

Telltale

Saratoga Lake Sailing Club

Web page: sailsaratoga.org



December 2020

Commodore's Corner

By John Smith

This is a special edition of the Telltale, it is the first December Telltale at least since 2005 (as far back as I can look), just one more unusual event that we can blame on Covid. This edition includes a scaled down version of the Board's Annual Report. We will be emailing the full report to all members. This report is traditionally presented at the SLSC Annual Meeting. Please take time to read the report. You will be able to ask questions of the board at the Annual Meeting. If you do not plan to attend, you can assign your proxy to a board member for the election of the 2021 Executive Board.

The following is the invitation to the meeting.

The 2020 Saratoga Lake Sailing Club Annual Meeting will be conducted virtually on Zoom.

Please limit log in to one per membership.

Topic: SLSC Annual Meeting
Time: Dec 6, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9736120282>

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SLSC

Notice of Annual Meeting

Sunday, Dec 6th, 3:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

Annual Report given by each board member.

Election of the 2021 Executive Board

The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates:

Commodore	John Smith
Vice Commodore	Scott Meyer
Rear Commodore	David Hudson
Treasurer	Jeff Robinson
Secretary	Susan Kohler
Flag Lt. Boats	Jake Greiner
Flag Lt. Grounds	James Symon
Flag Lt. House	Allan & Barbara Miller
Flag Lt. Race	Terry & Joanne Fraser

Let it be known that all members, older and newer, are encouraged to attend the Zoom Annual Meeting on Dec 6 2020. We, as a Club, meet twice a year to conduct business; once in December and once in February.

The December meeting is to hear from the Board members as they review their accomplishments from the year, and to vote in the new slate of officers.

The February meeting is to vote on our Budget for 2021. At both of these meetings, you are able to discuss your thoughts and opinions about the Club's business.

Please join us, and hopefully next year, the meeting will be held in the beautifully, lovingly restored clubhouse.

Ann K Seidman
Membership Chair

What's Inside?

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Holy Cow! Sunfish Mega Mania Officially at SLSC

By Tom Dunne

That's right, folks...if Phil Rizzuto could yell "Holy Cow!" for a silly single, we can yell it for this super Mega News! As you all know, Sunfish Mega Mania landed on the shores of SLSC in 2020. Now the second wave is scheduled to roll ashore during summer 2021 and by all accounts it's a Mega wave! We are pleased to announce that the Sunfish Mega Bowl Committee has been formed and is now building the foundation to make 2021 the turning point in the rebirth of this historic fleet at SLSC.

Today, the Sunfish Mega Bowl Committee team announces two major events in 2021. First, the Sunfish Mega Bowl Championship Regatta will take place on August 21-22, 2021. This is our first officially sanctioned local regatta, and we encourage sailors of all skill levels to participate. With the development of this local regatta, our Executive Committee is laying the groundwork to make SLSC a destination spot for regional Sunfish racing. Our hope is to host a Regional Sunfish Regatta on a 3 to 4-year rotational basis.

Secondly, we proudly announce a new racing program called "The Mega Bowl Summer Series." This is an exclusive offering to be rolled out for 2021. The ingenious Mega Bowl Summer Series will include 6 dates that wrap into the regular SLSC Wednesday & Sunday starts. Sunfish racers need to finish only 3 races during those 6 dates to qualify for our series. Participants will score in the regular SLSC race series, and we will also rank them in our series for an inter-class score. The purpose of this series design is twofold. It encourages multiple skippers to race the Sunfish on the same day, therefore increasing turnout and class competition. By limiting the series to a few races, skippers can take part in our series and still qualify for the summer series without jeopardizing the standings on their primary boat. For added incentive, we offer our very special and unforgettable awards. Without giving too much away, they will be one of a kind. The final adjustment in our program will involve scoring. Love it or hate it, we are developing a skipper-specific handicap point system which could level the playing field or blow up in our faces.

