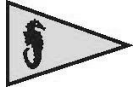


# Telltale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

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



March, 2016

## Commodore's Corner

By Mark Welcome

On Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 51 people representing 37 memberships attended the 2016 Budget meeting. Members in attendance also held 18 proxies from members who could not attend. This was excellent attendance for a budget meeting and this was no doubt helped by the addition of a delicious Chili Dinner and a very good Sailing Program discussion run by Allan and Barbara Miller. Treasurer John Kimball presented The 2016 budget which was passed unanimously and we are in good shape to start the 2016 season.

By the time you read this, you should be receiving your 2016 renewal notifications. Please note that the early bird deadline for submitting your renewal is March 7<sup>th</sup> and that all renewals are due prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee. It really is very important that we hear from all members as soon as possible as it affects our planning for the season. We make a number of assumptions when preparing the budgets and we'd like to adjust if necessary before the sailing season actually begins. We also would like to begin accepting new members as soon as possible and we need to know how many memberships we have available. We certainly hope to see everyone return.

Also, please mark your calendar for the 2016 Commodore's Party which will be on the evening of Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. This year's event will be held at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club. Rose and I are not very good at throwing theme parties so we are going to concentrate on the essentials: Good food, good drink, good music and good friends. I have been asked to refrain from dancing (for reasons that are obvious to anyone who has seen me dance), but I make no promises. Please plan to join us in kicking off a great 2016 season.

## Commodore's Party

May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm – 10:30pm

### The Saratoga Golf and Polo Club

Come and join your fellow club members to celebrate the beginning of the 2016 sailing season with some good food, good drink and good music.

Invitations with all details to follow

## Kentucky Derby Party

We are pleased to announce a Derby Party at 4:30 on May 7<sup>th</sup>. (After the 2<sup>nd</sup> work party)

Bring your favorite snack to pass, whatever you like to drink and some one dollar bills.

The Y-Flyer Fleet (Joanne Fraser) will have a tote board to record you picks. There is the possibility of a large screen for viewing. Who knows, there may even be mint juleps! What could be better after a hard day of work but a party?

Be sure to join us, even if you are not at that day's work party.

## Upcoming Events

Mar 5-6 .....ADK Sports Expo  
Mar 13 .....Fleet Captains' Mtg  
Apr 10 .....Sailing Programs Dinner  
Apr 16 & 23.....Special Work Parties

**Membership Renewal Forms have just been mailed and are also available on our website.**

Deadline for early bird special: **March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Deadline to avoid late fee: **April 1st**

## What's Inside?

<b>Sailing School.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Grounds Report.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Budget Mtg.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>House Update.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sailing Programs.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Racing 101.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sea Stories.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Winter Sailing.....</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>7</b>

## Y-Flyer Fleet

The Y-Flyer fleet has 2 new members applying to the club this year. Our fleet is growing nicely. This will bring us to 6 members and 9 boats.

July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> regatta. This year we are expecting boats from Atlanta and Indianapolis to be coming back to Saratoga. Internationals will be on Bellwood Lake in Ontario following our regatta. This timing could bring some additional boats. We hope!

See you at the starting line!

## Sailing School

By Samantha Butler

Believe it or not our first sailing lesson is two months away!

As a reminder, please register early. Classes do fill up and some are already wait listed. Early registration makes the lives of Sailing School volunteers easier.

If you haven't looked lately, check out the website at [saratogalakesailingschool.org](http://saratogalakesailingschool.org). You may be surprised at what we have to offer for kids and adults of all levels.

## ATTENTION ALL LASER SAILORS!

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club  
**LASER DERBY - SATURDAY JUNE 11th**

All sailors are welcome. You don't need to be an expert to have fun at this race event. The typical field of 12 racers allows room for you, even if you are just getting the hang of your boat!

However, If you decide not to race, we hope you will come help out as a volunteer this year and once you see it's all good fun, we know you will join us on the water next year!

Please contact David Burtis at [david\\_burtis@yahoo.com](mailto:david_burtis@yahoo.com) or Leslie Warner- Rafaniello at [Saillesson@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Saillesson@nycap.rr.com) or [518-301-4109](tel:518-301-4109).

We need a crew of 10 to help with sign in and putting out pre-ordered food and running the race boats! Thank you.

