



CORSICA RIVER YACHT CLUB DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Meet your new board

Commodore: Wick Dudley
Vice-Commodore: Mike Sipes
Rear Commodore: Craig Wooters
Fleet Captain: John Foster
Treasurer: Joe Doll
Secretary: Byron Luna
Director: Doug Campbell
Director: Ellen Platte Brissey
Director: Joe Della Barba

Bob Elliot hands over the reins to our new commodore Wick Dudley



Laser Racing at CRYC

2014 CRYC Laser Sailing

2014 was another good year for sailing at CRYC in general and certainly for our Laser fleet. We started the year with our very enjoyable frostbiting season then kicked off the regatta season with our third annual Laser/Comet Spring Regatta, then of course our Annual Regatta.

We had a great 2013-2014 frostbiting season that ended in late April. We lost very few days to ice and the winds were generally light to moderate through the winter (good practice for summer Bay sailing). Mostly we ran race days but also had a few practice days where we ran drills to help everyone get up to speed. We had some RC support from CRYC members including Ridgely and Wick.



We had 10 Lasers for our Spring Regatta and sailed inside the Corsica. We had a 5-10 knot Easterly that steadily died. The wind would tease us with nice gentle hiking conditions, usually on the first leg, then the wind would drop out on the run where the fleet would compress as we all met at the leeward mark and then a scramble to the finish. We got in five races and though the conditions were far from ideal everyone enjoyed themselves and there was very good camaraderie amongst the sailors.



Our 2014-2015 frostbiting season is just starting up. This will be our 19th year of frostbiting on the Eastern Shore. Frostbite sailing, despite the name, is actually a lot of fun. We have many days in the winter that are a real pleasure to sail. With modern fabrics and wetsuits or drysuits even the cold days can be comfortable. Sailing through the winter ensures that you continue to develop your skills where you left off in the fall and are ahead of your peers and ready to go when spring comes around.

We sail Lasers as they are one of the best learning boats and are self-righting for safety. We sail every Sunday from November until April, weather permitting. The racing is very casual and focuses on maintaining and developing our skills. We try to run five to ten short windward/leeward courses. We launch from the beach at about 12:30 and we finish racing at 3:00 and then compare notes on shore over a warm drink. CRYC is a great place to frostbite with a large, open area on which to rig, easy beach launching and quick access to great sailing areas. All are welcome; it would be great to see more CRYC members taking part in frostbite sailing, whether as sailors or RC. Thanks as always to CRYC for their support of Laser sailing. See you on the water.

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CRCY Winter Social

On March 8 at the Centreville Arts council we were treated to a wonderful evening of good food and dancing, and of course all our friends of CRCY. Bob, Anne, Byron and crew the food was outstanding. The tenderloin with all the fixings to go with your favorite beverage how can we not enjoy that. Then to dance the night away to the good old songs we all love made for a great way to say good bye to winter.

We look forward to 2015 winter function.



Corsica River Yacht Club
cordially invites you to clean out
the winter doldrums with live music by
Vic Vacuum & The Attachments

**dinner &
Dancing**



**Sat., March 8, '14
6-10 p.m.**

Centreville Arts Council
206 S. Commerce St., Centreville MD 21617
\$45 per Person or \$ 80 per Couple
OPEN BAR and DINNER Including....
Beef Tenderloin cut to order, roasted potatoes,
candied carrots and Caesar salad

R.S.V.P. to Pam Dinkel by March 2nd
OTPAM2@YAHOO.COM or 410-490-6153



CRYC Junior Sailing Report 2014

The pre-season started off this year with returning instructors Lindsay Wood, Kate Downes, and new instructor Tyler Wyatt obtaining their US Sailing certifications. Congratulations to them as that is a big accomplishment. Also returning was our already US Sailing certified head instructor, Tim Nooney. The four instructors made an awesome team working well together to instruct the sailors, repair boats, communicate with parents, and in general to keep the Yacht Club grounds neat and tidy after our junior sailors left each day.



As usual, we had three main sessions with 10-20 sailors in each session along with a couple of one week options for pee wee sailors. We heard consistent positive feedback from the parents and children about our Program and the instructors running it. Several children convinced their parents to let them return again for extended sessions as one session was just not enough time to pack in all that fun they were having! We had quite a few returning sailors from previous years along with a good balance of new sailors. The parent pipeline did reasonably well in getting the word out about our Program as did the nice yellow signs posted around the surrounding Communities. As always,



we encourage our local members to have their children and grandchildren attend as well as pass the word to their friends. This is the best way to keep the Program full each year, so many thanks to all who helped.

