



## Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter

January/February 2012

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### **GREG DARRAH: 2012 CRUISING FLEET CAPTAIN**

It is my great pleasure to announce that Greg Darrah has volunteered to be the 2012 GRSC Cruising Fleet Captain.

Greg sails his Endeavor 32, *Usilias*, out of GRYC. Greg has been a long-time cruiser and racer on his own boats and with other GRSC members. With this in mind, I think that Greg will help improve, promote, and build our cruising fleet; while also hopefully expanded our combined cruising and racing fleet events.

As Fleet Captain, Greg will help coordinate and schedule the cruising fleet events. However, it will be the event sponsors that will continue to be counted on to organize and promote their own individual cruises and events.

Ron Toivonen has done a terrific job as Fleet Captain for the past two years (especially given some of the weather conditions he was faced with), and his service to the club has been greatly appreciated. Ron has graciously committed to work with Greg to help make this a smooth transition and a great year for the cruising fleet.

I am also confident that GRSC members will be willing to provide any support that Greg might need, as his willingness to volunteer is greatly appreciated by all.

### **Regatta Planning Meetings**

Led by 2012 Regatta Chairman Kurt Kachler, an initial regatta planning meeting was held in early January, and I was very pleased with the turn-out, the ideas brought forth, and the spirited enthusiasm exhibited. Based on the recommendations and motions from experienced regatta team members, it was decided by the board of trustees that we would again partner with a benevolent organization, and a graduated plan was established for the sharing of proceeds above the regatta expenses. Our partner this year will be the Cleveland Sight Center's Sailing Program. Attached is a pamphlet describing this extremely worthwhile program. This partnership is expected to help motivate not only our GRSC volunteers but hopefully also potential sponsors and contributors. The Sight Center is extremely grateful to GRSC for this partnership, more so than for any donation we may or may not be able to provide, but for our publicizing and promoting their program to the Greater Cleveland sailing community. The next regatta planning meeting is slated for February 7<sup>th</sup> at GRYC.

## **Racing and Cruising Fleet Planning Meetings**

We are currently working with several local clubs in investigating the potential of establishing of some specialty race and cruising events. Chagrin Lagoons YC wants to again sponsor an invitational race with us in June, and is to provide us with a proposed date after their January board meeting. Next week, we are meeting with Mentor Harbor YC representatives to discuss ways to support and increase participation at both of our regattas, and also the possibility of setting-up some specialty races between our clubs. We are also currently discussing with Ashtabula YC the possibility of setting-up a combined race/cruise to Ashtabula on Labor Day weekend. Once any proposals are finalized, meetings will be scheduled to review and to then establish our 2012 club events and calendar. Separate notices will be issued for any cruising fleet meetings.

## **2012 GRSC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TIME**

It is time to apply for membership. As required by the GRSC Code of Regulations, during the December Board of Trustees Meeting the dues structure was reviewed and established for 2012. Attached to this newsletter, and also available on the website, is the 2012 Membership Application Form. The 2012 dues structure is as follows:

General Membership Due:	\$55.00 (all members pay this due)
Cruising Fleet Fee:	\$50.00
Racing Fleet Fee:	\$50.00 (this fee waived for 1 <sup>st</sup> year racers)
Joint Cruising/Racing Fee:	\$70.00
ILYA Card:	\$10.00

Please note that the 2012 racing, cruising and joint racing/cruising fees have been increased slightly; but by only \$10.00. The primary reason for this adjustment is that a potential short-coming in our club insurance coverage was discovered and additional personal injury insurance may be needed. By utilizing discounts offered through US Sailing, we may be changing insurance providers at a nominal cost increase, but would thereby be assured of having adequate protection for all members, guests, and others at all GRSC sponsored events and meetings.

Even with this small increase in fees, GRSC membership at any level has to be considered a terrific value.

## **Cruising Fleet Membership**

As a racer for 30 years (the last 15 with GRSC), I never got involved with the cruising fleet until just last year. Diane and I became involved when our family was graciously invited to join Vlad Kilimnik aboard *St. Nicolas* on the Go with the Wind Cruise, and then again when cruising fleet members joined us on the Geneva Race Weekend. Based on the great times we had during both of these trips, Diane and I are now planning on joining both the cruising and racing fleets this year. (Although Geneva and/or Eastlake might be the local range limit for our 19' day-sailor – don't be surprised if we trailer *Trigger* up to Port Stanley and/or other cruising destinations elsewhere!)

It should be noted that beyond the camaraderie, the safety afforded by traveling in

groups, and the fun associated with all of the annual cruise events; the food alone at the spring picnic, steak roast, and clam bake is probably more than worth the fees associated with cruising fleet membership.

### **Racing Fleet Membership**

To me, sailing always meant racing and GRSC always meant sailing.

Historically, GRSC has offered terrific race management, participation, and competition at the club level - which in-turn fostered great race participants, competitors, and instructors - and we have been widely recognized for this in the local area and beyond.

