



Grand River Sailing Club Newsletter

March/April 2012

What I Did On My Winter Vacation:

Although I was extremely happy for the GRSC members who were lucky enough to be at Key West Race Week this winter, I discovered myself more than once wishing that I could be there too.

Then suddenly, I too found myself fortunate enough to be able to travel this winter. I started my long voyage heading east through the New York State Barge Canal, and then all the way down to the beautiful Bahamas. East bound and down!!!

When I returned home, I was amazingly able to travel again; touring all of the Great Lakes, and some of the region's major canals, rivers, and yes even beautiful Lake St. Clair!!! Many of these places I had been to before, but many were also brand new to me. From the westernmost reaches of the Lakes - from Duluth and Chicago - with several compulsory stopovers at Mackinac Island - and then on to the eastern Lakes - through the impressive Welland Canal - up to Toronto - on east to Kingston, Ontario - then back up the flight locks - and finally home to my beloved, southernmost Great Lake port again - it was a fantastic journey.

Thanks to Phil and Lorraine Dolsen, John Ollila, and Paul Nickerson for skippering me through these adventures - and thanks to Sandy Woodthorpe and Butch Miller for getting me invited.

(Some vacation photos are included at the end of this newsletter.)

2012 GRSC Cruising and Racing Schedules:

Attached is an updated GRSC events calendar. Although the some of the Cruising Fleet events and/or dates may still tentative - subject to being finalized after the annual Cruising Fleet Planning Mtg. - the racing schedule is pretty well set (except for any Specialty Races that may be added).

Please note that the regatta is scheduled one week later than usual; the week before Labor Day. The Chagrin Lagoons/GRSC Invitation Race is now officially slated for Father's Day weekend. One additional Fall Sunday has been added the first week in October. Also please note that there are several combined Cruising and Racing events planned for this year.

2012 GRSC Racing Fleet Changes:

The racing fleet changes that were trialed last year and additional proposals that have been received since that time have been reviewed. For the 2012 racing season, the following has been decided:

1. Summer Weekend and/or Monthly Friday Night Race Series will not be included as part of the schedule series, and will only be conducted if they were established as Specialty Races and sponsored by individual club-members. (Although good ideas, these races did not attract much participation last year, and they also required significant organization at a time when many of the club and board members were traveling and/or racing elsewhere.)
2. Boats will be required to declare Spinnaker or JAM Fleets for series scoring, but will be allowed to race and be scored in either fleet for any individual race. However, scores for these individual races will then be excluded from the over-all series scores. (This will allow boats to race if they are short-handed, have no competitors, etc. - but will keep them from becoming "spoilers" for the over-all series scoring.)
3. In order to facilitate greater race participation and limit the number of Committee Boat duties assigned, it has been determined that we should again incorporate Non-Committee Boat races for a portion of the races. Based on the fact that participation is greatest on Wednesdays, it was decided that the 2012 Non-Committee Boat Races would be conducted only for the regular Sunday Series - commencing with the Spring Sunday Series. The Non-Committee Boat Procedure that was established and trialed last year has now been slightly modified, and will be reviewed with the racing fleet at the Membership and Lottery Meetings.
4. The GRSC Racing Rules (last revised in 2008) have been updated to formally incorporate the above changes, the 2009-2011 changes that had been previously established as Addendums, and to include the Procedure for Non-Committee Boat Races as an Appendix.

The draft copy of the revised 2012 GRSC Racing Rules, including the Non-Committee Boat Procedure, will soon be posted on the GRSC website. We would like all racing fleet members to review, and then advise of any concerns at the 2012 Spring Membership Meeting. All racing schedules and rules will then be finalized at or before the 2012 Racing Fleet Lottery Meeting.

As I've quoted before: "Improvement necessarily means change, but change doesn't necessarily mean improvement." Any and all concerns and suggestions are welcome, and will be reviewed before the Lottery Meeting.

2012 GRSC Membership:

The deadline to apply for GRSC membership is fast approaching, and 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 st year racers)
Joint Cruising/Racing Fee:	\$70.00
ILYA Card:	\$10.00

A copy of the 2012 GRSC Membership Application form is attached to this newsletter.

Again, please note that the General Membership Fee has remained the same as last year; and the 2012 racing, cruising and joint racing/cruising fees have been increased, but only by \$10.00. The primary reason for this adjustment is that, after comprehensive review, it has been decided to change our insurance coverage. By utilizing discounts offered through US Sailing, we have switched insurance providers to the Gowrie Group, which specializes in insuring sailing and yacht clubs. Although this was done at a nominal cost increase, it assures us of having adequate protection for all members, guests, and others at all GRSC sponsored events, meetings, and on-the-water. (You can go to www.gowrie.com for more details.)

Even with this small increase in fees, GRSC membership at any level has to be considered one of the best values around. 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 31st, at the Grand River Yacht Club.

