Northern Neck Sailing Association

Promoting friendships through sailing and camaraderie

"All boats great and small "

NNSA

Spring 2010

SAVE THE DATES

Spring Brunch – March 27, 2010 at the Moorings, Port Kinsale

Spring Race – May 15 on the Yeocomico

Spring Cruise – May 22 – 29 on the Potomac River

Spring Picnic – May 30 at the Neilson's on Glebe Creek

Summer Picnic – July 4 at the Mercker's on Glebe Creek

Summer Race – July 17 on the Yeocomico

Fall Picnic – August 28

KINSALE CUP REGATTA – September 25 and 26 at the Moorings, Port Kinsale

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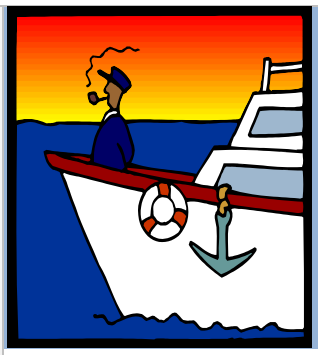


Commodore's Corner

Bob McChesney

Have you had it with winter? Even the people who have spent the winter in Florida have had a colder than normal winter. I have had all kinds of projects that I need to complete on the boat, but I couldn't get through the snow to get to it. It may hit the water "as is". I am sure that when the warm weather comes, everyone will be as anxious to get out and enjoy the water as I am.

Mark Rickey is making plans for a Spring Cruise to new and interesting destinations. Robert Hibschweiler is planning picnics at terrific new locations for the spring and fall and at a past favorite for the Fourth of July weekend. Mike Geissinger is adding two new races, one spring and one summer and, of course, the Yeocomico Regatta in the fall. And let's not forget the St. Mary's Summer Concert series.

I encourage everyone to come and join us at the events we have planned for the season and take the opportunity to socialize with some really great people!

Bob

Mark says "It would be fun to stop traffic on I-95 by calling the bridge for opening, say around 7:30 a.m. on a weekday???"

SPRING CRUISE with Mark Ricky

Our spring cruise is planned for the last week of May, with a tentative departure date of Friday, May 21st, and a return date of Saturday May 29th. So, we'll be back in time for the NNSA Memorial Weekend Picnic.

This year, the cruise will be "completely different" from years gone by. We're heading up the Potomac, with the final destination being the National Harbor, just below the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. And, if time permits, we can continue on to Alexandria, as the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge has 70 feet vertical clearance (though it would be fun to stop traffic on I-95 by calling the bridge for opening, say around 7:30 am on a weekday???).

This trip will allow for some sailing on the lower reaches of the River, and will probably need full fuel tanks as we get further upstream. Stops along the way may include the Lower Machodoc, Leonardtown, Cobb Island, St. Clements Island, Mattawoman Creek, the new National Harbor Marina and Old Town Alexandria. The whole trip The whole trip will be about 170 miles (85 each way), with 8 days to complete it. As with all of our cruises, plans may (read: will) change.

So, keep an eye on your e-mail box for more details as the date approaches. In the meantime, if you have any favorite spots on the Potomac that you would like to recommend for our itinerary, please pass them along.

See you on the water

Mark

RACING
with Mike Geissinger

Three great races are planned for 2010, beginning with a 'round the buoy race on Saturday, May 15th, another on July 17 and culminating with our signature event, renamed the "Kinsale Cup Regatta" on September 25th and 26th.

The first and second will be held at the "birthday cake" Yeocomico River. Details are still pending for these races, but we expect a social event along with each race.

Our third annual event, the "Kinsale Cup" Regatta is on the agenda for September 25 and 26 at Port Kinsale. This year, our plans include a Saturday around the buoys race and a pursuit race for Sunday, along with the captains' meeting and, of course, an awards dinner.

PRIZES will be awarded for the first three places in each race.

All mono hulled boats are invited to participate. Details will follow late March.

