

BATTEN THE BREEZE

Moraine Sailing Club News

Summer 2015



Summer 2015 – Contents

Moraine Sailing Club News

www.morainesailingclub.org

Taking the Tiller

Notes from Sunfish Cove

Learn to Sail

Cruising Skills Seminar

Racing

CSP and Barn Day

2015 Regatta

Mariner Travel Destinations

It's Regatta time again and this year will see the return of the Puddle Duck Racer World Championships. For those club members who sail a PD, we hope to see you on the water competing in the big race.

As for the rest of you, there are many other activities planned from a car cruise to Nautical Nature boat tours of Lake Arthur. So come on out!

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Puddle Duck Sailors
on Lake Arthur

Approved photo courtesy of:
Holly Muchnok
Event Director, 2015 Regatta

Take the Tiller

The astute reader may notice a change in the title for this column. I think previous commodores have changed it before, and I finally felt a duty to show some initiative along those lines. I also thought the previous title ("Beating to Windward") had the connotations of a hard slog. "Take the Tiller," on the other hand, seems to me to have lots of positive nuances: an expression of confidence in others' abilities and an invitation to take an active part in guiding the boat. More on this below.

But first, it's hard to believe that mid-June has arrived! Happily, there has been a lot of productive and enjoyable activity at Watts Bay with our Race series, Learn to Sail and Learn to Race programs well under way. It's no surprise that Learn to Sail seems to remain as popular as ever, and feedback from the participants about the experience is very positive and constructive. Learn to Race has been extremely successful, with seven Flying Scots and about seventeen new racers involved in both of the sessions held so far - here too the feedback is very positive. And race participation is also up, most strikingly among Sunfish sailors. In addition, we are seeing increased interaction among all membership categories, which was one of the goals for this season.

Despite my initial anxiety, I enjoyed the experience of serving as Day Steward on June 6th, when we had both races and Learn to Race. The winds, nominally out the NE, shifted constantly through 180 degrees, making for very challenging conditions, but both seasoned racers and novices stuck with

it for a total of five starts and made the most of the learning opportunity. I could hardly contain myself on the committee boat - I wanted to be racing. But I reflected on the great race committee and safety crew with me (thanks Darcy Battisti, Kathryn Wong, Steve Chess, and Beau Kindelberger, all of whom who taught me something), and on the satisfaction of seeing the progress displayed by our beginning racers, and I realized I was having a great time.

I want to express the club's appreciation for all the volunteers who have helped not only with these activities but also with the extended work days at the beginning of the season. The turnout and enthusiasm, by long-time as well as new members, has been terrific and exemplifies the best aspects of our club. The board planned a demanding program of activities for this season, including some experimental features such as Learn-to-Race or Learn Learn-to-Sail on the same days as some regular races. We hope to learn what works well and what doesn't and will adjust accordingly. Obviously, these experiments place strong demands on volunteer availability for race committee, safety boats and instruction. The response has been excellent, but we encourage everyone who has some time to get involved - even if you THINK you are too inexperienced to contribute, all help is welcome, you'll get lots of friendly support, and you'll find that participating is the best way to learn.

Youth Sail Camp, the Lake Arthur Regatta, and many other sailing and social activities are coming up. I look forward to a great season.

