



Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter

Special 2012 Spring Membership Meeting Edition

“A PIPER IS DOWN”

Bridget Cook, our “official” GRSC bagpiper, who has graciously donated her talents to our regatta closing ceremonies for the past two years, recently suffered a mild stroke. Luckily, Bridget was able to receive immediate medical care, and is now at home recovering and doing well.

On Wednesday, April 4th, Chester’s Legacy Tavern will be having a fund raiser to help Bridget while she takes time off from her two jobs to recuperate. There will be Chinese raffle baskets and 20% of the tavern’s proceeds that evening will be donated to Bridget and her family. We are preparing a basket to donate on behalf of GRSC. Please show your support for Bridget, and stop in at Chester’s for a very special Crew Training event.

(A flier is attached with all the details regarding Wednesdays event.)

2012 Membership Meeting Notes:

I want to thank all that attended the membership meeting this past Saturday evening, and especially the brand new members that have now joined us. Once the 2012 roster is compiled and finalized, I will issue a special introduction and welcome to all our new members. Based on the great turn-out and the spirited enthusiasm that was exhibited during the meeting, I am confident that this will again be another fun and exciting sailing season for the club.

For those that missed the meeting; please check out the new and updated pages on the GRSC website at www.grsc.net. Special thanks to Vice Commodore Sandy Woodthorpe and Webmaster Dennis Steffy for this long overdue update.

For racing fleet members, I ask that you please thoroughly review the draft copy of the updated GRSC racing rules that is posted on the website. Please provide me any concerns and/or questions about the incorporated changes, and they will be addressed at the Racing Fleet Lottery Meeting on April 28th.

2012 GRSC Membership:

GRSC could still use more support to help us grow and enhance our offerings to our members and to the sport. Please mail registrations to: Grand River Sailing Club - P.O. Box 607, Grand River, OH 44045

For those of you who have not yet joined GRSC, there is no penalty for late application. For new members; please mail in your registrations and if required, the sponsorship sections will be completed by the GRSC board.

GRSC Generosity:

Last year as part of our regatta fund-raising initiatives, profits from the regatta were to benefit The Spirit of America Foundation (SoA).

For any that may not know; SoA provides boating safety education to the public, and provides youths the opportunity to experience hands-on, on-the-water training in a variety of boats. We are very fortunate that, in our region, SoA has partnered with the Lake MetroParks, and offers summer education programs off Fairport Harbor beach and on the Grand River.

Unfortunately, due to some last-minute circumstances and unforeseeable cost increases, the 2011 regatta profits were negligible. For all the effort and support that was put forth on behalf of charity and the regatta, a motion was made at the 2011 Fall Membership Meeting to increase the total donation to SoA with additional monies from our general fund. At the meeting, the original amount requested was not only approved but then additionally motioned to be increased to \$500.00, and this motion was approved by the membership by a near unanimous vote.

Since then, however, there have been several members who have voiced concern about depleting our general fund, which has apparently experienced significant decline in the distant past. In conjunction with this concern, a motion was made at the Spring Meeting to find alternative means to fund the already committed contribution to SoA, and to also limit the funding of any donations associated with future regattas from just the regatta profits themselves.

After a brief debate and discussion, a proposal to donate and a challenge to match was then made by brand new club member David Scarnati. With an immediate display of overwhelming support and generosity, well above \$500.00 was ultimately raised before the evening was over.

Not only did the Spring Membership Meeting turn into a hugely successful fund-raising event, brand club members Kelly Knapp and Christopher Chapman then volunteered to form and chair a brand new GRSC Fund-Raising Subcommittee - and I believe before the evening was over they had already come up with ideas for more than a dozen different fund-raising events.

Yes - I love this club! It rarely ceases to amaze me!

And to quote Sandy Woodthorpe from her new website copy: "We Love Newbies!"

The Spirit of America Foundation/Lake Metroparks Learn to Sail Programs:

After two years of budgeting and significant "belt-tightening" in order to successfully achieve positive net income; I am fairly confident that all the members who originally voted to increase our donation to SoA were aware of the financial impact to GRSC, but still thought it a worthwhile sacrifice. I feel that this has been confirmed by the generosity that has now been displayed.

I personally believe that our support of SoA and the Metroparks Learn to Sail Programs is not only philosophically worthwhile - but is also a win-win proposition for GRSC.

GRSC supports and encourages our members who volunteer to teach skills and an avocation that we all love and respect. In return, GRSC has received support through the use of equipment (marks and chase boats) and the attempt to set up junior/dinghy racing for our regatta; and now in the use of meeting facilities for our final, off-season educational event for 2012. The Spirit of America Foundation also issued fliers for our 2011 regatta that promoted GRSC and our members nearly as much as it promoted SoA.

(Attached is a copy of the SoA flier that was provided with last year's regatta skipper's packets.)

Obviously, the greatest benefit to GRSC is that the graduates from these programs may one day become GRSC club and/or crew members themselves. I know of several who have done just that over the past two years, and now even more brand new members this year.

Spirit of America and Lake Metroparks are two of the only public boating educational programs in this region, and GRSC's support should be considered similar to that of any public school 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.

For more information, please visit the SoA and LMP websites at www.spiritofamerica95.org and www.lakemetroparks.com

The 2011 Chicago Mac Race Storm:

On Saturday, April 14th at 12:30 PM, local marine meteorologist Mark Thornton will be providing a two-hour presentation on the storm that struck last year's Chicago Mackinac Race. This will be our final off-season education event of the season, and will be held at the Lake Metroparks Lakefront Lodge.

As sailors, I think we are all amateur meteorologists to some degree, and this presentation should be of interest to us all - racers, cruisers, and day sailors like me. I know that a Saturday afternoon in mid-April might be a prime time for working on our boats, but I ask that you please consider taking a couple of hours join us for this event.

Please help us show our gratitude and support to Mr. Thornton (who has been highly recommended by other local clubs) for volunteering this presentation, and to the Lake Metroparks for offering up their popular (and rarely not booked) Lakefront Lodge facility.

GRSC Value:

"It's not what GRSC has to offer you; it is what you have to offer GRSC!" -Kurt Kachler

This is what makes our club so great!

This has been a special edition of the GRSC newsletter written and published by your 2012 commodore. The next planned bi-monthly publishing will be the May-June edition.

Thanks to you all,

Todd

GRSC
Upcoming Events Calendar

- **Board Meetings: The second Tuesday of the Month. The April meeting is April 10th, 7:00 PM at Harbor 220**
- Crew Training: Wednesday nights at Chester's Legacy Tavern in Painesville.
- Tuesday Libations: Capp's in Leroy
- Thursday, April 12th - 5:00 to 8:00 PM - Lake Erie College, B.K. Smith Gallery - Painesville - Opening night for Team Alibi's Christina Greenslade's Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition
- **Saturday, April 14th - 12:30 PM - Lake MetroPark Lakefront Lodge - Lakeshore Blvd. Wickliffe - The 2011 Chicago Mac Storm - Marine weather presentation by Mark Thornton, meteorologist with LakeErieWX**
- Saturday, April 28th - 6:00 PM - Racing Fleet Lottery Mtg. - GRYC
- Sunday, April 29th - 11:00 AM - The Chardon Maple Festival - Come and root Team Alibi's Ryan Hoffman to victory in the annual Bathtub Race down Main Street - or simply come and place a bet on what new way(s) his team's chariot may break apart this year.
- Sunday, May 20th - 4:00 PM - Lakeland Community College - The Lakeland Civic Band's Annual Pops Concert - including GRSC's own Dave Steger on trumpet and Brian Beck on clarinet