Stay tuned…

Mike

PICNICS & SOCIAL EVENTS

With Robert Hibschweiler

BRUNCH MENU

March 27th from 11 AM to 2 PM at The Moorings

Hot Items:

Pastitiso: Baked ziti with meat cheese and egg topping
Paella - white rice with saffron, seafood and sausage
Baked Chicken with sausage, pepper, potato and onion (casserole)
Spanikopita
Pasta Station with three sauces
Top round for carving

Cold Items:

Greek Salad
Antipasto
Grape Leaves
Bread Pudding
Sheetcake
Other cold salad

All for $20 per person if you RSVP by 19 March; else $22 per person at the door.

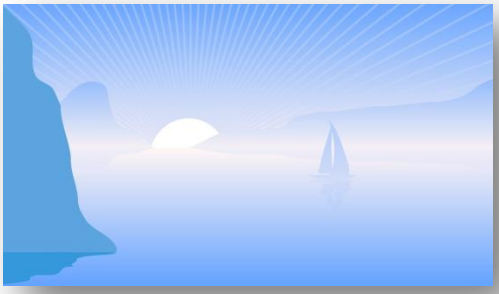
Dock Party Picnics for 2010

We are planning three picnics this year. Please put them into your calendars.

Spring Dock Party – May 30th Location: The Nielsons $10 per person
Summer Dock Party - July 4th Location: The Merckers Club paid event with members bringing a plate to share
Fall Dock Party – August 28th Location: TBD $10 per person

For the fall event we are planning a barbeque cook off.

Full details about all three events, and dock member assignments (spring or fall) will be provided at the NNSA Brunch.



BERMUDA OCEAN RACE

About 18 months ago, Craig Dingwall called me about a race that has been held every other year, since 1980, starting in Eastport, Maryland and ending in St. George's Island, Bermuda. At the time it sounded interesting, in that "gee, that could be fun some day" sort of way, with the operative phrase being "some day". Yes, the good news was that we were in the middle of 2008, we missed the last race and the next opportunity wouldn't be until June of 2010. So we had a lot of time to think about it, plan for it, or simply forget we ever had the conversation.

As I write this article, the race is 100 days away. By the time you read this, it will probably be about 90 days away. And a lot has happened since the middle of 2008.

In early 2009, several of us attended the Marine Trade Association Safety at Sea weekend in Annapolis, "just in case" we were to enter the race. Our reasoning was something like "heck, this stuff is good to know even if we don't sail to Bermuda". So after a weekend of lectures including pictures of small boats getting knocked around by really big waves, messing around with fire extinguishers, learning how to fashion a new rig out of spare lines and a piece of pole (it was supposed to represent what was left of your rigging after the boat was dismasted), climbing in and out of life rafts with all your heavy weather gear on (mighty heavy when it's wet) and other fun things, we had a chance to think about the "other side" of that glamorous trip to Bermuda. But hey, we're a bunch of macho guys, so we weren't (visibly) phased by any of that scary stuff…were we? And anyway, the race was still 15 months away…an eternity. And certainly something could come up that would make this crazy idea somehow impractical.

Well, just in case we did participate, we started talking to other folks who might be interested in joining this adventure. We received many enthusiastic responses like "Ha, good luck", "are you crazy?", "you're thinking of going out there with that guy?" and even an occasional "hmm…I might be interested".

As time went on, we got used to the idea and it started seeming more realistic, much like the way we all got used to having a major snow storm every 7 to 10 days this winter. Many of us broke down and bought snow shovels and "real winter clothes" because if we're going to keep getting these snow storms we better be prepared. Well, in the same way, we thought that if we're going to enter this race, and we need to get from the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic Ocean, we ought to at least make sure we can find the Atlantic Ocean. So several of us did a DelMarVa circumnavigation (see NNSA newsletter, Summer 2009). And the good news is that we managed to get tossed about by some interesting weather, had a chance to learn some of what we didn't know that we thought we knew but as it turned out we didn't know after all, and formed bonds among some folks with whom we might have to trust our lives. And while that brought us a bit closer in preparedness, it was really "just in case" because the race was still almost 12 months away and…well, you know the rest of that line.

