



# Tell tale

## Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

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



June, 2013

### Commodore's Corner

As if I'm not a member of enough clubs and organizations already, I recently joined the Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club and the SaraSpa Rod and Gun Club. I have always wanted to take up the sport of skeet and trap shooting.

I have never owned any type of firearm. Years ago, I paid a dollar to shoot a 12-gage shotgun at a turkey shoot—and missed. During my first skeet shooting lesson a few weeks ago, I shot 25 rounds and missed all 25 clay targets—although one hit the ground and broke into pieces, so I'm claiming a minor victory. My instructor told me I will only get better. I think he's right.

Up until eight years ago, I had never owned a sailboat. During our first year of club membership, Jeanne and I were towed back to the club in our Kestrel after many Wednesday evening races. Eventually, we were able to get back to the club on our own.

At both of the new clubs, I signed-up to work at social events. It's the best way to meet the members. The same holds true at SLSC. Please consider joining the SLSC Social Committee. They did a wonderful job at the Memorial Day Champagne Brunch, and a good time was had by all.

See you at the SLSC July 4<sup>th</sup> Chicken Barbeque!

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Chicken Bar-B-Q

Appetizers at 4:00 pm Dinner at 5:00 pm

Bar-B-Q Chicken

Hot Dogs

Baked Beans

Salads

Ice Cream Sundaes

Soft Drinks, Beer, Wine

**Adults: \$16 Children: \$8**  
**pay at the door, checks please**

Everyone is requested to bring an  
appetizer or dessert to share

Members whose last names  
begin with the letters G through L  
are asked to volunteer  
for set-up, food preparation, or clean-up

**E-mail reservations are preferred**  
**[SLSCreservations@gmail.com](mailto:SLSCreservations@gmail.com)**  
or contact Kathleen & Vic Roberts  
399-4410

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED  
BY JUNE 30**

### What's Inside?

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### Upcoming Events

June 8.....Laser Derby  
June 15-16.....Thistle Adirondack Invitational  
June 22-23.....MC Regatta  
June 29.....Ensign Fleet Clinic

## SLSC Property Tax Assessment Increased

By Vic Roberts

There has been a recent change in our property tax assessment which could potentially raise our property taxes by about \$17,500 or about \$100 per Membership. This article is intended to update the members of SLSC with the facts as they are known to the Board at this time.

The Saratoga Lake Sailing Club is organized as a not-for-profit corporation under both IRS and New York State law. We operate as a Social and Recreational Club under IRC 507(c)(7) and as a Type A Corporation under the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. This exempts us from paying Federal and State Income Tax on any annual budget surplus we may have, but does not exempt us from our obligations to pay sales tax, employment taxes or property tax.

The club owns two parcels of land: Our main parcel consists of 12.72 acres of land, and includes the waterfront, house, barn, lawns, boat park, meadow, and some land we do not use because it is wetlands. The additional parcel consists of 61.18 acres of wetlands and extends from the main parcel west to the Manning Road and also runs north of our main parcel to the lake shore. The additional parcel is bounded on the north by the north shore of Drummond Creek.

For the past few years the main parcel has been assessed at \$260,000, while the additional parcel has been assessed at \$30,600. In Fiscal year 2012 we paid \$2304 to the Town of Malta for Saratoga County Property Taxes, and \$5275 to the Ballston Spa Central School District. About \$1120 of our County tax covers our connection to the county sewer system. The total property tax in FY 2012 was \$7579.

In April of this year Treasurer Bruce Blackie received notice that, as part of a periodic town-wide reassessment project in Malta, the assessment for our main parcel had been raised from \$260,000 to \$1,050,000. The assessment for the additional parcel remained at \$30,600. While these were identified as preliminary assessments, the main parcel would likely remain at \$1,050,000 if we took no action.

On April 18 Bruce and member Jim Fauci, who is an attorney and Malta Town Justice, met with Malta Town Assessor Rae-Lyn Dussault to discuss the 400% increase in our assessment. They raised issues such as the huge increase in our assessment, and functional issues such as flooding, lack of town water, etc. There was no immediate effect of this meeting on our assessment.

On May 9 the Board set up a committee charged with mitigating any increase in our property taxes. The committee consists of Bruce Blackie, John Bonanno, JT Fahy, Jim Fauci, John Kimball, Mark Welcome, and me as Chair. On May 21, the committee and Commodore Gene Auciello met with David Rowley, an attorney with Cooper Irving & Savage LLC to discuss our options and legal issues related to the assessment. Jim Fauci had been discussing our assessment with David prior to the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. One of the interesting facts we learned from David is that New York State Law requires that assessments be based on the actual use of the property on March 1 of each year. That is, our property must be assessed as a not-for-profit recreational club. It cannot be assessed at the hypothetical value that some hypothetical developer might pay to build a shopping center or home development. The committee decided to grieve our assessment at the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) meeting the following week, May 28, and Mark Welcome graciously accepted that task.

