



## Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter – River Debris

January/February 2011

### From Commodore Mike:

Hello everyone, hope you are all surviving the winter weather. It will end according to Puxatony Phil. On January 26<sup>th</sup> GRSC and the Continental Ski Club went to Holimont Ski Area in New York. GRSC accounted for 7 of the people on the trip. We had excellent conditions and fun was had by all.

Enough about skiing, this is a sailing newsletter after all. We have quite a few activities and race scheduling ideas in the works for the 2011 season. Our Vice Commodore and Rear Commodore have classes and training sessions planned for the winter/ spring time. I want to thank Todd and Sandy for all of the work they've put in this winter and I will leave to them to report on what they've set up so far. We are planning to bring back Summer Sundays this year with different start protocols' and race formats to make them interesting and save on committee boat duties.

So, keep an eye on the emails or come to a board meeting and see what's happening.

Hope to see you at Vlad's Navigation 101 talk this Saturday.

Stay warm, Mike

### From Rear Commodore Sandy:

The response for Vlad's Navigation 101 talk at Fairport Library on Saturday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> has been very good. Vlad has some great resources to share and I'll have some munchies set out. Last minute attendees are welcome. Don't miss it!

To attract new people to our club, we're promoting our "edutainment" sessions to the public. Talks I'm having with the Windsurf Ohio water sports shop in Fairport and Lakeland Colleges Student Activities office may yield some fun events that stimulate interest in sailing. If any of you have connections with Lakeland or Lake Erie Colleges, please let me know. [sandywoodthorpe@gmail.com](mailto:sandywoodthorpe@gmail.com)

Upcoming edutainment for mid-spring: a panel discussion on single-hand sailing. More on that later.

In a book I'm reading about surfing in Sheboygan, the guy is describing hopping ice flows to get to the waves and then avoiding icebergs on the ride back to shore. Holy

cow! And people think we sailors are insane!

Spring is coming. Really. Sandy

**From Cruising Fleet Captain Ron:**

Hi fellow sailors,

Attached is a tentative schedule of 2011 events for the GRSC Cruising Club. Please let me know if you see any conflicts with other scheduled club events?

**GRSC Tentative 2011 Cruising Club Schedule**

May 1	Cruising Club Planning Meeting/Dinner	Capps, Leroy, OH
June 11	Spring Picnic	Sailing Center, A Dock
July 1-4	Cruise to Port Stanley, Canada	Port Stanley Sailing Squadron
August 13-14	"Go with the Wind"	Sail East or West?
September 2-5	Labor Day Cruise to Erieau, Canada	Erieau Marina
September 17-18	* Race to Geneva	Geneva State Park Marina
October 8	Fall Clambake	Grand River Yacht Club

*\*Cruising Club members are invited to join the race to Geneva or they can just cruise and not race*

**From Vice Commodore Todd:**

## **PROPOSED RACING FLEET CHANGES FOR 2011**

As noted at the Fall Membership Meeting and in the past several newsletters; numerous requests and suggestions have been made for changes, trials, and experiments for this year's GRSC racing fleet.

In response, and following several group discussions regarding their merits and ease of implementation, the following changes are proposed for this years' racing program:

### **RACING SCHEDULES:**

In addition to the regularly scheduled Spring, Summer and Fall Wednesday and Sunday Series, the following specialty races/series are planned:

### **NEW SUMMER SPECIALTY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WEEKEND SERIES**

This Summer Weekend series will consist of separate Saturday races exclusively for the spinnaker fleet on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup>, and August 6<sup>th</sup> - combined with Sunday races exclusively for the JAM fleet on July 24<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and August 7<sup>th</sup>. These will be standard two-race weekend formats, but with the first races to start at 12:00 noon and the second races no later than 2:00 PM.

☞ The advantages of alternating race days for the spinnaker and JAM fleets are that more crew (and coaches?) might be available between the fleets; and boats so equipped can race in both fleets.

☞ The advantages of the later start times are to eliminate any conflicts with weekend morning work or religious services, and to possibly start racing after any afternoon sea-breezes have filled-in.

### **A NEW FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIALTY RACE SERIES**

☞ This will be a once-a-month, three race series of the same format as the popular Moonlight Race, followed by pot-luck dinner gatherings at the Sailing Center. Dates are tentatively set as June 17<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and August 26<sup>th</sup>.

The recently reinitiated **COOPER'S CLASSIC** ( water fight) race will again be scheduled on the 4th of July weekend - this year suggested to be followed by a GRSC Flag Parade on the river (...and continued mayhem?).