Javier Lopez, Commodore

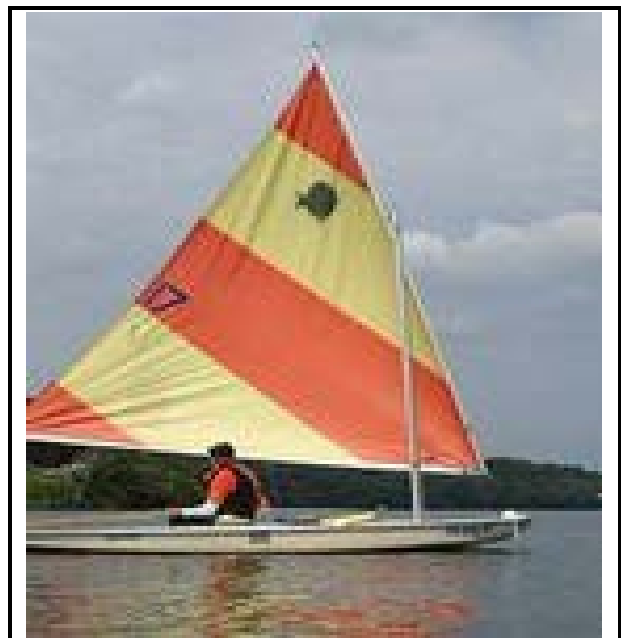
Notes from Sunfish Cove

The sailing season is well advanced by now, and our Sunfish Fleet continues to grow. Each race day this season we've had at least four Sunfish on the start line and good sailing in each race. Whether the course is a windward/leeward race or a triangle, participants gain skill in sensing the wind direction and strength, plotting and sailing a course, and tacking and jibing efficiently. They also learn to judge distance and speed on the water. All of those skills improve their non-racing sailing and make them better at sailing.

MSC races are open, of course, to racing members, but also to community sailing program members. All that's necessary is to reserve a boat, and then show up at Watts Bay about an hour ahead of race time to rig and launch the boat, and have time to sail to the start line. After racing, we'll almost always gather for lunch or a snack before putting the boats away, and sometimes, if the winds are good, return to the lake for more sailing.

With the advent of Sunday afternoon sailing (see the event schedule for Kidzail and Sunday racing), there will be more opportunities to get out on the lake this summer...and we've acquired a couple more Sunfish for the club fleet...there are few things more fun than sailing a Sunfish!

Ken Andrews, Captain
Sunfish Fleet 294





More Regatta fun and Sunfish Racing on Lake Arthur



Approved photos courtesy, Holly Muchnok, Regatta Event Director

Learning to Sail at Watts Bay

This season we've seen tremendous enthusiasm from our new Learn to Sail participants and their instructors in the Learn to Sail Program. Each session has been oversubscribed, and each session has included new participants as well as returning participants. We've been blessed by good weather at each session, always having enough wind to make the on the water sessions productive. Shore school instruction has included chalkboard presentations by Joe Shields and Dan Goldberg and interactive discussion led by me and Bill Paviol.

Thus far, over a dozen of our participants have successfully demonstrated Sunfish capsizing recovery on the water, and ten or so have passed the written test. Over the next two sessions, I believe many of our participants will feel comfortable enough to pass the on water tests and receive their completion certificates.

Ken Andrews
Education Director

Providing pointers on Sunfish rigging is instructor, Ken Andrews (right).



Another brief note from Sunfish Cove: Last week as Sail Camp was getting started, someone noticed that the entire Sunfish dock was *missing!* High winds and high lake levels had apparently floated it away. Cheryl B. and Les Hale set off in search. Soon, it was located lodged in tree roots many yards to the east of Sunfish Cove. They towed it back and a group of kids enthusiastically waded into the water and put it back into place. All is well that ends well.

John Bridges

Cruising Skills Seminars

People join Moraine Sailing Club for a variety of reasons, and we try to cater to those desires with a variety of programs. In addition to racing, learn to sail and picnics, we offer social sailing opportunities and special events. This summer, there are two cruising skills seminars on the calendar. The first one was held on June 7 at Watts Bay with the assistance of Steve Chess and his Rhodes 22, and my MFG 19. We had five participants for this program, and perfect weather.