Due primarily to normal attrition (that was unfortunately accelerated by the 2005 flood), for the past several years, GRSC has been focused on rebuilding its racing fleet. In so doing, we have made great strides in establishing a non-intimidating, user-friendly environment for new racers to get involved in - while also maintaining a highly competitive venue for the more experienced and invested racers to continue to participate and excel at. This recent success has also been recognized outside of our club.

The annual racing fees help us maintain one of, if not the finest club race courses in greater Cleveland - with well designed and engineered race marks - and what can only be described as the “Cadillac” of course layouts. The racing fees also help us afford the awards and trophies that we use to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of our participants. More so than anything else, the fees support the social events associated with the races; and to me these get-togethers are more valuable than any awards and often even the races themselves.

### **General Membership**

Beyond continuing to strive to get more boats participating in both the cruises and the races, this is one area I would like to focus on this year.

If you are not an active member and are on the current GRSC email distribution list, you are likely someone who has been associated or participates with the club - either as crew, past member, participant, or outside associate. It is assumed and hoped that the club offers benefits to you as well. To help us continue to grow, improve, and increase our offerings and contributions, GRSC could use your support.

In order to encourage new membership, the board of trustees has decided to keep the 2012 General Membership fee at just \$55.00. General membership provides you access to all of the GRSC “edutainment” events, most of the social events and gatherings, top secret website page access, and the continued receipt of email publications, notices, updates, and newsletters.

(Editor’s Note: If you find these emails and newsletters trite and annoying – sign up for general membership – and for \$55.00 I can take you off the distribution lists - ☺)

Also, for first time racers, general membership allows you the opportunity to participate in any and all of the GRSC races with no additional fee for the first year.

If you are not a current member, I ask that you please consider joining us this year. Also, please pass along the application form to anyone else that that you think might be interested in becoming a member. The annual Spring Membership Meeting (i.e. party) is slated for March 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Grand River Yacht Club. Membership applications can be submitted at any time up until then without any additional late fees.

(If you are to be a brand new member and in need of sponsors, you can also submit your form directly to me at [toddrogers60@gmail.com](mailto:toddrogers60@gmail.com) - and I will work to get you the necessary endorsements.)

### **GRSC and Key West Race Week**

GRSC has representatives at this year's Key West Race Week regatta. Nate Duer, who raced his Melges 24 with us last summer, and a crew that includes past regatta chair Kendra Porter, "artistic director" Tina Greenslade, and trustee Ryan Hoffman, are participating aboard *Boloney Blowout!!!*

(Editor's note: I really don't ever want to know what this name refers to, or its origin!!!)

Key West Race Week is taking place this week, January 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, with many professional sailors and international champions competing. The Melges 24 fleet is historically one of the biggest and most competitive fleets at Key West. Check out the regatta website at <http://www.premiere-racing.com>.

Beyond our GRSC representatives, other boats from the Cleveland area also competed in other KWRW classes. Having raced the event several times before, I can't wait to hear (maybe swap) some stories.

- Todd Rogers

### **FROM THE VICE COMMODORE**

Big thanks to my fellow "crew members" on the GRSC board for launching another exciting year for the club! As Todd says, "It's AWESOME!" Thanks to Todd and the board for encouraging me to move forward with creating new copy for our GRSC website and a club marketing plan. "*What marketing plan?,*" you ask.

To attract publicity and new members, we will be doing more outreach, partnerships and promotion this year, in addition to our *Tell a Friend* campaign. *Tell a Friend campaign?*

It's nothing new, really. I just gave it a name. "Tell a friend" is what we all normally do when we talk about sailing with friends, family, co-workers, business, church, and civic groups *and* we invite them to GRSC events. If I hadn't been invited to Chester's for a crew training meeting and to other GRSC events a couple years ago, I would not have seen value in joining. Look where that led. . . ha ha ha!

Since most people respond readily to the "seeing is believing" persuasion, be sure to send folks to our [Facebook](#) page and our soon to be updated [GRSC](#) website. This summer, we hope to have lots of photos and videos posted there, as well as on

YouTube. There have been two Facebook pages. Sorry for the confusion. Let's just say I got a better idea later on.

**Please go to this page and "Like" it:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Grand-River-Sailing-Club-Ohio/271156339561329>

As soon as it has a certain number of Likes, I can merge the two pages. Note that the new page has – Ohio in the name, thus distinguishing us from the *other* Grand River Sailing Club in MI.

**Note:** The only way you can post pictures and comments on the Wall is to become a Facebook member. The only personal information you are required to enter in your FB profile is your birth date, and you can set that to be *not* visible to others. As with anything on the Internet, use discretion in what you post.

You may recall the emails I forwarded about Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) last summer, which included maps showing the movement of the HAB. NOAA is requesting feedback. I don't know about you, but I found the maps hard to decipher because of blurry imagery. Here's the survey link: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/768598/Lake-Erie-Harmful-Algal-Bloom-Forecast-Bulletin-Feedback-Survey>

Butch Miller is doing an outstanding job of organizing fun edutainment for us! I'm looking forward to seeing many of you next month when Phil and Lorraine Dolsen give their cruising talk on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at GRYC. Until then, stay warm and dream of warm breezes.