Mark and his wife, Rose Place, in consultation with David Rowley, developed a list of assessments for "comparable" properties on the lake, including other not-for-profit organizations. For example, Skidmore Rowing has approximately 15 acres of land and 500 feet of lakefront and that parcel is assessed at \$464,390. They then used this data to show how our assessment would be reduced if the data from "comparable" properties was applied to our property. Mark presented that data and analysis to the BAR on May 28. We do not yet know if this effort will lead to a reduction in our assessment, but the analysis was outstanding. If we do not get a reasonable assessment reduction from the BAR, we will have to decide if we want to pursue this matter further in Court.

The Board is also discussing another approach; whether or not we should try to get tax exempt status for the club. This is a complicated issue since it may require that we change the way we operate and we need to understand all the implications of that before proceeding.

Members are rightly concerned about the impact of this new assessment on our dues. However, we do not yet know the full tax implications of this new assessment. One reason is that our assessment is not yet final; another is that certain items in the tax bill, such as \$1120 in sewer charges, are not based on property value and would therefore not be

increased with this assessment. Final tax rates may go up or down a bit, though the Ballston Spa Central School District has announced that they expect their tax rate to be unchanged.

While we do not yet know our actual tax bill for 2013, it may be useful to estimate how much our property taxes would increase if our preliminary assessment is not reduced. This is a worst-case estimate based on current tax rates. If we adjust that part of our tax bill that is based on property value, which would be all of the School Tax and the non-sewer portion of our County Tax, for the preliminary assessed value of \$1,050,000, our property taxes would increase by about \$17,500. That is an increase of about \$100 per Membership under this worst-case estimate.

The Board will keep the membership updated as we learn more information.

## Cruising Adventures

by Peter and Ann Seidman

We returned on Memorial Day from a 27 day trans-Atlantic and Mediterranean cruise. We saw many places, and many boats.

This was our first trans-Atlantic cruise, and we were surprised how calm the seas were. We did have 1 to 3 meter waves, but 10 foot waves do not affect a 936 foot, 86,700 ton boat that much.

On our 4th day at sea, while approximately 600 miles east of Bermuda, our ship, Holland America Line's *Nieuw Amsterdam*, was contacted by the Coast Guard's Norfolk coordination center. It had received a mayday call from a disabled and adrift sailboat. As shown on the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER), we were the closest ship and were requested to render assistance. We altered course and increase speed to cover the 35 miles to the yacht *Embla*. Photo 1 shows the navigation plot from our cabin TV screen.



Photo 1

The *Embla* was being sailed by a two person French delivery crew, aged 61 and 29, from St. Maartin in the Caribbean to Southampton, England, with an intended stop for provisioning in the Azores. They had lost their rudder and drifted for three days while trying to jury rig a replacement. With supplies running low, they called the owner who called the Coast Guard.

The *Nieuw Amsterdam* lowered a tender and retrieved the two sailors from the yacht. The sailors said they were hoping a freighter would pick them up, and were overwhelmed by the sight of a fully lit-up cruise liner coming to their rescue!

Ship's security check the sailors and they were taken below. They were kept apart from the passengers the, since, Captain said, they did not speak much English and he did not want them to get "hammered with questions". (The Captain was not big on one to one conversations.) They were fed very well (someone told us they were seen in the speciality restaurant!), and taken to the Azores where they took an airplane home. In fact, we were unable to go ashore at our first scheduled stop in Horta, due to high waves and wind preventing tendering to shore, so they got an extra day to Ponta Delgado.

The rescue, of course, was a big deal on board. The deck where they were taken aboard was filled with curious passengers. The Captain, First Officer, who commanded the rescue tender, and the Security Officer gave a presentation on the operation the next day. More people attended than at any other show during the cruise! (Continued on Page 4)

### Cruising Adventures (Continued from Page 3)

The *Embla* was left adrift at the coordinates shown above, if you want to try to find her. The following photos were taken from our veranda (balcony) at 9 PM. Photo 2 shows the *Embla* with the approaching tender at right, and photo 3 shows the tender behind the *Embla*.