We spent some time ashore discussing cordage, knots and marlinspike skills, reviewed VHF radio communications and ways of stopping the boats. Then we split up and boarded the two boats to practice safety position, and heave to procedures.....both ways to stop a boat on the water without dropping anchor. Anyone who has completed our Learn to Sail Program has had to demonstrate putting a boat into safety position: headed 60 degrees off the wind with all sails luffing. Heaving to is similar, in that the boat is headed 60 degrees off the wind, but different in that the jib is backed and the tiller is set to counteract the backed jib. Heave to yields a much quieter experience on the water than safety position, allows the crew to work on the mainsail, if necessary, or otherwise relax and regroup in heavy weather. Unlike safety position, a hove to boat will slowly move to leeward on the water, generating a wake on the windward side of the boat, which will then smooth the approaching waves, making the ride a bit more comfortable.

Using the radio, we rendezvoused for lunch around 2:15. Steve dropped

anchor off Worth Point and put out fenders on his starboard side, and I maneuvered my boat alongside for rafting up, utilizing the marlinspike skills we'd discussed ashore.

There is a similar event planned for the last Sunday in September. Agenda items can vary and may include charts and navigation, emergency procedures, anchoring considerations, and the merits of different sail plans and boats. I need your input to make this happen and keep it interesting. I also need keel boat owners amongst our members to share their boats and skills with our non-keelboat owning members. After all, there is a lot more to sailing than racing.

Please sign up on the event list tab if you can participate on the 27th of September.

Ken Andrews
Education Director



Learning sailing skills in a Sunfish

Barn Dates and CSP Update

April 18 marked our first barn date and it was met with beautiful skies and two groups of volunteers. 12 members met, all with 1 7/8 hitches on their vehicles, to pull the boats out of the barns at the Butler County Fairgrounds. With the usual anticipated flat tire, we rose to the occasion by bringing the club's new air compressor and made quick work of fixing that flat. We moved all of the Flying Scot and Sunfish sailboats plus the Hobie Catamaran outside within 45 minutes. After checking lights and tire pressures, we were on the road to Watts Bay where another set of volunteer members awaited to help power wash the Sunfish and put the Flying Scots into their assigned spots. The boats were then rigged, safety baskets assembled and put into each craft and the new covers put on to secure them for the season. Previous work was done on four, older Sunfish to retro fit outdated rudder fittings and new bridles. Then they began to shine in the sun after much needed polish was applied (good old TLC). Dave August was our lead "buffer and polisher" and he had the sore muscles to prove it. Greg Madzelonka, buffed and polished, *Aw/ Wright*, as well and prepared her for placement at Davis Hollow. All participating members enjoyed a club provided, hearty grilled lunch at the new Maintenance and Training Facility, to thank them for their time and efforts. The following weekend, April 25, we continued to clean up the Sunfish and tweak the flying Scots and we also took ownership of a new (2nd) Hobie Catamaran sailboat. New mooring lines were cut for all of the Scot sailboats so you will see these red and white lines as you pull up to any club boat this year.

Also we will have consistency in securing those tie-down lines as well by using a bowline and a trucker's hitch, along with two half hitches. This will allow all of the lines to be tied in a consistent manner. The fleet is coming along and we are committed to cleaning them up and keeping them maintained throughout the sailing season. Thanks again to everyone who has helped or even been to the lake during our last two barn dates in May. CSP work days continued and we tweaked the Sunfish fleet by purchasing 11 new metal bridles which were needed to replace old rope that had been used in past years. These new bridles will hopefully last for years. We have two more CSP work days scheduled for June 27th and again July 11th where we will continue to clean and repair Flying Scots and Sunfish. We did take a loan of a Flying J this summer so there is some cleaning to do with that boat before we put it into the reservations system. If there is anyone out there who wants to work on the boats, simply email me at csp@morainesailingclub.org and I would be happy to give you tasks that needed attention. Thanks again to all who have helped through the barn dates and CSP and even during the LTS and Race Days while up at the lake.

Bill Paviol, Director
Community Sail Program (CSP)



Squeaky clean, shiny Sunfish after pressure wash, polish then buffing!



Rewarding volunteers on Barn and CSP Work Days with a Bill Paviol cookout.