**A SPECIALTY RACE TO ERIEAU, CANADA** will be scheduled on Labor Day Weekend, to be held in conjunction with the annual trip planned by the Cruising Fleet

The now annual, invitational **GENEVA RACE WEEKEND** is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

The annual Fall **MOONLIGHT RACE** is scheduled on September 23rd (although this will actually be the night of the new moon).

## **RACING SCHEDULES (continued):**

In addition, members and officers from both MHYC/CLYC have expressed interest in setting-up some races between our clubs. It is envisioned that these would consist of a morning race to the host club, lunch, an afternoon race around the buoys, dinner/after race party, and then cruise/race back to the home port. Several Saturdays will be left open to schedule such specialty racing events, on a non-competing basis with the CSA regattas.

- ☞ Formal alternative race management procedures (start/finish/timekeeping/etc.) will be defined for each and all of these specialty races, so that no additional committee boat duties (beyond those for the current regular series races) will be required.
- ☞ To add some additional variety to the normal racing format, pursuit/handicap start races (similar to the Geneva Races) will be encouraged for any point-to-point races.
- ☞ Specialty race instructions and notices with all of the specific details will be separately issued in advance for each of these added races/series.
- ☞ As afforded by the established racing rules for Specialty races, participation by non-racing members and non-members will be allowed and encouraged.
- ☞ Any additional food/party expenses associated with these newly added specialty races will be off-set by participant contributions/donations.

**One date remains unresolved, and I would like the racing skippers to provide their input. It has been suggested that Father's Day, June 19<sup>th</sup> be made the final Spring Sunday with planned races 9 & 10. Alternatives would be to schedule another specialty race or no race at all (other than the slated Friday night race.) Please email any preferences to my attention at our home email address: [mrsrogers@roadrunner.com](mailto:mrsrogers@roadrunner.com) prior to the March 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting.**

## **COURSES:**

**Shorter course options using "F", "E", and "W" Marks will be added to the S1 course cards**

- ☞ This will add the opportunity to call for shorter courses on inside-the-wall starts on light-air Fall Wednesday nights

## **AWARDS:**

**Regular series Sunday and Wednesday Over-All Awards (similar to the Steger and Eschelmann) will be created for the JAM Fleet**

- ☞ Fleet Captain/members of the JAM fleet have been asked to look for possible trophies (and worthy titles) - and these awards will be included as an addendum to Section 16 of the rule book

**During the January board meeting - it was determined that the membership, racing, and cruising fleet dues would remain the same as 2010 - and providing keeper awards (above and beyond the currently awarded certificates) will be evaluated once a 2011 budget is established after the Spring Membership Meeting. (Singular First-Timer or Top Performance keeper awards may be considered)**

## **SCORING:**

**The 2009/2010 addendum that allowed boats to switch fleets will be rescinded.**

☞ GRSC scoring software does not accommodate boats that switch fleets in the middle of a series, and boats that switch can become “spoilers” for those that are in competition within a series.

**As prescribed by US Sailing for “Average Conditions”, the GRSC Time-on-Time formula will be changed to have a “B” denominator of 550**

☞ Use of the 650 denominator (outside the range of commonly used ToT formulas listed by US Sailing) will be discontinued. This should not radically change the overall results, but should tighten up the scoring between the boats within the fleets, and will be more favorable to the higher rated (slower) boats that now comprise a significant portion of our racing fleet.

## **TRAINING:**

☞ Generous offers have been received to facilitate, instruct, and lead various discussion groups and training sessions (and even training competitions). Several Saturdays have been allocated on the attached schedule for some of these events.

☞ The following 2011 training events are either already slated or being considered:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Navigational Techniques</b>	<b>Vlad Kilimnik</b>	<b>Saturday 2/19/11 1:00 PM</b>	<b>FH Library Meeting Room</b>
<b>Protest Procedures &amp; Protocol w/Mock Protest Hearing</b>	<b>TBD - Outside resources being investigated</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Starting Techniques and Tactics On and Off Water Clinic</b>	<b>Grant Edwards</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Mark Rounding Skills On and Off Water Clinic</b>	<b>Kathy Mathews</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>MOB Training Clinic and On Water Competition</b>	<b>Kathy Mathews</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Surf Sailing</b>	<b>Sandy Woodthorpe Steve and Terri from The Surf Shop</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

## **FORMAL 2011 ADDENDUMS TO THE RACING RULES:**

(From 2009-2010)

**Delete Article 3.2 PHRF Cards:** Although encouraged, PHRF-LE certification or membership will not be required for GRSC club racing. GRSC will assign handicaps for any boat without a valid PHRF certificate.

