched in at the end of the day for the inevitable clean-up activities.

Great regatta, great weather, great competition, great fun, great socializing. It just doesn't get any better than that. My grateful appreciation goes to all the contestants and many willing workers that made it all possible.

### Results

Place	Boat #	Contestant	Race #1	Race #2	Race #3	Points
1	920	Jim Benson	2	2	4	8
2	118	Al Tedrow	1	5	3	9
3	557	Bruce Blackie	8	1	1	10
4	530	Barker/Cannone	4	4	2	10
5	174	Emmett McCarthy	5	3	5	13
6	841	Hunter Currin	3	6	8	17
7	1054	Jim Ferris	7	7	6	20
8	1726	Carmelo Kona	6	8	7	21
9	177	Dave Miller	9	9	10	28
10	150	Vic Roberts	11	10	11	32
11	170	Doug McGivney	DNS	11	9	34
12	1677	Dan French Sr.	10	12	13	35
13	2017	Skip McEwing	12	13	12	37

## Ensign Regatta Pictures



**US Coast Guard Captain's** course (Six Pack) available locally at a very good price.

There are several people from our club signed up for the course that is starting October 30 and going through November 19. Room is available. If interested contact Peter Byron at Nav-Ed 518-312-9041.

## Annual Flying Scot Regatta

By Mary Kate McCarty, Co-Captain Fleet 161

Flying Scot Fleet 161 hosted the Annual Flying Scot Regatta as well as the New York Lakes District Championship on Aug. 13-15. A total of 15 boats raced, including 5 out-of-town boats. 12 sailed in the Championship Division, 3 in Challenger. 7 competed in the District Championship, all from SLSC.

Samantha Butler's Famous Corn Chowder was a huge hit at the cocktail reception on Friday evening. We were thrilled to greet Diane and Greg Kampf of Massapoag Yacht Club. Diane is the future President of the Flying Scot Sailing Association. And we welcomed back former SLSC member and Fleet Captain Rob Tikoft and family. Rob crewed for Rob Hayes in Bad Haggis.

While the weather was overcast, the winds were perfect. After four challenging races on Saturday, we were rewarded with frosties from the keg and a sumptuous feast from Augie's. Another race on Sunday, and the results were in: Tom Hohler took first in the Championship, Bernie Z second and Rob Cohen third. In the Districts it was Bernie, Paul W and the Seidmans. Kirsten Petro took the Challenger, with Sam second and yours truly third.

After 24 years of chairing our regattas, Ann and Peter Seidman passed the torch to Rob Hayes. A beautiful wooden plaque with Flying Scot #4254 was presented in their honor. They were a tough act to follow, but everyone pitched in to make it a success. Distinctive canvas bags were the trophies, thanks to Paul Waterfield. Rob made sure we had T-shirts and, of course, inscribed pint-glasses. Two angels in the kitchen, named Shirley and Darla kept us stuffed to the gills, and everyone went home happy.

## On the Block

### 2001 Laser for Sale:

Purchased last fall, Excellent Condition, Loadrite Trailer, Harken Regatta Cover, New dolly this spring.

Asking \$3300. Call 518-475-7845

### 1974 O'Day 22 with Trailer for Sale:

A very nice sailing boat that needs some TLC. It has berths for four and is equipped with a main, jib and genoa, bow pulpit, compass, Porta-Poti and sink. It also has a pedestal mounted table. Other equipment includes anchor, line, fenders and flares. Located in the Meadow.

Priced to sell at \$1485.00. Call Carroll F. Cook at 484-553-3736



# Labor Day Lobster Boil

6





## SLSC MEMBERS DAVID AND LINDA BURTIS TO CLIMB MT. KILIMANJARO WITH MARTINA NAVRATILOVA FOR SPORT FOR GOOD CHARITY

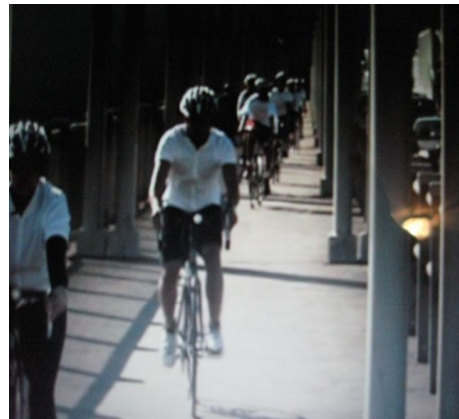


No sailing involved, but on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> David and Linda Burtis will join Martina Navratilova and a small international group climbing the 19,300 ft. Mt. Kilimanjaro. We get to combine three of our passions: using sports to help change the lives of high-risk kids, trekking to high peaks around the globe, and creating awareness about the environment. Plus, spending 6 days climbing with Martina is awesome! We will be happy to give a slide show of the trek when we return. A movie will be made of Martina's climb. In the meantime see Martina announce climb at Wimbledon:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_8E0niOpoM&feature=player\\_embedded#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_8E0niOpoM&feature=player_embedded#!)

The purpose of the climb is to raise money for the Sport for Good programs sponsored by US Laureus, a not-for-profit foundation that helps kids from impoverished backgrounds change their lives through sports. Martina, along with John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Kim Clijsters, Monica Seles and many other tennis pros, are deeply committed to Laureus' Sport for Good activities. Laureus uses the power of sport to help tackle pressing social challenges. It is a magical concept that affects all whom it touches -since sport is a universal language that unites and inspires.

Photos: Left: Martina; Right: I Challenge Myself program in NYC for high-risk kids.



Please join the spirit of this extraordinary venture. Laureus' kids need your help.

**Donations can be made online at: [www.firstgiving.com/kilimanjarowithmartina](http://www.firstgiving.com/kilimanjarowithmartina) or by check to Laureus Sport for Good Foundation of American and mail to Linda Burtis at P.O. Box 9166 Albany, NY 12209. All donations are tax deductible.**

## 2010 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

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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.....	Samantha Butler
	587-0659
	Mary Kate McCarty
	279-4205
Kestrel.....	Bob Barringer
	882-6087
Laser.....	Barbara Brown
	446-0426
Sailboards.....	Gene Altman
	393-6713
Thistle.....	John Hudson
	374-0228