Once again, Tom Uehling (left), oversees club boats being retrieved from winter storage at the Butler Fairgrounds.



RACE – and more.

In planning this year we took a “leap of faith” by increasing the number of our traditional race days while simultaneously combining all activities in order to unify our club and assist Community Sailing, Race, Learn to Sail, Learn to Race, and Social in growing their respective programs.

I don't know about you, but even at this early date it appears that our strategy is working! More boats are racing, more folks are learning to sail, and there is a considerable amount of participation in the club – and from many different groups.

... That said - a special “shout out” to the following:

- Beau Kindelberger and Greg Madzelonka have been able return our 3 outboard motors to reliable working condition. This has been no small feat as it has required them both to frequently stop what they are doing and come up to the lake during the week. Without these 3 pieces of equipment the Race and the “Learn-to” programs simply can't happen. Thanks to you both – and also to your wives for allowing you to once again not complete your “honey-do” lists whilst working on our behalf.
- Ken Andrews for continuing to foster the “Learn to Sail” program. This program not only provides a great learning experience for the curious – it is also a great “hatchery” for the club. Without this program we simply would not grow. It is no great secret that we are attempting to get “soft-spoken” Ken to speak louder during his classes by running the generator and power saws as he begins to discuss important sailing concepts. This tactic has not worked – yet.
- Bill Paviol who continues to refine and grow our Community Sailing Program. The growing participation and subsequent involvement of Community Sailors into Social and Race is vital to us all. This is particularly amazing considering Bill's big fat cigars and equally robust grilling skills!
- Greg Madzelonka for providing new vitality to the “Learn to Race” program. Because of his efforts we have seen more new race participants than in any other race season of the club that I can recall. We expect that once he has generated a few more racing members - he will finally come out and race himself – insuring himself a trophy.
- Sandy Andrews who, in her dual role as Social Director and BTB Editor is single-handedly hammering the board into commitments – be they organizing and delegating picnic accountabilities – or insuring that each board member contributes to the newsletter. (Not everyone could get me to write a BTB article at 7 AM – but it is newsletter deadline day and she has me motivated – or else! ☺) Without her organization and PR skills we would all just be floating around on the water talking to ourselves.
- Darcy Batisti and Carolyn Graham – our core race committee members. Although they are both interested in sailing – they are peaceful and centered individuals who enjoy participation without conflict! Advantage to the Race program as they provide valuable anchor to our race committees – and enable our rotating Day Stewards and me to appear as if we know what we are doing.

The season is young – see you on the water next week!

Dean Marlin
Race Director

2015 Puddle Duck Racer World Championship and the Regatta at Lake Arthur

Attention all Puddle Duck Racers. The Ducks are returning to the Lake Arthur Regatta, August 1-2, and YOU can join in the fun! If you're not interested in racing or have a Duck that doesn't meet class rules, you are still welcome to participate in impromptu races, fun and games leading up to the weekend's Championships.

All Puddle Duck Racers entering in the championship must first contact: shorty@shortypen.com to receive a registered fleet number.

For other info contact: info@lakearthurregatta.org or check the Regatta web site: www.lakearthurregatta.org for Race and Event times. Race entries due by July 31st.

The races and other water activities take place from the South Shore of Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park, 225 Pleasant Valley Rd., Portersville, PA 16051.

Following the Puddle Duck tradition, each registrant is asked to provide a trophy for selection during the awards ceremony, which takes place, Sunday, August 2, 2015. The last World Puddle Duck Racer Championship held here was in 2012.



Pictured are the 2012 World Puddle Duck Racer trophy winners.

Other events taking place are the 2015 Pennsylvania Standup Paddle Board Championship, August 1st at 3:00pm and the 2015 Pro Disc Golf World Championship. Not to forget a wide variety of food vendors, plus many other activities for all ages. Holly Muchnok is the Event Director. See you at the Regatta!