Photo 2



Photo 3

We also visited Monte Carlo, Monaco, where we stopped in to see the Yacht Club of Monaco. They were very gracious, asked us to sign the guest register, showed us around the Club, and gave us a copy of their 212 page bi-lingual annual yearbook. They requested that we not take pictures, but the bar, lounges and dining room were quite impressive. However, the Club is moving to a new, larger facility on the other side of the harbor.

They must have a full time person polishing the silver trophies. Of course, the parking lot was filled with Ferraris, Maseratis, and Lamborghinis. We told them Peter was PRO for two regattas in June, and asked if we could borrow their race committee boat. They did not give us an answer, but if a shipping container shows up with the boat in photo 4, please let us know!



Photo 4

## Spring Work Party 2



## On the Block

### Kestrel #498

Has a 505-style spinnaker setup, new cover, all new lines, lots of new hardware, the world's simplest homemade mast ram, a really exceptional rudder, new hiking straps. The trailer has been thoroughly rebuilt, with new bearings, wheels, bearings, tires, bunks, and electricals. Only issue is a leaky flotation tank.

Call David Duquette, Princeton, NJ for more details and to make an offer at (917) 757-9102.

### 1974 O'DAY 22

\$695.00 buys boat, trailer and 150lb mushroom anchor, ground tackle and buoy.

Please call Carroll F. Cook at 484.553.3736 for details.

### SUNFISH

I have a Sunfish for sale. Complete, Sail, Mast, Rudder, Daggerboard, rigged and ready to go. Asking \$600

Please call Gene Altman at 518-858-3353.

### 1973 FLYING SCOT #1930

Great Day Sailer. good shape, solid core, fully equipped. Original owner, White Hull w/light blue deck, w/motor bracket. Sails are like new. Ratsey + Laphorn Inc, sail makers. Main, Jib and Full Spinnaker Gear New full mooring cover. Lake George, NY **\$3500**

Call or Text Jeff at: 518 527 0958 or [jmastro@mtb.com](mailto:jmastro@mtb.com)

### LASERS WANTED

The Sailing School is in need of Lasers to support the youth program. If you know of someone storing a Laser in a barn that might consider selling or donating it to SLSC or if you have a boat that you are considering selling please tell us. Lasers are the world's most popular class and finding good used boats for our program is becoming increasingly difficult. Contact Greg Tkai or Allan Miller

### Lost Motor Cover

The cover to a 1978 6hp Evinrude outboard was missing this spring in the field parking area. It was white and had EVINRUDE printed on the side over a red stripe and underneath that a blue stripe. The front of the cover was not as deep as the back so that the cover slopes down from the front.

If someone finds it, please call Bernie Ettinger at 583-1992.

## 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.....Tony Cannone  
271-0246

Flying Dutchman.....Bill Hamilton  
877-5203  
Flying Scot.....Misha & Olga Gutin  
542-6922  
Kestrel.....Bob Barringer  
882-6087  
Laser.....Barbara Brown  
446-0426  
MC Scow.....Devon Howe  
867-7770  
Sailboards.....Gene Altman  
393-6713  
Thistle.....John Hudson  
374-0228

## 2013 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Commodore.....Gene Auciello  
slsc\_commodore@sailsaratoga.org.....583-9558  
Vice Commodore.....Vic Roberts  
slsc\_vicecommodore@sailsaratoga.org.....399-4410  
Rear Commodore.....Dave Hudson  
slsc\_rearcommodore@sailsaratoga.org.....370-4894  
Secretary.....Samantha Butler  
slsc\_secretary@sailsaratoga.org.....587-0659  
Treasurer.....Bruce Blackie  
slsc\_treasurer@sailsaratoga.org.....583-0759  
Flag Lt. Boats.....JT Fahy  
slsc\_boats@sailsaratoga.org.....753-9829  
Flag Lt. Grounds.....John Smith  
slsc\_grounds@sailsaratoga.org.....786-1340

Flag Lt. House.....Greg & Melissa Tkal  
slsc\_house@sailsaratoga.org.....899-5214  
Flag Lt. Race.....Allan Miller  
slsc\_race@sailsaratoga.org.....885-5510  
Membership.....Ann Seidman  
slsc\_membership@sailsaratoga.org.....877-8731  
Newsletter/Publicity.....Fred Barker  
slsc\_publicity@sailsaratoga.org.....280-4194  
Sailing Program.....Mark Welcome  
slsc\_sailingpgm@sailsaratoga.org.....587-9041  
Social.....Margaret Shirk  
slsc\_social@sailsaratoga.org.....475-0412  
Historian.....Randall Rice  
.....785-7965  
House Attendant.....Kathy Johnston  
kmorrisjohnston@gmail.com.....583-9646  
House Phone.....584-9659