Again, we are trying to encourage Sunfish sailing, build class spirit, guarantee in-class competition, incentivize skippers to ditch their primary boat for a few races and, above all, have fun. If Sunfish sailing, Mega Bowl races, or our culture interests you, please join us in 2021. Now is the ideal time to shop around for a new or used Sunfish. If you have questions, call or email me at 518-253-6912 or tomdunne56@gmail.com

Let 2021 be your Mega Bowl year!

Annual Report Highlights

Commodore John Smith:

My first year started with checking the progress of the new barn construction. Early in March we were faced with multiple issues immediately, Commodore's Dinner, slow membership renewals, Sailing School operation, and member safety. You probably remember the weekly updates in an attempt to keep members informed of the Board's response to the pandemic. During this period the Board was meeting by-weekly to keep up with the ever-changing government directives. After the state allowed enough people to congregate, we were able to get the docks in and finally started the racing program in July. Small work parties gradually completed all of the projects that we normally did in the spring work parties. Ultimately the barn was completed and just in time to be used by the Sailing School as their staging area. The barn allowed us to build dressing areas, have chalk talks while keeping social distance. The school is considering continuing this setup next year.

I know that it is customary to thank the Executive Board for all of their efforts during the past year, but this year was exceptional. Many of the projects around the club that had to be completed were handled personally by board members in an effort to keep our members exposure to the virus limited. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

It is also my pleasure to thank all of the members both new and old who have stepped forward to keep the club running. The Board members cannot possibly keep the grounds in shape, operate the racing program, the Sailing School and maintain the house without your help. Hopefully 2021 will allow us to get back to something closer to normal.

Vice Commodore Scott Meyer:

2020 has shown us we are capable of change and can still enjoy what we have at our sailing club, perhaps in a different way. I would first like to thank everyone in our SLSC family for rolling with the challenges and making the year a success. Thank you to all the board members for their tireless efforts as this year has been full of non-typical challenges.

Barbara and Allan have taken the historically busy summer time with high house usage, and used this time to make significant and necessary improvements. James has done a great job coordinating the work parties to open the club, maintain its appearance, and close the year out. These actions take effort and dedication as well as coordination. This year James has done a wonderful job in executing the tasks in a distanced fashion.

The completion of the storage barn came with incredible timing. The structure proved invaluable to the function of the sailing school acting as a home base with ample space and airflow.

As an all-volunteer organization we have excellent people willing to help out time after time and make the sailing club what it is. Thank you. Thank you again to all our board members for their continued efforts and dedication to our sailing club. I would also like to thank John Smith for his outstanding work ethic and constant persistence in all we do at SLSC.

Rear Commodore Dave Hudson:

This most unusual year got off to a late start with the Board decision to install the full dock system as soon as we could do so. while following the state pandemic guidelines.

The usual work parties were divided into small, focused events and made invitation only. I'd like to thank everyone who accepted the invitation to work at these events. In some ways, multiple, smaller work parties were a better experience than our usual method, although it took a lot longer to reach full readiness.

The 2020 season had a greater maintenance component than usual, as some dock components had sustained above average wear and tear, and two docks-worth of floats reached their end of life. Many maintenance and repair projects continued all season, well into the Fall. This was a good year for the chain hoist, which shows if you don't use them, they last longer.

Brian Rodems continued to handle the day-to-day management of the Club's mooring area. Brian coordinated the Spring and Fall mooring area maintenance jobs which were more spread out due to the pandemic. The board boat launch and water rack areas had little change this year, as not everyone got their equipment in the water, another consequence of the pandemic.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Robinson:

2020 was an extraordinary year by any standards. We undertook a large number of expensive capital improvements to the club that included:

- The completion of the new barn. This is now operational and was used extensively by Mark & John for the school this year as well as now serving to house the school sailboats and the club's motor boats for the winter. The overall project came in at \$66.5K (\$7.2K(2019) + \$59.3K(2020)).
- Key upgrades and repairs to the house. Barbara and Allan have taken full advantage of the fact that the house was out of commission this year to perform a number of much needed repairs that include:
 - a complete refit of the porch, with new doors and windows.
 - removing and replacing the pantry floor (thanks to Justin Thomas) and repainting the pantry itself.
 - repair and repainting of the second floor
 - repair of the leak in the roof, that was damaging the third floor.