## ADK Sports Summer Expo

March 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Saratoga City Center

Don't miss this expo of summer equipment and fitness! While there stop by the SLSC booth and say hello to our members who are volunteering there.

## Grounds Report

By John Smith, Flag Lt Grounds

As we are approaching Docks In it is time to think sailing. To make the club safer, we have removed several dead trees in the lower lawn and along the shore near the mooring field.

I have three projects that need to be completed before the first work party on April 30<sup>th</sup>. First, we are going to cut grooves into the north ramp to increase the traction for removing boats. I am looking at the weekend of March 12<sup>th</sup>. Second, we are looking to repair the drainage pipe under the driveway that we pushed to the surface last winter. I need to have this done by April 17<sup>th</sup>. I will be renting an excavator and a tamper, if the frost is out of the ground. If the frost is not out of the ground, I will be getting a load of gravel to raise the level of the driveway. Third, we need to install the fence to keep the geese off the lawn. The last two years, we have done this in mid-April. This could also be done on April 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. If you can help with any of these projects, please contact me. I can especially use anyone with experience on the driveway project and cutting the concrete.

For the first work party I am planning the following:

1. To rent a tow lift that will let us remove dead branches from the trees in the boat park and along the driveway from the meadow to the boat park. I will be looking for a brave soul to ride the lift and cut the branches.
2. To rent a stump grinder to clean-up the stumps from the trees that we have just removed and to remove all of the old stumps in the dingy area by the mooring field.
3. To build a rack in the dingy area by the mooring field.
4. To install a hand rail on the stair going from the house to the lower lawn.

More to follow about the second work party next month.

## Budget and Sailing Program Meetings

By Allan Miller, Flag Lt Race

A record turnout, at least in recent memory, attended the annual Budget Meeting. This year members were drawn in by a change in time and at the promise of food. Everyone stayed for the sailing program meeting.

Treasurer John Kimball reviewed last years expenditures and next year's projected expenses. Mark Welcome discussed the new Saratoga Lake Sailing Foundation. The minutes and Treasurer's report can be found on the club website.

After the meeting everyone enjoyed a delicious chili dinner once again prepared by Margaret Shirk, Charlie Koines and their crew of assistants. The cornbread was not to be missed.

After dinner Barbara and Allan Miller conducted the sailing programs meeting. The first half of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of non-racing sailing events. From 4th of July parades to piloting courses, there is no shortage of ideas or enthusiasm. What is needed is people who can help make them a reality. It doesn't have to require a big commitment; just an interest, a willingness to help, and a little bit of organizing. There are many people who will support you, we just need leaders take the reins. If you are willing or able to help, contact Barbara or Allan Miller.

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to racing programs. As expected, there are many suggestions and ideas regarding the racing program. Barbara made the welcome announcement that she will once again resume her role as standing race committee. Having regular race committee makes the racing more efficient, fun and safe for everyone. Being on race committee is a way to be on water and participate in a big part of what makes this club great. You get to learn about racing without getting yelled at/instructed by your skipper. No experience is needed. If you can write down a number, you can help.

## House Updates

By Greg Tkal & Melissa Hatch, Flag Lts House

We hope everyone is having a good winter season. We know we are looking forward to being done with this cold grey weather and getting back on the water! The off season is always a busy one for us to do updates on the clubhouse so as to not disturb the events of the sailing season. This year we have been working to update the downstairs bathrooms. In January we had new flooring put down and installed two new dual flush water saving toilets in the men's and ladies rooms as well as one in the ladies changing room bathroom. You will also notice two beautiful brass signs which replaced the hand written paper ones which have been there as long as anyone can remember!

In our continued effort to improve the comfort and efficiency of the house we have done more weatherization and installed new LED bulbs in the kitchen. These bulbs use less energy than the previous compact florescent bulbs, are brighter, and come on instantly as well as not containing the mercury typically found in compact florescent bulbs.

Some other upcoming projects which we hope to get done prior to docks in include installation of a commercial dishwashing sink requested by the Social Chair, as well as repairs and reorganization of the kitchen. We also have some outside repairs to get done with a new deck and stairs on the northern side of the porch, widening and repairs to the ramp and stairs on the southern side of the porch as well as cleaning and staining the grill deck and front deck. We hope to have this all ship shape before the first work party so the club will be ready for the sailing season!

