

River Debris

Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter – River Debris

October 2010

From 2010 (Past) Commodore, Bob Valentine

Hello,

Well here we are at the end of another sailing season. If you haven't done it already, its time to take that last sail, work on cleaning the boat out, give the boat cradle a once over and schedule a date to have the boat pulled.

I hope it was a great sailing season for all of you. I personally had a great year. Having missed part of this years sailing season because of travel for work made my time on and around the water even more special. Along with racing on Thriller and helping out with the Metro-Parks sailing program I made it to Bay Week this year along with racing the Falcon Cup on Unbridled. (Thanks Rob!) The Wednesday night club races on Thriller are some of my favorite, not only because of the great group of guys on Thriller that I have had the pleasure of sailing with for over 20+ years but because of all of you guys that come out to race. Sundays are fun but there is something special about leaving work on Wednesdays and heading out onto the water and saying hello to everyone as we pass each other before the start!! A great way to break-up the workweek.

I've mentioned in past newsletters and again at last weeks awards banquet but I feel it deserves mentioning again. Having Butch, Mike, Todd, Kurt, Gary & Phil on the board along with Kendra chairing the Regatta made my job (and absence) as Commodore a piece of cake. The board is team effort and they were/are a great team!!! Thanks guys!!

I feel confident moving forward with the addition of Ryan and Sandy to the board along with Michelle as 2011 Regatta chairperson.

Please take the time to thank and welcome the 2011 GRSC board!!

Commodore - Mike Nolan

Vice Commodore – Todd Rogers

Rear Commodore – Sandy Woodthorpe

Treasurer – Gary Nelson

Secretary – Kurt Katchler

Trustee – Butch Miller

Trustee – Ryan Hoffman

Regatta Chair – Michelle Pettit

Thanks again to everyone who helped with the Regatta. **Special thanks to Kendra** for two years of service chairing the GRSC Regatta. Kendra is the multi-task pro, she had more going on at one time organizing the Regatta than I had going on in one week!!! And she did an excellent job getting it all done!!! She set a budget for 2010, cut costs to meet it and delivered on an excellent Regatta. Thank Kendra when you see here, she deserves it!!

Finally, thank all of you for allowing me to serve on the GRSC board. We have a great club with great members and we all need to work at keeping it going!

Regards,

Bob

GRSC Past Commodore

From the 2011 Vice Commodore, Todd Rogers

I want to thank all of the award presenters, recipients, and attendees at the fall membership meeting and awards banquet. I hope that everyone had a good time. Special thanks goes to Terry, Phil, Michelle, Kurt, and Mike for all the effort they put forth in setting everything up.

Special thanks and congratulations go to the volunteers elected that evening to serve as our new 2011 board members: Sandy Woodthorpe, Rear Commodore; Ryan Hoffman, Trustee; and Michelle Pettit, Regatta Chairperson.

Extra-special thanks goes to Phil Waddle for admirably serving the club as a Trustee these past two years!!!

Phil and Terri are celebrating the culmination of his term by inviting all to another of their now infamous "Shoot-Outs". So for all you freedom-loving, gun-toting Americans - bring your weapon(s) of choice, ear and eye protection – and spend the afternoon of November 20th safely taking aim – and getting trigger happy!!!

Terri and Phil's - Fall 2010 Shoot-Out
November 20th, 2010 - 2:00 PM
Phil Waddle & Terri Pogozelski
6061 Taylor Road Leroy Twp., OH 44077
Phil C 440-537-1708
Terri C 440-537-1138
terri-n-phil@roadrunner.com

Extra-special/special-extra thanks goes to our 2010 Sportsman of the Year, and now Immediate Past Commodore; Bob Valentine!!!

Thanks to Bob and Phil for all of your efforts!!! It has been a pleasure serving with both of you this past year!!!