All of the above was done for \$28.2K - which is impressive by anyone's standards. Thanks to Barbara and Allan for the extensive amount of work they personally put into the projects to contain costs.

At the budget meeting we had last February we had a number of contingency projects that we agreed we would undertake if our cash situation at the end of 2020 looked healthy enough. I am pleased to report that despite the extraordinary expenses for the projects mentioned above, we are in very good shape. At the time of my writing this report (mid Nov) we have \$115K in the bank. This much larger than expected balance was due to:

- The recruitment of a large number of new members, who paid about \$14K in membership and storage fees. (Well done Ann)
- The school procured \$37.5K in government loans and grants to help them through the Covid crisis. Mark led the effort on this front.
- Practically the entire 2019 membership stayed with the club and paid their memberships in full despite the constraints imposed upon us by the state to deal with the pandemic.

Given our healthy cash position the board has recently given approval for two of those contingency projects to proceed, they are:

- Upgrading the aging outboard on the flat top. (~\$10K)
- Repair of the third floor of the house. (~\$5.5K)
- There is a possibility that the school's PPP loan (\$10K) might need to be repaid. That has been factored into the year end cash projection as a worst case scenario.

We continue to have a good relationship with our bank and look forward to being able to resume some level of normal operation in 2021. Thank you all for your ongoing support of our great club.

Co-Secretaries Tony and Laura Massa:

Thank you to the board for submitting written reports ahead of each board meeting. All minutes have been approved and are posted on the Club's website. After three years as co-secretaries, we are turning this position over to the capable hands of Susan Kohler. It is a privilege to witness and record the tireless work completed by the volunteers of the board to keep our club so special.

Flag Lt. House Barbara Prince-Miller and Allan Miller:

Before all hell broke loose...With a lot of auxiliary help, Justin Thomas (a club member) replaced the old pantry floor with a lovely new floor. We added a mouse-proof cabinet and bought a huge freezer, in the hope that it would be stocked with lots of food for our club's regattas. Again, with lots of help, we finished the 2nd floor which looks wonderful. We were able to hire a team who put up sheetrock and tape the seams so we could paint the walls. Barbara refurbished the 2nd floor bathroom: painted the walls and ceiling and put up a new shower curtain and window curtain.

And then the house closed, sadly, to our members. When that happened, we felt that it was now the perfect time to fix the porch with new windows and doors. With help from a couple of members, we painted the ceiling, walls, French windows and French doors. We have scheduled work for the 3rd floor to finish the walls and ceilings that are deteriorating badly. We had to remove all the burgees from the wall on the 2nd floor and you will be delighted to know that my engineering husband devised a way for us to bask on the porch with our drinks with the flags hanging in front of us.

Lastly, we want to thank all the volunteers who helped us do all the work on the house and to wish all our club members a safe and healthy Holiday Season. Please Wear a Mask.

Flag Lt. Grounds James Symon:

Due to Covid restrictions we broke up the items that we usually did during the large work parties into smaller pieces. This method worked out well. We safely got all the Grounds items up and running for another season of sailing and racing.

Club members started asking to help out at the club solo or in household groups to start cleaning up from the winter and getting the club set up for another season. It was great to see the club members bringing the sailing club back to life. The Boat Park was a bit easier this year as the boats came back slowly compared to a usual year. We organized small work parties to get the Sunfish/Laser ramp in place, picnic tables set up, Adirondack chairs, etc. Extra portable toilets were brought in because access to the house was limited. We placed everything far apart so people could safely enjoy the club. We had the usual Meadow mowing party to keep the grass and saplings cut back. There were a couple of troublesome boats (flat tires and full off water) but we managed to get the work done. The summer sailing school staff was a great help with taking on some of the problem boats.

