



# River Debris

## Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter

December 2011

### Happy Holidays



**Commodore Todd's Holiday Greeting:** (...as I'm too cheap to buy real Christmas cards!)

#### Personal Thanksgivings...

- For all the board members I have been so fortunate to serve with during the past two years.
- For all that have supported and volunteered to help the club in so many ways.
- For all that have volunteered to serve on the board and in the other key positions for 2012.
- To Sandy W. for creating and publishing the recent membership survey, and to all that responded. (The feed-back provided will certainly help guide us all this coming year.)
- To the Grand River for never over-flowing her banks this wettest year on record.
- For all the real river debris that let me use my roof rake for something other than snow.
- For all that raced with and against us.
- For all that we cruised with ...and so graciously invited us to cruise with them.
- For the Conch and Cherry Republics, Geneva on the Lake, and many other ports of call both near and far...
- For all our friends at Chagrin Lagoons, Mentor Harbor, Edgewater, Lakeside, on and on...
- To the entire sailing community.
- For the art (e.g. Tina Greenslade's awesome graphic designs).
- For the music (e.g. Istvan Medgyesi, Nick Zuber, Mayer Hawthorne, on and on...).
- For the camaraderie, the stories, the jokes, the laughter, the memories, the food, the fun!
- For our friends and families - and all that we shared!
- FOR DIANE!!!

#### Christmas Wishes...

- For more and more GRSC members ...and more and more friends.
- For more opportunities to enjoy, sail, race, and cruise with them all.
- For more sponsors and volunteers to help organize the cruises, specialty races, and events.
- For a cruising fleet captain.
- For more events and improvement ideas.
- For more fun and less work ...more sailing, less boat maintenance.
- For more productivity and less politics.
- For everyone's health and well-being ...no broken boats, bones, or bodies!!!
- For more opportunities to spend quality time with friends and family, both on and off the water.
- FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!

Your brand new 2012 GRSC Board of Trustees had our first official meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The minutes from that meeting will soon be available on the website under the Members Only section.

### **2012 GRSC Regatta Planning Meeting:**

As part of the agenda for the coming year, the board has scheduled a Regatta Planning Meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting is tentatively set to take place at 7:00 PM at GRYC (with Chester's as an alternative if GRYC is snowed-in). With Mentor Harbor moving its regatta to the weekend after the Falcon Cup, the 2012 GRSC regatta is now scheduled for August 24th-26th – one week later than usual. It is hoped that this schedule change will increase participation at both the MHYC and GRSC regattas. The objective of the planning meeting will be to develop a preliminary budget; evaluate supplier, award and entertainment options; and to plan the fund-raising activities. As always, volunteers will be needed, and this meeting will be open to all; and all are encouraged to attend.

In order to ensure that we will be able to provide the racing and social events that participants have come to expect, it is expected that significant fund-raising efforts will again be necessary. Anyone who has ever worked towards securing sponsorship and funding for the regatta knows that affiliation with worthwhile charitable causes makes that job much easier. In the past, GRSC has partnered with and provided significant contributions to various benevolent organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Hospice of the Western Reserve, and the Lake County Food Bank.

Last year, we partnered with the Spirit of America and Lake Metro Parks Learn to Sail programs. These are two of the only public boating educational programs in this region, and our support should be considered similar to that of any public school athletic booster club. Ultimately, our support and partnership should not only be beneficial to the youth and adults served by these programs, but to sailing in general, our club in particular, and to the local recreational and cottage industries that benefit from a healthy and active boating community.

This year, we will again be looking for a worthy organization to form a win-win partnership with. If you have any suggestions for possible partners/beneficiaries, please provide them to us at or before the January 3<sup>rd</sup> regatta planning meeting.

### **Special Race and Cruising Fleet Planning Meetings:**

Special Race and Cruising Fleet Planning Meetings will be scheduled in late January/early February. The Race Planning Meeting will be to assess the racing fleet changes that were trialed last year, and to then develop and finalize the 2012 racing schedule. The Cruising Fleet Meeting will be to evaluate what GRSC might offer to better serve and build the cruising fleet, and to draft a 2012 cruising fleet schedule of events.

(Based on the planned Cleveland Sailing Assoc. regatta schedule - and to begin planning the club events - a rough draft/preliminary calendar of GRSC events is attached as part of this newsletter.)