MSC Needs Volunteers for the Regatta

SUNFISH

This year there will be increased possibilities for participation by Sunfish in the Lake Arthur Regatta August 1st and 2nd. Make a note in your diaries now! We need volunteers to skipper the MSC boats and encourage all who own a Sunfish to also join in the fun. There will be formal and informal races and opportunities to participate in all that Regatta has to offer.

Sunfish should arrive at Pleasant Valley on the South Shore either on Friday evening or early Saturday morning so that there will be a line of colorful sails drawn up on the beach to welcome visitors to the Regatta.

Joe Shields and his committee will be offshore with the committee boat to start "Round the Buoys" races at noon. There will be a separate start for Sunfish.

The program will include a race with a Le Mans type start from the beach, out to a buoy and back and a final race back to Watts Bay at 4 PM on Sunday

We are looking for volunteers to demonstrate capsizing and recovery off the Swimming Beach to prove to the public that although sail boats may capsize, this is not dangerous and recovery is easy. This is programmed for 3 pm on Sunday afternoon

INFORMATION BOOTH

Once again we are looking for volunteers to staff an Information Booth to promote both our club and Puddle Ducks. We suggest two hour shifts and please let John know if you can help out on either the Saturday or Sunday.
Call: (724 625 9348)

SAILBOAT RACES

Saturday noon Races will start from the Committee boat which will be stationed off shore towards the middle of the Lake giving boats from both Davis Hollow and Watts Bay a chance to compete. There may be separate starts for Flying Scots, Sunfish, Keel Boats, Collegiate boats, Catamarans and Open class as decided by the Starting committee. All boats should allow sufficient time to get to the Start line and report to the Committee boat.

SUNDAY 11 am Start of the "Bridge to Bridge Race" from the Committee boat to a mark off one Bridge, to a mark off the other Bridge and back to the finish line off the Committee Boat

John Bridges



MSC Sunfish on the South Shore for 2014 Regatta at Lake Arthur races and public demos.



MSC members, left to right: Ken Andrews, Sheila Bridges, Bill Paviol and Sarah Paviol are, "off to the races", at last year's Regatta festivities. Don't miss this year's event, Aug.1-2, 2015!!!

Mariner Vacation Destinations

Summertime is upon us. Here are a couple of recommended travel destinations for boating enthusiasts of all ages.

The Mariner's Museum and Park
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606
www.marinersmuseum.org
1-800-581-7245

An outstanding facility just south of Williamsburg, VA, featuring an exhibit of international small craft, including the Sunfish of course, comprised of 150 boats from 42 countries. There is a conservation area where visitors can view restorations in progress.

Other exhibit areas include artifacts from historic vessels both wind and motor powered. A favorite among tourists is the USS Monitor Center. Several years ago, the famed Union ironclad, which dualed with the Confederate CSS Virginia, aka, USS Merrimack (1856-62) at Hampton Roads during the Civil War, was salvaged from the shallow waters off the coast of North Carolina. The Mariner's Museum was chosen as the place for conservation of major pieces of the ship. One can see the large, 2 cylinder, copper incased engine, two Dahlgren guns and turret, soaking in outdoor tubs of water charged by electric current. This slowly extracts years of salt water contamination. If one goes to the museum web site, a web cam shows each piece mentioned, live, up close and personal. FYI: The iron for the ship's covering was forged in Birmingham (aka the South Side of Pittsburgh).

There is much to see and something for everyone interested in boats or maritime history.