After a great, somewhat shortened, sailing season we needed to put all the Grounds items away. Again, club members quickly joined in and helped out. Mini work parties were organized for the things that needed to be done by a group (Sunfish/Laser ramp, picnic tables, etc). Some people came by solo and some worked with household members. A couple of truckloads of gravel were put down in the Meadow to levels things off and help get rid of some soft areas. The Grounds equipment is hanging in for another year with careful maintenance and servicing. Grounds went a little over budget for the year. This was due to having up to 3 portable toilets and a hand sanitizer station that was not considered when setting up the budget in late 2019. We needed the portable toilets due to Covid restrictions on the main house. I want to thank everyone that helped out on Grounds projects this year. This club is run by the members and will only work if everyone pitches in to help out. This season showed that club members were able to meet those expectations even under difficult circumstances.

Flag Lt. Boats Jacob Greiner:

With 2020 being such an unusual year, the club powerboats were launched later and used less than in normal years. However, there was still almost daily use once the sailing school was able to open, and later in the summer when racing was able to start up. Overall, the powerboat fleet held up well, requiring mostly small repairs to keep them up and running throughout the sailing season.

The flattop pontoon developed problems that will be repaired over the winter. We are purchasing a new engine for the flattop, and putting the 90hp Yamaha currently installed on the flattop onto the Whaler Outrage instead, which will leave both boats better equipped. The 13' Whaler developed a cooling problem, so it will be heading to Hyde's this winter as well. The 18' Boston Whaler Outrage, the 17' Boston Whaler Montauk, and the 18' Carolina skiff all worked reliably well this summer. However, the T-tops on all three succumbed to the combination of UV damage and high wind and so will need to be replaced for next year.

One of the major improvements at the club this season was the completion of the new pole barn. On top of being a useful teaching space for the sailing school, it makes a huge difference for winter storage; rather than paying somebody for storage space, or spending money and the time of volunteers covering the boats every year, we now can quickly and easily store them in a safe, secure location for the off season.

Due to the pandemic, the club was not able to hold the normal spring and fall work parties, instead relying on smaller groups for help. I would like to thank Scott Meyers, Charlotte Osborne, Alex Funciello, George McNally, Jerry Zell, Steve Olsen, and Dave Hudson for all their help this season. I couldn't have gotten the boats up and running this spring, or tucked away for the winter, without your help!

Flag Lt. Race Chairs Terry Frazier and Joanne Frazier:

Starting in March the race season didn't seem possible. Every year, the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation must issue SLSC a Regatta Permit that allows the club to have organized racing on Saratoga Lake. This proved to be a cumbersome task. In the spring we found that no state permits were being issued to any sailing club as there was no "direction from above" to begin approving applications. We canceled racing in two-week blocks of time and eventually the entire Zephyr Series was canceled. On July 9th we were contacted by the Department and we were told that we needed to prepare a COVID Safety Plan for our racing activity. That was done using the guidelines given to us and on July 10th we were sent an email copy of our Permit. We quickly set things in motion and we were ready on Wednesday July 15th to begin the season with one or possibly two practice races. However, there was no wind. Our first Sunday racing was July 19th with what normally would have been the third Robinson Series races. We ended up with 9 Robinson races sailed out of 14 scheduled. During the Wednesday evening Manning Series, we were only able to complete 5 races due to weather conditions and late season start due to Covid out of 14 scheduled. In the year ending Kaydeross Series we completed 12 races out of 16 scheduled due to weather. The club succeeded in finishing a total of 26 races, approximately half of the normally scheduled races.