On a light note, here's an idea for our GRSC events:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIJINiK9azc&feature=share>

- Sandy Woodthorpe

## THE REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT

To All GRSC Members, Happy New Year and welcome to 2012. It looks as though Winter finally arrived last Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, and as with every winter, we will try to find a few activities for club members to attend until the boats go back in the water.

To get an immediate fix, the Cleveland Mid-America Boat Show is going on now from January 13<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stop by Great Lake Rigging at booth #223 and say hi to John Duer, and don't forget to see the Jet 14 exhibit. Remind them what a good regatta we had last August and we hope that they will join us this coming August. Of course for those of you that need a real night out, the Chicago, Strictly Sail show runs this month on January 26<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

The first 2012 monthly Sunday breakfast was held at Geneva State Park Lodge on January 8<sup>th</sup>, and while attendance was low, the buffet was excellent, and the bloody marys were a great compliment. For the February 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday breakfast, we will be meeting at "Yours Truly" at 10:00am on Rt. 615 in Mentor. This should be a little more accessible to those on the west side. The food is supposed to be very good, but they start to get pretty busy around that time also. Hope to see many of you there...

On Saturday evening February 11<sup>th</sup>, at GRYC, Phil and Lorraine Dolsen will be presenting a program about their Bahamas cruise last winter. Follow the travels of “Changes” as Phil and Lorraine take you from Grand River, Ohio to Georgetown, Bahamas and back again, on their journey of 277 days. There will be a pot luck starting at 6:00pm followed by the program at 7:00pm. If you can't make it, the blog is great. [www.changesgoingsouth.blogspot.com](http://www.changesgoingsouth.blogspot.com)

Later in February, if you still need to have more fun, consider going to hear the Lakeland Jazz Festival on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Great music. [lakelandcc.edu/jazzfestival](http://lakelandcc.edu/jazzfestival). Great music continues in March when you can hear GRSC members Dave Steger and Brian Beck play in the Lakeland Civic Band. Their concert will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. See [arts@lakelandcc.edu](mailto:arts@lakelandcc.edu) for additional information. It would be great to have a few members support them by attending.

Also in February, for those interested, there will be a Great Lakes Basic Marine Weather Seminar held at both the Lorain Sailing & Yacht Club on February 4<sup>th</sup> and at Edgewater Yacht Club on February 25<sup>th</sup>. GRSC has chosen not to have our own presentation on this topic but would certainly recommend any one interested, attending the presentation at Edgewater Yacht Club. This is an all day event and further information can be found at [www.LakeErieWX.com](http://www.LakeErieWX.com)

We will be holding another club event in March with John Olilla graciously agreeing to present a program on Singlehanded Sailing. In addition to the specific information provided by John, there will also be information about the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society and a major singlehanded race, “The Lake Erie Solo Challenge”. Date, time, and location will be made available this month. If you have a particular item of interest on which you would like to see the club have a program on this winter, e-mail me at [hjm70@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hjm70@sbcglobal.net).

- Butch Miller

### **A WINTER INVITE FROM PAST COMMODORE MIKE**

Hello everyone, hope you enjoyed the Holidays. Now comes the long slog toward spring. Not to despair, you have a couple of events coming up to get you through. First is the boat show going on now as we speak. The second is the annual Ski Trip to Holimont. Again this year we will be joining Continental Ski Club and taking a one day trip to Holimont Ski Area. Holimont is a private ski area that opens to the public on weekdays. We will be going on Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached flier for more details. Last year GRSC brought along seven people. Hope to see you all and more this year. See you soon.

- Mike Nolan

## **GRSC**

### ***Upcoming Events Calendar***

Board Meetings: The second Tuesday of the Month. The February meeting is February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at GRYC

Crew Training Get-Together: Wednesday nights at Chester's Legacy Tavern in Painesville.

Tuesday Libations: Capp's in Leroy

Holimont Ski Trip: Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

Regatta Planning Meeting #2: Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at GRYC

Caribbean Dreams: Phil & Lorraine's travelogue to and from Caribbean ports of call Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, Pot-luck dinner starting at 6:00 PM

Sunday Breakfast: Sunday February 12<sup>TH</sup>, 10:00 AM at Yours Truly in Mentor.

Basic Marine Weather Seminars: February 5<sup>th</sup> at LSYC & February 25<sup>th</sup> at EWYC

Lakeland Jazz Festival: February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at Lakeland Community College

Lakeland Civic Band's March Madness Concert: Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM

Race and Cruising Fleet Planning Meetings: TBD

Spring Membership Meeting and Pot-Luck: Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at GRYC

If you know of any other happenings that GRSC members might be interested in, or have any suggestions for edutainment events, please let us know.