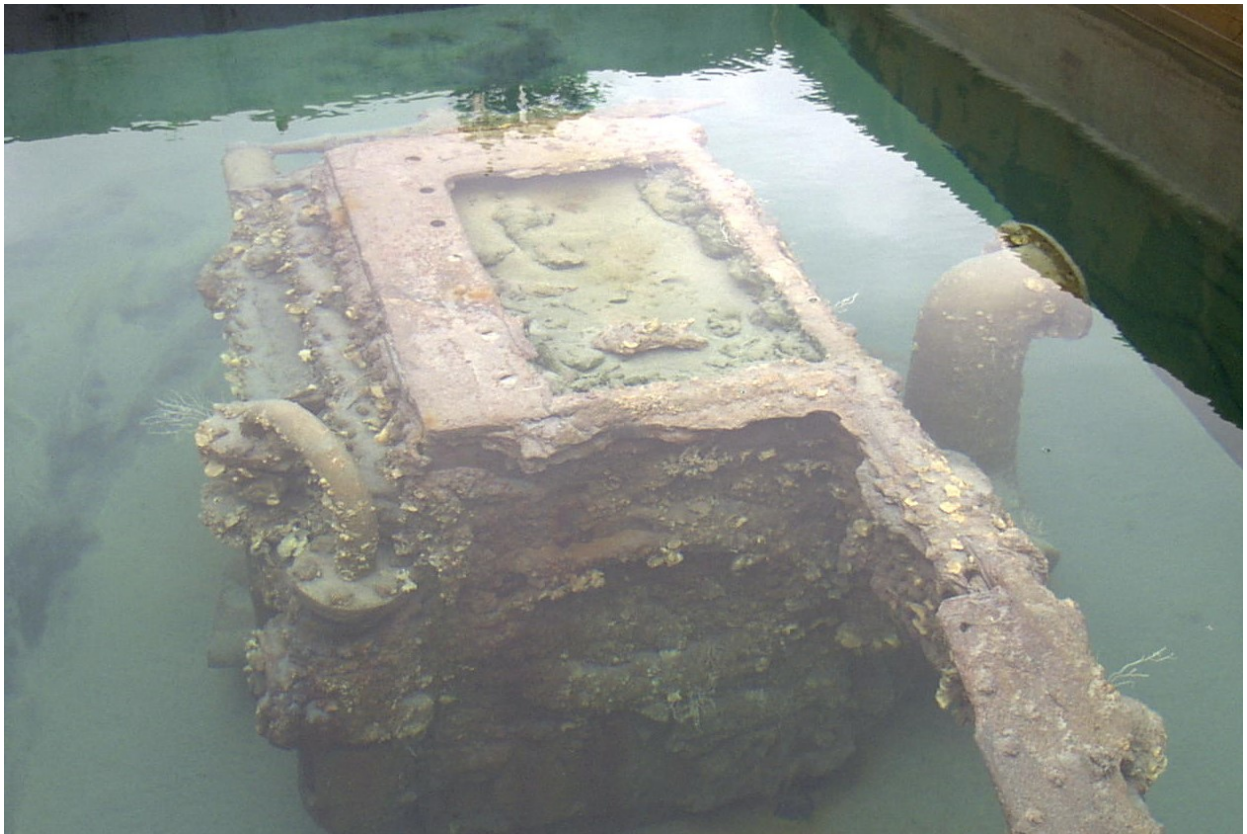
Another noteworthy travel choice is: *Mystic Seaport, The Museum of America and the Sea*. Just off I-95 in Mystic, CT.

Mystic Seaport
75 Greenmanville Ave.
Mystic, CT. 06355
www.mysticseaport.org
1-888-973-2767

If you travel in late June, the annual Wooden Boat Show is a bonus feature. This year saw over 12,000 visitors to the 24th anniversary event. www.thewoodenboatshow.com Next year's dates are June 24-26, 2016. So plan ahead and see both.

As for the Mystic Seaport Museum, see the sole surviving wooden whaling ship or help set a sail aboard the full-rigged, ca.1882 training ship, *Joseph Conrad*. There are indoor exhibits as well as on the water. Check the web site for additional information.

Sandra Andrews
Editor: BTB News



2 cylinder engine of the USS Monitor at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA.



Mystic Seaport, Mystic, Connecticut

Batten the Breeze

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Solitude on Lake Arthur