A skipper needed to race 1 less than half the total races to qualify for the overall championship. That turned out to be 12 races. Ethan Murnan won the Hollister Trophy for the juniors. Larry King, with Archie Quarrier crewing was our Overall

Champion. Final Season Results are posted on our website. In all, 19 skippers qualified for scoring in the Overall Championship Category.

At the end of the season we find we've had very few expenses. No new equipment needed to be purchased, there was no food to provide for the Wednesday evening Manning Series, and no season beginning Race Meeting and Presentation where snacks are usually provided. There will be no year-ending Awards Dinner. We provided a participation gift to every skipper and crew as well as all race committee members.

Joanne and I want to thank every volunteer who worked on the Committee Boat and/or one of the Safety Boats as well as others who pitched in to help us make the racing a success this year. Jim Benson worked the lead Safety Boat every single Sunday and earns a very special thank you.

Membership Chair Ann K. Seidman:

2020 was a year to remember! We welcomed 16 new Regular Members, one Junior and one Student member. We also welcomed and honored two family members, Joe & Gisela Choi and Alan & MaryJean Tedrow to the status of Honorary membership. Here is the breakdown of membership categories: 1 Caretaker; 12 Honorary; 22 Corresponding; 6 Junior; and 1 Student for a total of 179 Regular members.

We welcomed the following new members in 2020: Rick & Carol Fish, Scott Richards & Pamela Brooks-Richards, Robert & Nadine Shadlock, Christopher MacDonald, Nigel & Karen Cave, David Petrillo & Judy Smith, Siggie & Jacqueline Sapinski, Herbert & Sandy Roy, Zack Novick & Maddy Zanetti, Jay & Marla Carruthers, Kathleen Capelli & Richard Frank, Noah Allen, Beth and Raub Smith, Tom & Cynthia Eletto, Jordan Roberts, Rich and Barbara Naple, Erik & Maria Israelson, and Archie Quarrier.

Hopefully, next season, all our new members will be able to participate in our annual new member brunch, which was postponed for obvious reasons. I am known to put on a spectacular welcoming brunch!

Publicity Chair Charlotte Osborne:

In March we were supposed to have exhibited the sailing club and sailing school at the Annual Sports Expo at the Saratoga City Center. This year because of the pandemic, the Expo was postponed until May. Then in May they had to cancel the Expo. The Expo generates a lot of interest in the sailing school. Here's to hoping next March finds us able to move toward a more normal life. If that happens, I will be looking for volunteers to man the booth.

Almost every month during the sailing season I have tried to do a small write up about the happenings at the club for the Saratoga Lake Association. This keeps the residents around the lake informed about what may be happening here. This year was more challenging to get those write-ups done because of the pandemic.

The Sailing Club has a Facebook page that many members enjoy sharing stories and pictures with each other.

Sailing Chair Mark Welcome:

We are very happy to report that the sailing school had a successful season this year, although the metrics for how we measure success is drastically different this year. In 2020, our success is measured by: The simple fact that we were able to run sailing classes at all, and we had had no cases of Covid-19. We were able to make many adjustments to the way we operate in order to comply with the NYS and CDC guidelines for summer camps. We employed all of our full-time instructors as well as our sailing counselors for the entire season. The professional development of the instructional staff was great. They rose to the occasion while working under a difficult situation and John Power and I were extremely happy with the maturity and improvement they displayed over the course of the season.

With regards to the usual stats we give in these reports, the number of students was down with 183 student registrations this year compared to 245 registrations in 2019. This drop can all be attributed to lower numbers of adults this year (39 as opposed to 103 in 2019). We had to leave 70 students on wait lists and we had 50 students who cancelled for various reasons. We believe that the above registration data is telling us that demand for sailing continues to be strong and bodes well for the coming year.

Tuition Revenue was down to just under \$50k from just over \$60k last year. The tuition revenue was helped by the fact that we increased fees this year to help cover all the additional costs. We also helped offset costs by applying for and receiving \$27,700 from the government PPP loan program (Payroll Protection Program). We meet the requirements to have this loan forgiven and are waiting on confirmation from Adirondack Trust.