Also again, if you are to be a brand new member and in need of sponsors, you can submit your form directly to me at the Membership Mtg. or to toddrogers60@gmail.com - and I will work to get you the necessary endorsements.

Thanks to all, and I hope to see you at the Membership Meeting or at next Saturday's the tour of the Tartan Mfg. facilities.

- Todd

The Vice Commodore's Column:

Thanks to GRSC member, Dennis Steffy, the GRSC website is getting a facelift. He's added the new copy I've written. It will be viewable soon. Thanks to Jane Steger for compiling GRSC awards history; former Commodore, Paul Canfield, for filling me in on the nascent days of club; and John Ollila for supplying a very cool historic photograph.

I've been fulfilling various other communication duties and making assists to Commodore Todd, Rear Commodore, Butch, and the Regatta Committee who have been "on FIRE," as Todd is fond of saying.

Efforts to promote the sport of sailing and GRSC are off to an excellent start. Through reaching out to the Village of Fairport Harbor, some local businesses, students, and media, we are attracting some great partners and new members. GRSC member, John Ollila will be helping Fairport organize a boat parade as part of its Fourth of July festivities. John presented the initial details of the plan at our February Board meeting, and we're all very excited. We'll keep you posted as we near the date.

Between work and her classes at Lake Erie College, Tina Greenslade has been putting up flyers to catch the attention of students there. Great job!

I've been in contact with Jason Lea, Editor of the AOL-owned digital hyperlocal news outlet, [Mentor Patch](#), and others in my media network, to publicize the club. Those of you who attended Phil and Lorraine Dolsen's talk on their Caribbean cruise and John Ollila's presentation on single-handed sailing know our club is rich with interesting people – and that means cool feature story material. Publicity can help attract not only new members, but regatta sponsors. I'm working steadily on creating a buzz. If any of you have contacts who might be helpful, or you can videotape, shoot photographs, or even post stuff on social media, please get in touch with me. Need all the help I can get!

Looking forward to the annual Spring Meeting on March 31st. See you then!

- Sandy

Regatta Planning:

I was thinking when getting into the car this morning, what a beautiful day it was. It was nearly as nice as being at Put-In-Bay in August. You know, a golf cart ride to the Crew's Nest for a pool-side shower, followed by a park-side breakfast with the crew, a day of great racing and an evening of merry drinking and dancing. Sound familiar? Then I remembered it was only March. I assure you the ILYA/Bay Week team is working hard at this time to put the Bay Week event together. Just like our GRSC Regatta Team is working hard in preparation for our regatta in August.

The GRSC Regatta provides a tradition of excellent racing, entertainment, and fund raising; but to put on this event we need your help. Whether your special talent is public relations, graphic arts design, race management, food and beverage, or you just want to help get things done, our team has a place for you.

It is only 5 months until the regatta! At the spring membership meeting Michelle and I will be looking for volunteers to help in all facets of the event. One particular area that we can use every member's help will be in fundraising. At the Spring Meeting, I'll be asking each member to solicit 3 local sponsors. Sponsorship can be in the form of cash, or in-kind donations. To make the job a bit easier, a sponsorship package will be provided to each member. There will also be a sponsor contact sign-up sheet at the meeting to avoid having everyone contact the same potential sponsor. Between now and the meeting start giving some thought to potential sponsors.

Did you know that food and beverage was by far the greatest cost at last year's regatta? This year we will be asking that all beer kegs be fully sponsored before they are opened. To offset this request we will be giving free raffle tickets to keg sponsors, so be sure to keep this in your plans.

Before you know it; it will be August. That's right. The month of Bay week, the GRYC Rendezvous, and the GRSC Regatta.

– Kurt and Michelle

GRSC ***Upcoming Events Calendar***

- **Board Meetings: The second Tuesday of the Month. The April meeting is April 10th, 7:00 PM at Harbor 220**
- **Saturday, March 24th - 9:30 AM - Tour of the Tartan/C&C Mfg. facilities - Please RSVP to Butch, Sandy or Todd ASAP so we can advise Tartan as to how many to expect.**
- Wednesday, March 28th - 6-8 PM - Barley House - 1261 W 6th St. Cleveland – Relay for Life Trivia Night - Jamie Hofrichter (who has crewed for Adagio, Alibi, Pegasus, Trigger, Tinker Toy, on & on.) is sponsoring and MC'ing a trivia contest benefiting the American Cancer Society
- **Saturday, March 31st - 6:00 PM - GRYC - 2012 Membership Meeting, Pot Luck Dinner (entree provided by GRSC), & PARTY!!!**
- 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



The Annual FSSA (Future Solo Sailors of America) 2012 Spring Meeting



Mad Dog Adams has absolutely nothing on Lorraine Dolsen...
...when it comes to the "Blowing of the Conch"



GRSC Membership – open to all
(...even hippie chicks!!!)



Wow!!! Chester's really went upscale over the winter.
Check out their new maitre d' and waiter!!!