As your newly elected Vice Commodore - directly responsible for the racing and cruising activities of the Club – I look forward to receiving as much feed-back as I can get regarding any ideas to improve and grow our racing and cruising events – and invite you

to email me any concerns, ideas, or suggestions that you may have for the upcoming 2011 season.

As noted during the banquet, I would like to possibly set-up a committee to investigate any potential changes/improvements, as I have already received quite a few suggestions. These include having more cruiser-friendly specialty races (similar to the Geneva weekend); point-to-point racing to places that can accommodate the deeper draft boats; establish a summer Sunday racing series (that would not require additional race committee duties); investigate handicapping alternatives; on-the-water training/practice races; and continuing the off-season discussion group/training sessions started last year – including establishing formal training/qualification programs for our race and protest committees. Once I have a chance to catch-up on all of the personal chores that I've neglected this year – I will begin looking into scheduling some committee meetings and training sessions.

Thanks again to ALL of the GRSC members for helping to make this an extremely fun year for Diane and me. It has been a great one for both of us, and we are looking forward to next year!!!

Todd

I don't know if the early-season hockey game outing was a jinx; but it has been a season of checks and body blows for some of us!!! (e.g. dropped masts, underwater obstacles, regatta collisions, c-clamps, busted rudders, etc...) The seafaring way of life can sometimes be perilous - and therefore it is always imperative that safety be of utmost concern.

Earlier this year, I shared some pertinent thoughts from Brad Knapp after *Notorious* rode-out a storm inside the break-wall – and the hind-sight that they would have been better off going out to open water. After one of our GRSC boats recently ended-the-season by going hard-aground inside the wall; on the lee-shore, in high-seas and 20+ knots of air; Kathy Mathews shared this with me:

Even without racing, you can end up in trouble when you sail behind the wall. You can easily end up on the beach. Here is a bit more info on the FH breakwater area:

The Army Corp built the west end of the FH breakwater (to the knee) and maintain it. Diamond Shamrock (left the area in the 1970s) built the rest of the breakwater for a dock that is now HTP marina. Since Diamond Shamrock built the wall, and it is not to the Army Corp's standards, the Army Corp does not maintain it. The Army Corp did add some additional lights, warning buoys and a few sentinel rocks after a few power boats went over the wall and sunk in about 40 seconds. In the 1950's FH had a terrible storm that washed out the beach. The village created their own beach erosion control system. (Who needs the Army Corp of Engineers!!! The local auto mechanics/fisherman figured out a fix that they designed, built and implemented themselves.) They poured large round pipes 10ft wide and 5 ft tall that they put on the beach and filled with sand. They also laid pipes perpendicular to the shore under the water to catch and hold sand. About 10 years ago the FH launching ramps added a wall with docks. And the east end of the river went to a solid breakwater from a wall setting on piers. This has caused the river side of the FH breakwater area to silt in. Before these structures were installed the winter/spring ice breaking and fast waters would wash all the silt to the middle of the channel. Then when the river shipping channel got shallow enough the Army Corp

would dredge. But now the silt is just piling up. And the Port Authority does a bare minimum of dredging to allow small power boats to launch. To top that one off, sometimes when HTP marina dredges they just drop the stuff in the middle of the breakwater area. How do I know? I watched it, photographed it, and called it into the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard did nothing. And don't forget to give the red water intake a wide berth. Several boats have gotten their keels stuck on the intake and have done significant damage. The last boat that did this was Wild Things. Anyways, Paul and I see the day coming when we will no longer be able to race behind the breakwater. Heck, we can't even get hauled at the Sailing Center in 2010!!!!

Have fun – and stay safe!!!

Todd

GRSC

Club Calendar

- Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the Month. Next meeting is November 9th at 7:00pm.
- Get together- every Wednesday night at Chester's Legacy Tavern in Painesville after the club race. If your not a regular, please try and make it at least once during the summer to help show your support of Chester's.
- Tuesday Libations-at Capp's in Leroy
- Breakfast Sunday mornings ?? anyone interested??