We also received a \$10,000 grant from the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program from the Small Business Administration. Unfortunately, we were told in August that the rules changed for this program and it could not be forgiven if we received the PPP loan, so we will be paying that back. We requested and received an additional grant from the Alfred Z. Solomon Foundation (via the Saratoga Lake Sailing Foundation) which covered the remaining \$8500 that the school spent last year on the new fleet of FJs for the Junior Racers. All of these revenues allowed us to keep all of our staff on full time and continue their professional development. As we have noted in the past, we believe that increased and improved professional development of our staff will be the key to continued success.

Another highlight of the season was the new barn which gave the school a separate space to run classes in a somewhat open and ventilated environment. It kept us separated from the membership and was very well suited to all the new practices and procedures we needed to implement for Covid.

Congratulations to Ethan Murnan on winning the Murray Hollister award as the junior champion for the fourth year in a row! We were very happy to see our juniors on the race course on a regular basis despite this season's issues.

As always, the success of the school is entirely due to the quality of the instructors and involved members. We simply can't thank the following people enough: The Board and the entire membership of SLSC for giving us the trust and support to run the programs under the conditions. Special thanks to John Power who dedicated untold hours to create, refine and implement plans to allow us to run a successful season. Thank you to all of our instructors and counselors: Tim Hayes, Luka Newton, Jake Welcome, Sara Eberlin, Liam Enright, Senja Matson, Caroline Versaci, Will Lenkowitz, Lewis Sulkin, Rosie Versaci, Izabella Czajkowski, Aidan Fahy and Ethan Murnan. Thank you also to our members who are certified instructors and who helped throughout the season: Piotr Czajkowski, Rob Hayes, Allan Miller, Greg Northrop, Jen Tayne and Jerry Zell.

As we look forward to 2021, we are still unsure as to what it will look like. We are holding off on opening up registrations until after the new year to give us a little better picture as to what Summer 2021 might look like.

Our intent, with the approval and support of the Board and the SLSC membership, is to run classes again next summer assuming that the Covid situation is the same or better than it was to begin the 2020 season. We are working to firm up our returning instruction staff and am happy to say that John Power will be returning as Head Instructor.

As always, we are looking for members who are interested in assisting with the school in any way. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

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.....	Shirley & Paul Waterfield 584-5552
Kestrel.....	Tony Bianchini 877-5062
Laser.....	Leslie Rafaniello 301-4109
MC Scow.....	Andrew Murnan 420-5368
Thistle.....	Jerry Zell 767-9216
Y-Flyer.....	Terence Fraser 495-4037

2020 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

Commodore.....	John Smith slsc_commodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	786-1340
Vice Commodore.....	Scott Meyer slsc_vicecommodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	248-1229
Rear Commodore.....	Dave Hudson slsc_rearcommodore@sailsaratoga.org.....	370-4894
Secretary.....	Anthony & Laura Massa slsc_secretary@sailsaratoga.org.....	526-9121
Treasurer.....	Jeff Robinson slsc_treasurer@sailsaratoga.org.....	310-9606
Flag Lt. Boats.....	Jake Greiner slsc_boats@sailsaratoga.org.....	203-767-8783
Flag Lt. Grounds.....	James Symon slsc_grounds@sailsaratoga.org.....	316-1190

Flag Lt. House.....	Barbara & Allan Miller slsc_house@sailsaratoga.org.....	885-5510
Flag Lt. Race.....	Terry Fraser slsc_race@sailsaratoga.org.....	495-4037
Membership.....	Ann Seidman slsc_membership@sailsaratoga.org.....	877-8731
Newsletter/Publicity.....	Charlotte Osborne slsc_publicity@sailsaratoga.org.....	669-7646
Sailing Program.....	Mark Welcome slsc_sailingpgm@sailsaratoga.org.....	587-9041
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