In order to help GRSC grow and continue to offer more events, educational opportunities, social happenings, and FUN for all - we will continue to encourage improvement ideas, event planning participation, and new membership. With everyone's demonstrated and on-going support, I am excited and confident that this will be another great year for GRSC.

HOLIDAY BLESSINGS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

- Todd Rogers

### **From Vice Commodore Sandy:**

I've really enjoyed helping my fellow board members make the club meaningful and fun this past year! Here's a toast to all of them *and* to the 2012 officers!

As I said at the annual fall meeting and awards dinner, the membership survey results show that we have a vibrant membership. With boats in different places, the casual, spontaneous dock get togethers don't happen the way they used to at the Sailing Center. Times have changed, too. Fifteen, twenty years ago, club membership swelled to over 100 people. It's less than half that now. The survey revealed the effects of the economy. If not job or money issues, then family commitments, such as taking care of aging parents and college tuitions, are impacting some members who were very active just a couple years ago.

The survey shows that GRSC is most identified with zesty competition. GRSC is a people-oriented club. Socializing is a key "intangible." Weather spoiled a lot of plans last summer, particularly the cruises, picnics and potlucks drew a fair number and were enjoyed immensely. The survey indicates a desire for even more social functions. Hey it's NE Ohio. But stay tuned. We'll try to come up with some "excuses" to get together before spring and get rolling with more opportunities once the boats are afloat.

Back to the survey. The purpose was to obtain opinions and ideas straight from the members, rather than rely on anecdotes or conjecture. Membership count has remained about the same the past few years. That's good. Yet it's just as important for a club to grow. Sailing isn't exactly cheap—we all know that. Cost can be a deterrent, but once newbies and novices understand the basics, they find ways to afford the sport. This year, I will be promoting person-to-person and via social and other media channels to gain new members, especially younger ones.

(The entire survey results are attached as part of this newsletter.)

As your Board, we can *and want to* do more to serve club needs and interests. Keep the ideas flowing and tell us what's on your mind! We do welcome newsletter input, such as reviews, websites, movies, books, pictures, how-to tips, stories, and the like.

May your New Year be healthy and prosperous and here's looking forward to a great sailing season in 2012!

- Sandy Woodthorpe

### **From Rear Commodore Butch:**

To All GRSC Members, On Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I had the opportunity to attend the 2011, I-LYA Fall Meeting in Perrysburg, Ohio with Kurt Kachler. Although we only went up for the Saturday meetings, it was worth the drive. As I met people from other clubs, it was obvious from general conversations that the GRSC is well thought of along the west end of Lake Erie from the club's participation over the past years.. In addition to meeting some fine sailors, a couple of the meetings that we sat in on presented some interesting information.

At the PHRF-Lake Erie session, there is still a concern in getting more boats to obtain their PHRF certificates. One of the items stressed was the potential of having a club's regatta results voided for allowing non-certificated boats to participate, if protested. The other presentation that was of interest was new race scoring software developed by Dan Sadoski of Specware Inc. The program is a scoring application that archives all results into a database that can be viewed by all other

clubs and members throughout the lake. This allows you to see how you would perform against other boats you have not raced so long as you are both in the database. Another benefit is that it allows races to be scored from a smart phone. It is worth checking this out on the web. Try it at [www.noticeofrace.net](http://www.noticeofrace.net).

The afternoon meeting was the Senior Sail Committee meeting. The Forum Theatre was pretty full as we were shown a power point presentation marketing Bay Week. I just put my boat away and these guys already have 2012 Bay Week planned, organized and scheduled. There was also talk about adding a shorter race from Lorain to the island for those boats that could not participate in the Deepwater Race. Some awards were given out from this past season, and it was nice to see that "flags" and "bottles of rum" seem to be as appreciated as the trophies. Keep current at [www.i-lya.org](http://www.i-lya.org).

It was a great experience and I am looking forward to the Spring I-LYA meeting in March.

See ya,

- Butch Miller

## **GRSC**

### ***Club Calendar***

- 1 Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the Month. Next meeting is January 10th at 7:00pm.
- 2 "Crew Training" Get Together every Wednesday night at Chester's Legacy Tavern in Painesville.
- 3 Tuesday Libations-at Capp's in Leroy
- 4 SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST: SUNDAY JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> AT THE LODGE AT GENEVA – 10:00 AM  
Further details/reminder will be forthcoming