We have had several inquiries for info about having events at the club; all of that information is on the web site. You must log in to reach the information but once logged in look for Member Manual on the menu to the left and then click on [Rules For Member Sponsored Events](#). You can also email us at [slsc\\_house@sailsaratoga.org](mailto:slsc_house@sailsaratoga.org) if you have trouble accessing the information.

## SAILING PROGRAMS MEETING

By Allan Miller, Flag Lt Race

We want to share the many enthusiastic suggestions that came out of the Sailing Programs meeting on Feb. 21. We split the meeting into 2 parts. The first was **General Sailing**.

We knew going in that communication would be key in making the club a fun and rewarding experience for all members.

To that end, we realized, early on, that we would need volunteers to make these activities come to life. We discussed organized activities for all members, regardless of the kind of boat:

- Full Moon Sails
- Sails to restaurants around the lake
- Fun Charity Regatta
- Canoe and kayak paddles to "Turtle Alley" in Kaydeross Creek
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend garnered much interest with the idea of a regatta and parade with costumes, prizes, and a party with a bonfire! A permit for a parade will be obtained if needed. Melissa Hatch has volunteered to do the 4th of July Parade and has already named it the "Pirate Doodle Dandy" Regatta!
- Help-on-the-Water for experienced skippers to work with less-experienced skippers to improve skills e.g., sail trim, steering, etc.

We talked about hosting non-sailing events:

- Movie nights
- Nautical book club
- General sailing skills seminars for both skippers and crew (navigation, anchoring, etc.)

To make these ideas reality, we need people to come forward and volunteer to take on something.

Each bulleted item is an activity that you can volunteer to coordinate as the lead. We certainly have enough enthusiastic members who would be willing to assist.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the night was **Racing**, with key points following:

1. Have a Challenger Fleet (less experienced racers) and a Championship Fleet.
2. Change the start times. Consider moving the Robinson to either an earlier start time or a later start time. For the Manning (Wednesday nights), have the start time at 6:30 for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 weeks and move the start time to 6:00 for the next 10 weeks. Have an am. series and a pm. series on Sundays.
3. Run a series of shorter races.
4. Change the starting sequences with the very last start one for inexperienced racers with on-the-water coaching from the committee boat/rescue/mark-set boats, initially talking them through the starting sequence.
5. Have a Holiday Racing Series
6. Does the Sailing School run a Beginner Adult Racing Program?
7. Have the fleets each run a day of coaching the fleet members.
8. Hold racing skills seminars e.g., starting, rounding marks, etc.
9. Videotape racers and have on shore discussions. Improve usage of RaceQs.
10. Vic Roberts has volunteered to look at setting up a "Bulletin Board for people needing crew or a boat" for both members and non-members.
11. Barbara is considering giving out stickers after Sunday racing.
12. We will communicate with the Lake Association, marinas around the lake, and the Boat Launch in an attempt to educate power boat operators to please be aware of sailboats racing.
13. **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SAILING AND POTLUCK IS FOR EVERYONE!!!** If you're not racing, just come and sail and have a lovely meal with all. The club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, thanks to Charlie Koines! Just bring a dish to share and beverage of choice.

***Please be confident that all changes to the racing program will be well publicized.***

There was a question about lights on boats for night sailing. Sailboats less than 7 meters (approx. 21') can use a flashlight on the sails when it's not practical to have the required lights on the boat. John Smith, who ran the Just For Fun races (many of which were held in diminishing light), showed us the kinds of lights he got from Lowe's that he attached to the marks. For boats, lights are required on either the bow or mast and must be red (port), green (starboard), and a white light is required on the stern.

There are opportunities for the following if there is sufficient interest:

- A US Power Squadron Piloting Course at the club for a fee (~\$100) for a course certification.
- CPR and First Aid classes at the club for a small fee.

Please email Allan at [allan.miller@live.com](mailto:allan.miller@live.com) or text him at 441-3899 if you are interested in any or all of these offerings.

Power Boat Instruction practice will be scheduled when the boats are in the water.

So, as you can see, we have many great suggestions but we can't do it alone. So please, please, please, call, text, or email with your hands raised!