So, some of us went on to race the Governor's Cup in August (got a 12th place finish, don't ya know), and then the Yeocomico River Race (actually started and finished) and continued to talk about this race to Bermuda. The problem is, by now we were starting to "go public" with the idea, which as you can imagine, brings on a whole new set of expectations. That's when we decided to have a meeting. The first of which was held in October of 2009, including Mike Geissinger, John Fitzgerald, Craig Dingwall, Gib Seese and Dave Schiller. We started talking about practical things like boat and personal preparation, entry fees, seminars being held by the Eastport Yacht Club (sponsor of the race) and something began to happen. This "bunch of guys" who were "kind of interested", began to morph into a serious crew who was intent on doing this race, and doing it right. That said, however, the race was still 8 months away and we hadn't spent any real money, and…again, you know the rest.

Perhaps the next meaningful step was actually submitting our entry for the race. But this was a totally rational move because if we entered before January 1, 2010, we'd save $100 off the entry fee. And hey, if we withdraw by April 30th, we'd get all of our money back, so what's the downside? So off went the credit card number and we saw ***Capricious*** appear on the entry list. This "going public" thing seemed to be getting more and more "public".

Here we are, 100 days from the start. We are a crew, and we've managed the multiple preparation tasks by splitting up into teams to deal with items like Navigation and Strategy, Weather and Gulf Stream, Safety and First Aid, Rigging, Provisioning, etc. Our calendars have been "blocked off" for the race and return trip. Our weeks and weekends between now and June are filled with boat preparation, crew preparation and training, boat inspections, race seminars, planning, planning and more planning. This is getting serious. Add to that, the fact that many of our spouses and some other NNSA members are flying over to Bermuda (note that they're "flying") to meet us at the finish. If we weren't committed before, we certainly are now!

What are the lessons so far? Well one is that time moves very fast while ideas take on a life of their own. The other, and perhaps the most important, is that when it comes right down to it, a solid team of sailors, who you trust with your life, is a good thing to have. You see, I'm just the skipper in this endeavor, the "project manager" if you will. Our entire Crew, all of whom bring experience, motivation and dedication will make this trip a success. As the machismo melts away, the seriousness and commitment to each other surfaces. We all realize that our personal safety is inextricably linked to the safety of our crewmates. And while we prepare for the worst, we hope for the best and sleep well in the knowledge that we will be ready and will do ourselves proud.

So stay tuned and we'll keep you informed as June 11th approaches. You'll be able to track our progress on line via a transponder which is mounted on each boat in the race. And if you want to meet us in Bermuda, make your reservations early…it's a pretty small island somewhere in the Atlantic (Hey, did anybody bring a chart???).

Team ***Capricious***:

- Craig Dingwall
- Mike Geissinger
- Dave Schiller
- John Fitzgerald
- Gib Seese
- Mark Rickey

Valentine's Day "Oldy Weds Game"

Bob McChesney the new Commodore whispered to me, "Would you host a Newlyweds Game party around Valentine's Day." I had already consumed sufficient alcohol to say yes, even though I didn't know what a newlyweds game was. I asked my good lady and she said it was where couples get together and guess what each other would say to a given suggestion. I went on YouTube and saw a couple of old clips and I saw a dumb blond answering the "Would you describe your husband as urban or rural." She replied, "What is urban?" I recognized that the intellect required.

Jan and JB found an adult box of questions. It made for an interesting evening but the questions were too risqué for the Northern Neck Sailing Association. That was the decision of my good lady and so I sat down and tried to devise questions that would entertain but not offend.

I had my power point ready to go but then the snows came, lots and lots of it, in fact the most I have ever seen and we had a problem collating the numbers, "Was it going to be worth it?" Robert Hibschweiler the organizer and entertainment secretary was in constant touch. People were dropping out like flies and understandably so. Members from Northern Virginia literally couldn't get out of their homes, and the Commodore and Entertainment secretary had to make a decision whether or not to cancel. Early Friday morning the day before the event the decision was made for them. Mallard Bay despite promises to the contrary had not plowed the drive, sidewalks and car parks. Bob McChesney emailed to reluctantly cancel the event. We had bought the pork, others were ready but we had no venue. In stepped JB and Jan and suggested hosting the party at their home. I was up for it and Roberts McChesney and Hibschweiler quickly cancelled the cancellation email that had already been circulated.