There were a couple of highlights this year. One was the 2-day Junior Olympics hosted by CRYC, and our junior sailors that attended had a fantastic time! The older sailors prepared the week in advance in our Club 420's by doing spinnakers drills. This may have been the first time in many years that our sailors and boats were spinnaker ready.



Another highlight was a trip up the river to the town wharf followed by lunch and ice cream in Centreville. This might have to become a future tradition as everyone had a great time!

It has been our pleasure serving the Yacht Club these past several years running the Junior Sailing Program. Mary and I are stepping down from this position and will certainly support the next team as they prepare for the 2015 season. There have been so many people in the Club that have helped us over the years, and we thank every one of you.

Andy & Mary Wood
CRYC Junior Sailing Team

CRYC 4th of July



CRYC had a raft up in Gray's Inn Creek to watch the fireworks launched from Rock Hall. Craig Wooters and Wick Dudley used their boats to take everyone over to Gray's Inn Creek creek. Joe Dellabarba met us there in his sail boat with his family. The view from the "back side" of Rock Hall was spectacular!



CRYC Junior Olympics 2014

CRYC hosted the Junior Olympics on July 18th and 19th. This was a US Sailing sponsored event. We had a huge fleet comprised of 96 Opti's, 27 Lasers and 38 420's for a total of 161 boats and 200 sailors. We truly had it going on those two days!



This event would not have been possible without the help of our club members. In an effort to adequately plan for a successful event (food, trophies, volunteers, etc.) advance online registration is available and strongly encouraged. Andy Wood was our behind the scenes coordinator who organized the registrations of the various fleets. Thanks to Andy's preliminary work, Lawrie Dudley and Mary Wood were well equipped to handle Friday mornings registrants as

well as the 50 plus walk-up registrations at the site that morning. The registration experience sets the tone for the entire event and these people and others got us off to a great start!

Luke Phipps and his team supplied the food to all the sailors and support people. Meals included breakfast and lunch both days, dinner Friday night and a cookout after sailing on Saturday. That is a lot of food to organize; and, as always, Luke was the master!

On to the sailing. Five races were completed. The PRO's for the three race courses were as follows:

Joe Della Barba for the Opti Green fleet, Andy Wood for the Opti Red, White & Blue fleets, and John



Macielag for the Lasers/ 420 fleets. Sandy Downs organized the support boats and mark boats for all 3 courses. Mark Schneider handled the online scoring for all 161 boats for each of those 5 races- a very important job. Craig Wooters was on site before the regatta with grounds prep and cleanup. Charlie Roth put together the clean-up crews including bathroom maintenance and trash. Others helped with traffic, parking, race committee, mark boats, etc.



This event received numerous positive comments from the competitors as well as their families and coaches. Everyone remarked that the Club grounds looked great and that the event organization was well done. Many folks were familiar with our events at Conquest Beach but they were pleasantly surprised with our still somewhat new Ship Point venue and look forward to future visits and regattas with CRYC.

Again, thank you to all that came out and helped with this event. I apologize if I missed thanking anyone in particular. I know who you are. **Wick Dudley, Commodore**



Plenty of work to do and fun to be had!



Plenty of action on the water



CRYC Annual Regatta

The annual regatta featured plenty of excitement on water, Vic Vacuum and the Attachments off the water, and some creative cake decorating. We had the PHRF Fleet, the Cal 25s, A-Cats, Lasers, Laser Radials, Comets, Penguins, Windmills, Cat Boats, and 420s out racing.



Penguin Internationals



On August 16th and 17th the Corsica River Yacht Club hosted the Penguin Internationals at Ship Point. The Penguin has been around a long time. In fact, most of our older sailors learned to sail in a Penguin. Twelve boats completed six races on the Chester River with good wind both days. Dan Rugg served as our PRO with the assistance of Fitz Turner and Bill Lane. In addition Sandy Downes, Bob Thompson, Charlie Roth, Andy Wood, Phil Ashley and Mark Freestate provided

support boats and mark boats while many other boats carried spectators. The race committee had plenty of eyes to insure that the races were fair and safe! Participants enjoyed breakfast ashore each morning and lunches provided on the water. Saturday night's dinner consisted of a delicious BBQ of pulled pork, beef brisket, burnt ends, corn on the cob, fresh tomatoes, corn bread and cupcakes. Prepared by Sauce this BBQ there was plenty for all as well as tasty leftovers to enjoy after sailing on Sunday. We had well run races, good wind and great food. Can't ask for better than that!



Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkin Patch- this event for Optis is really well received by the sailors and their parents. Everybody goes home a winner. 15 boats and prizes for everyone. Gift certificates from Chick Fil A and APS. We featured Bob Elliot's Diaper Dash (it can't be explained, you have to see it), Candy snatch at the windward mark, and floating pumpkin pickups during the racing for extra prizes. Most fun regatta of the summer



CRCY Annual Meeting October 25 at Ship Point

Saturday, October 25 the CRCY's annual meeting was held at Ship point. The sun was out and the oysters we cooking. Two gallons of selects were consumed along with a bushel of half shells. Then the eating got



serious. Everyone brought their favorites to share along with what was coming off the grill.

Bob Elliott brought the meeting to order. Each committee member gave their reports and most important was the treasury report and it shows us doing fine. We actually increased our balance from last year. We thank everyone for all their efforts this past year

to make that possible. Finally the new officers were voted in and no one objected. Thank you Luke and the nominating committee.



September Comet Racing at CRYC



Kayaking on the Corsica.

On a windy day turn left!!! Calm and sunny?

Try to the right!

Feel like "spying"? Cross to the point on the right!

Having come to that 'creaky age' I can tell you that a kayak fits the bill for those of us who are true water babies. It is built for those who enjoy a slow pace, a gentle paddle up or down the river, along the shore, watching for wild things and the shimmer of trees.

Emory Creek, a short paddle to the left and past the seeded oyster bar, takes you into a quiet and becalmed water oasis. There are turtles to watch, nesting ospreys to annoy and a old wreck of a building seen sliding slowly into the water and muck. Imagination

speculates....was it once a club house, a boat house or maybe a hunter's warm gathering place for goose season? Do fish gather there now? Was someone 'done in' there? What secrets lie amongst it's walls? It is spooky in the shade of the shore trees and cold even in the heat of summer.....



Paddle on and you will see osprey feeding and protecting their young, some nesting in trees, others on platforms. None will welcome you; they like a private place. The water current is fast on the incoming and outgoing tide. Pushing against it takes effort but at the end of the creek the marsh welcomes wood ducks with boxes, fish spawning among the rotting branches of fallen trees, and herons searching for dinner.

Turn right on a calm and sunny day and paddle down river towards the River House at Conquest. There are sandbars and sand

beaches on the way. Beach the kayak and check out the pools for small fish and sometimes a horseshoe crab that has come up river to breed. I've seen blue herons there sitting on fallen branches and heard the rustling of small wild things in the reeds and phragmite. The warm sun invites a body to take a nap after a packed sandwich and cold drink. On the way back to the club beach you may see the fins of skate moving through the water.

They could be mistaken for shark's fins....Jaws?.... but no. The skate are here to breed also. But then again, didn't a well known television

personality die having been stabbed by the tail of a large skate....EEEK!....

Pulling back onto the club beach feels good! Across the river and to the right is the vacation compound for the Russian Embassy in Washington D.C. If you like watching others enjoy time by the 'Sea-side', paddle by and give a wave. I have not yet had a returned greeting, but I live in hope for detente!

Should the occasional chaos of the sailing scene get to you, I invite you to paddle the kayak scene for a change. One certainly finds plenty to hold one's attention on the Corsica River and life feels a little sweeter as a result.....Paddle on!

CRYC Stargazing

On Saturday, Nov. 22nd CRYC hosted the annual star gazing party. The weather cooperated with temperatures in the low 40's and the skies were clear. With near perfect conditions the telescopes and



high powered binoculars got a workout with folks viewing the night sky. The more tech savvy had a night sky app on their phones which allowed them to locate different constellations - very cool!

The festivities began around 7 PM with the lighting of the fire. Norman provided roasted oysters on the grill along with his usual but outstanding music (NRBQ) selections playing in the background. Soups and

desserts were shared among the members and guests. Mohamed Harraz [laser sailor] and his children arrived with the hit of the evening – an authentic Egyptian sweet cheese dessert called Kunafa generously prepared by his wife. It disappeared in a hurry. Evan Huffaker distinguished himself as the S'mores expert as he perfected the roasting of the marshmallow and created the most delicious S'more!

It was a wonderful evening to take in the stars, the fire and visit with friends enjoying Ship Point.

The end of the summer season, time to put the Optis away and make ready for winter Laser sailing



THANKS!

The club wants to thank Cathy Downes for taking care of the web site and all that goes into it. A lot of work. There is always a lot of behind the scenes that goes on with not a lot of recognition. Again thank you Cathy. Joe Della-Barba has agreed to take over the web site. Thank you for stepping up Joe.

We want to thank Andy and Mary Wood for running the sailing program the past several years. This is the main function of the club to expose young people to the water and sailing. Thank you both very much for all your efforts.

Thank you Bob Elliot for serving as commodore, Pam Dinkel for serving as Director, and thank you Charlie Roth for serving as Fleet Captain

As everyone can see there was a lot that went on at the club this year. We look forward to next summer and all the fun activities to be evolved on or near the water.

Everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year