## RACING 1.01

by John Hudson, Thistle 3947

The success of John Smith's All For Fun racing series last Fall showed that there is considerable interest on the part of many members who had not previously participated in the racing program at SLSC. In the hope of fostering this interest in other non-racing members, I would like to offer some suggestions that may make it easier for novice racers to enter competitive racing with minimal trauma and trepidation. This will be the first in a series of articles intended to explain the rules and procedures that make racing safe and enjoyable for those with all levels of experience.

### Preparation

Before setting out to race, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with procedures that govern the conduct of a race before you set out on the water. For Club racing at SLSC, these are contained in two documents, the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions. Both of these can be found on the Racing page of the SLSC web site. The Notice of Race contains information on the schedule of races, the scoring systems that apply to various series, starting times and starting orders. The Sailing Instructions contain more specific information on the conduct of individual races, such as descriptions of the courses that may be sailed, with diagrams showing the location of the starting line, the order in which marks are to be rounded, what the marks look like, and the location of the finish line. There is also a description of the starting system, including the sound and flag signals used and the order in which the various divisions start. There are also descriptions of the various flag signals that may be used in the course of a race. Familiarity with these documents will make it easier to understand what is going on at various stages of the race.

It is also a good idea to crew for a more experienced racer before setting out on your own. Skippers are always looking for crew, and sailing with an experienced racer is a good way to pick up on the conduct of a race. Alternatively, if you can set up a race or practice session in which you can get an experienced racer to serve as your crew, he or she can teach you a lot in a short period of time.

### The Race Course

As you will see from the Sailing Instructions, we sail a number of different course configurations. They all include a number of common elements. In all cases, the starting line is a line between the Race Committee boat (The pontoon boat with all the signal flags) and a buoy located to the left of the Committee Boat, looking from behind the line. Most courses are composed of a triangle of three marks (windward, gibe and leeward, like course M1 in the sailing instructions) or a linear course with two marks (windward and leeward, as in course I1) or combinations of the two as shown in the Sailing Instructions. The first mark to be rounded is usually located directly upwind from the starting line. This mark is rounded with the port side of your boat closest to the mark (port rounding). You then proceed to the subsequent marks, rounding them to port, and finally to the finish line. (This is often the same line used as the starting line, but not always as can be seen from the course diagrams in the Sailing Instructions.) You must cross this line in the direction you are sailing from the last mark.

### The Rules

Racing is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing. A copy of the rules can be obtained from U S Sailing, the governing body for sailboat racing in the United States for a nominal fee. (While you're at it, why not just join U S Sailing and get the rule book for free?) This book contains all of the rules and regulations to cover any situation that may occur in a race or in race management. The most important part for the average racer is the section entitled "when boats meet". This section describes the rights and responsibilities of all parties involved on the water during a race. The most important feature of these rules is that they are intended to reduce the likelihood of collisions or other dangerous situations on the race course. They include the basic right of way rules (port starboard, windward-leeward, overtaking) that apply at any point on the course, as well as exceptions that apply at mark roundings and obstructions on the course. It is important that you be familiar with these rules for your own safety and the safety of others on the course. In subsequent articles in this series, I will discuss several of these rules in detail, as the logic behind them is sometimes not obvious.

### The Start

Sailboat races use a flying start, with all boats moving behind the starting line prior to the starting signal. Five minutes before the start, a sound signal will be made, and a flag showing which division is to start next will be flown from the back of the Race Committee boat. At four minutes to the start, there will be a second sound signal and a second flag (blue and white) will be raised. With one minute to go, a third sound signal will be made and the blue and white flag taken down. The sound signal for the start will come one minute later. During this period boats will be maneuvering so as to be right at the line (but not over it), moving fast and ready to go. To a novice racer, this will seem chaotic, but with experience and a knowledge of the rules, the logic of the process will develop. I will discuss starting strategy in a later article. It is very important to have a watch with a countdown and repeat function so that you have a continuous check on the time remaining. Don't be afraid of getting to the line a little early – you can always slow down close to the line if necessary.