We knew we were hovering around the 30 mark which for a summer picnic would have been regarded as a disaster but in a snowbound February was acceptable. Some of our members had become snowbirds and had migrated to warmer climes but there were sufficient stalwarts to give it a go.

We smoked the pork, Lyn Miller prepared those baked bean -- you know the ones with black beans in them, Jan prepared the coleslaw and Pat McChesney made an awesome potato salad. The desserts consisted of upside down pineapple cake, blueberry and cranberry tart, homemade cookies, some kind of a lemon cake with almonds on the top. For starters there were prawns with cocktail sauce, all manner of food and plenty of wine and beer to wash it all down. The scene was set for the "Golden Oldies Quiz. Some funny facts emerged but just as what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas the same could be said about the Northern Neck sailing Association Picnic.

What I can reveal is that for me the best confession came from a couple, the husband definitely 80 years of age, who decided to make a public confession regarding their love life. I am not going to identify them but I can tell you it was better than their Giant Turtle story that they enjoyed in the Galapagos Islands. All these youngsters think what they do is new but ever since Adam and Eve, we men have been tempted and have sampled that apple. I also liked the candle wax incident as an example of an embarrassing moment. I am not going to give any other secrets away. The evening was an undoubted success and looking around the room the laughter was in abundance. Everybody there needed a good laugh after a bout of cabin fever brought about by Snowmageddon. There was snow on the ground in 49 of the 50 states of the USA, surely a record.

Good food, good company, good fun, plenty of laughter, what more can you expect from a picnic. It was a good start to Robert Hibschweiller's year as Entertainment Secretary. The breakfast is next, don't miss it, we have plenty of gossip to catch up on and a sailing year that promises to exceed expectations.

Bob Lessemun

SHIP'S STORE

We are pleased to announce that SLOANE KANE has agreed to take care of your T-shirt, cap, burgee and other NNSA shopping needs by taking over Ship's Store duties. Call Sloane at 529-6124 or email her at rrkane@crosslink.net when you feel the need to SHOP. Profits from all sales go to NNSA.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ji m and Pat Curlin have the following items for sale. Call 529-5260 or email curlin@hughes.net for more info:

- 1999 Avon Dingy, Rover 280, 6 person with inflatable bottom & seat, oars & accessories, $800.
- 1999 Avon Ocean life raft, 6 person, Valise model, $1000
- 1999 dinghy outboard motor, Yamaha, Cover 5hp, 2 stroke, model #5MSHX, $800
- Braided line, ½ " 238 ft., with polyester core line, $95
- Chafe guards, 5 each, new, perimeter, assorted sizes, $40 for all
- Scuba diving belt with 4 weights, $15
- Mens XL foul weather gear, Guy cotton, heavy duty, off-shore, red with bib trousers, used, $175
- Women's L foul weather gear, as above, gently used, $125

CLASSIFIED, CONTINUED

- Garhauer SS triple block, 3" w/ adjustable shackle, $50
- Garhauer SS triple block, 3" w/ adjustable shackle and cam cleat, $75
- Mini boat fans, like new, Hawaiian breeze, 2 each, 120 volt. $8 each
- Snatch block, SS 3 ½" w/ snatch shackle, $75
- Snatch block, SS 2" w/snatch shackle $45
- New WET SUIT, Overton's Dive Master, 3mm, XXXL, short and long pants, $50
- Charts of Mediterranean Ports, more than 125 charts from the Azores, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, etc… $50

IF YOU HAVE BOAT-RELATED ITEMS FOR SALE, PLEASE SEND YOUR LIST IN A WORD DOCUMENT TO pfhammond@yahoo.com. THANKS.