(From 2010)

**Amend Article 6.3 Sunday Spinnaker & Jam Fleet courses:** Remove second to last sentence to allow two Sunday races with an inside the wall start. Will now read; The Spinnaker & JAM Fleets will attempt to sail two (2) races on every Sunday. When two (2) races are scheduled with an S start, the Spinnaker and JAM Fleet Captains shall call a group one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) or L-1 course for race #1. If either Spinnaker or JAM Fleet boats have finished race #1 prior to 11:50 AM the Spinnaker & JAM Fleet Captains will instruct the Committee boat to start race #2. No warning signal to start race #2 will be given after 12:00 PM, noon. Any length course on the S-1 course card can be called.

**Amend Article 12.1 Time Limits Within a Class:** Remove 30 minute time limit from Sunday races giving all races a 45 minute time limit. Will now read; If a boat that is racing does not finish within 45 minutes of the lead boat of her class she will be scored DNF.

(New for 2011)

**Amend Article 1.3 Order of Precedence of Rules - Item (d):** Remove reference to the (now outdated) 2005-2009 Racing Rules of Sailing. Will now read; Current issue of the International Sailing Federation Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)

**Add to Section 16 Awards:** JAM fleet will have overall awards for Spring and Fall Wednesdays and Spring and Fall Sundays.

- An award will combine the JAM class Spring and Fall Sunday races as a single series. Throw-outs and committee boat duty scores will be calculated separately from the series. An Award will be given for First place.
- An award will combine the JAM class Spring and Fall Wednesday races as a single series. Throw-outs and committee boat duty scores will be calculated separately from the series. An Award will be given for First place.

**All other Rules and Regulations will remain unchanged.**

I'm compelled to reiterate one of the axioms where I work: "Change doesn't necessarily mean improvement; but improvement necessarily means change!!!" It is hoped that at least some of these changes will be proven to be improvements that may better facilitate the needs of our current racing members, and also promote new and increased participation.

At the conclusion of the 2011 racing season, each of these trials and experiments can be evaluated for possible incorporation to our 2012 program.

Thanks to all that have provided their suggestions and feed-back.

The attached 2011 GRSC Calendar includes all of the regularly scheduled races and series, as well as all of the added specialty races, potential training sessions and cruising events.

Please contact me before the March 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting if there are any questions, concerns, or additional suggestions.

**2011 GRSC J105 REGATTA CHAMPION JIM SMINCHAK AND “TEAM IT”  
WIN TRIP TO KEY WEST RACE WEEK – AND THEN WIN KWRW PHRF 1**





### **Best Around the Buoys Team WINS PHRF 1 at Key West Race Week!**

Congratulations to Sail Magazine's Best Around the Buoys (BAB) crew, Cleveland's own Team IT, aboard the J/111 *Kontiki V*, the overall winners of PHRF 1 at Key West 2011.

This past fall, Jim Sminchak and crew on the J/105 "IT", out of Cleveland's Lakeside Yacht Club, beat out 70 other teams from around the country to win SAIL's inaugural Best Around the Buoys contest, entitling them to a fully paid bid to race one of the hottest new production boats around at Key West 2011.

Sminchak and crew earned the right to represent America's North Coast thanks to their



outstanding performance this past summer in a number of PHRF events on Lake Erie, including the Mentor Harbor Yachting Club Regatta, the Lakeside Yacht Club Regatta, the 73rd Annual Falcon Cup, Edgewater Yacht Club's Cleveland Race Week, and THE GRAND RIVER REGATTA.

Jim and crew Mindy Sminchak, Doug Moose, Harriot Uhlir, Tod Sackett, Jeff Haase and Nick Turney overcame light winds and even an entanglement with a crab buoy to prevail in a highly competitive fleet.

Consistency throughout a challenging week of light-air racing did the trick—conditions were the same the final day as they'd been throughout with winds just 6-10 knots—as the crew posted a record of 2, 2, 3, 2, 1, 2, 5, 3, 2, for a total of 22 points.

"The weather was great, the sailing was great and, of course, winning made it even that much more enjoyable," Sminchak said afterward.

For a complete account of *Kontiki V's* regatta, including videos of the crew and *Kontiki V* under sail – Go to [sailmagazine.com](http://sailmagazine.com)



Other local competitors at Key West this year included:

Local talent Curtis Florence was the bowman on *Barking Mad*, which swept the pro-laden Farr 30 class.

*Flat Stanley* from Edgewater YC competed in the tough Melges 32 class – and Mark Beck from MHYC raced in the Melges 24 class.

### ***GRSC Club Calendar***

Navigation 101 – Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 PM – Fairport Harbor Library

2011 Membership Meeting – ???

Board Meetings - The second Tuesday of the Month - 7:00 PM.

Crew Training - Every Wednesday night at Chester's Legacy Tavern in Painesville.

Tuesday Libations - Capp's in Leroy.