(This series will be continued in the April Telltale)

## Sea Stories

### **Andrew Murnan**

Newly minted sailor and MC Scow owner

#### **How did you become a sailor?**

My wife surprised me with a gift of sailing lessons for me at SLSC for Christmas a couple of years back. While I had to wait 6 months to take the lessons, it turned out to be great fun. When the lessons ended, I wondered how I could continue to sail since I wasn't sure if I was ready to purchase a boat at the time. That's when John Power and Mark Welcome suggested I try to crew the rest of the summer. Fortunately, with their help, I was able to crew with a variety of racers on their fleet boats and by the end of the racing season I was hooked.

#### **Do you have a favorite sailing memory?**

During the early-to-mid part of last season I was making an unbelievable number of mistakes as crew for Bernie Zabek on his Flying Scot. I sometimes couldn't even understand why I chose to do what I did. However, near the end of the season, Bernie's guidance and lessons finally started to sink in and everything went very well for two back-to-back races - jib and spinnaker trim were smooth, while tacking and getting my head out of the boat seemed more natural. It was a great feeling to see it all start to come together. That...and enjoying Bernie's traditions with tequila.

#### **What is your sailing fantasy?**

A friend gave me a copy of Joshua Slocum's "Sailing Alone Around the World". I became fascinated with his story and I would like to retrace his path sailing around the world; hopefully with my wife and not alone though.

#### **What is your favorite boat?**

With so little experience it's difficult to say. I enjoy that the MC Scow has a nice balance of the right amount of controls and still competitive for racing, but I have a ton of fun flying the spinnaker in the Flying Scot.

### **Allan Miller**

Instructor extraordinaire on all topics nautical, Laser owner

#### **How did you become a sailor.**

I spent my junior year summer in State College, PA, taking a Public Health Service course in air pollution at Penn State. In 1968 this was a big topic, as environmental awareness was just gaining momentum. We got out of class every afternoon and I needed something to do. I found the school's lake (old quarry filled with water, with the shiftiest winds imaginable). The sailing lessons were \$5 and renting a boat free. I spent the whole summer there.

#### **Do you have a favorite sailing memory?**

There are two:

While dating my wife, Barbara, we spent a lot of summer Saturdays driving from Philadelphia to Long Beach Island, NJ to rent a Sunfish and sail in Barnegat Bay. We would sail in the morning and then drive up to the north end of the island, find a secluded beach near the lighthouse and do what young people do – talk.

Sailing the Club Championship with my daughter, Rachael. By this time she was in her Olympic campaign and her instructions to me were simple. Dad, "concentrate on the sails and go where I tell you to go". We won.

#### **What is your sailing fantasy?**

Already achieved. In 2000 while in New Zealand visiting Rachael and her husband James, who was on the British America's Cup team, I was invited to sail on GBR (12 meter class) – didn't get to drive - but it was still spectacular.

#### **What is your favorite boat?**

American Promise. Go to this site and you will completely understand: <http://rozaliaproject.org/about/american-promise/>

**Isn't this fun? You know you want to send your answers to Samantha Butler at [sadieleeward@gmail.com](mailto:sadieleeward@gmail.com).**

## Winter Sailing

Three intrepid sailors braved thin ice to get a sailing fix. Devon Howe, Piotr Czajkowski and Scott Meyer managed to get in some ice boat sailing Saturday, February 20. Although the temperatures were in the 40's and the ice was beginning to melt, it was still thick enough to sail. The winds co-operated with mild to high winds with good gusts.

## On the Block

### CL 16 SAILBOAT FOR SALE

Excellent shape with trailer, boat cover, main, jib and 2hp Yamaha outboard motor. I bought this boat in Canada two season ago and have not been able to sail it due to health reasons. \$2500

Would consider a trade for a Laser in similar condition.

Contact Ed at [518-469-1638](tel:518-469-1638)

## Iceboating on Saratoga Lake

7



**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.

**SANCTIONED FLEETS**

Ensign.....	Tony Cannone
	271-0246
Flying Scot.....	Misha & Olga Gutin
	542-6922
Kestrel.....	Tony Bianchini
	583-4514
Laser.....	Leslie Rafaniello
	301-4109
MC Scow.....	Devon Howe
	867-7770
Thistle.....	Jerry Zell
	767-9216
Y-Flyer.....	John Smith
	786-1340

**2016 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS**

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kmorrisjohnston@gmail.com.....	583-9646
House Phone.....	584-9659