

Bark Shanty Sail Club

Newsletter Spring 2003 Edition

In This Issue

- ★ Commodore's Message
- ★ 2003 Calendar of Events
- ★ Building a new website
- ★ Huron Chef Challenge
- ★ Social Program
- ★ Other Stuff

*Visit the new
BSSC website*

It's here!!

- Calendar of Events
- Bylaws
- Club Officers
- Great sailing links
- On-line newsletter
- Membership info.
- and more

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Commodore's Message

Like everyone else, I've been working on getting my boat ready for launch. I'm running late though and it's fortunate I'm in the back of the yard; otherwise Cindy would be all over me about getting Dutch Courage out of the way. Similar to when I'm racing and the fleet is asking for Dutch Courage to get out of the way.

I've got that figured out though and I'm sure I'll be faster this year. Winters are good for figuring things like that out. Golf swings and sailing strategy seem to come clearly to me as I ponder their complexities during the off months. Sometimes I actually make some headway but it's a slow process. I think by the time I retire I'll have both sports pretty well under control. I'm fortunate that the state of my 401K has given me a lot more time to work on them.

The anticipation of having my boat back in the water and attending to the countless details necessary to make her ready remind me of the feeling I got when I was younger, much younger, and Christmas was fast approaching. I get a bit giddy thinking about standing at the helm with the sails up, boat heeled on a beam reach, going nowhere in particular. I tend to beam reach when we're going nowhere in particular, since I can then beam reach back.

We're getting new members every year at about the same rate Norm is selling boats and that's been considerable. We'll get a chance to see everyone at the Potluck and twist arms about getting involved in racing, etc. That's what happened to me as

Ned Moses, Dick and Gretchen's son, lined up crew for me for a couple of Sunday races. We had a brand new boat and zero experience. Rick and Linda Johnson sailed with me for the morning race with a fair wind blowing; maybe 10-15 knots and we came in dead last. For the afternoon race the wind had pick-up considerably, does anyone remember how strong? Bill Weiner and Sam (don't know his last name) sailed with me and it was all I could do to hang on. The boat was heeled 40-45 degrees and wanted to round-up under every point of sail, the course was A-B-C-A so we ran the gamut. We came in dead last again and my crew couldn't get warm but I was so full of adrenaline that I was warm as toast. I learned a lot about the boat and about me during that race.

I guess my point is if you're new to sailing or you haven't raced in the past, come to the skipper's meeting an hour before each scheduled race or ask any of us for help and we'd be more than happy to get an experienced racer to sail with you. Racing is a great way to learn more about sailing your boat.

See you soon on the docks.

2003 Calendar of Events

Race Program

The Race Program will consist of five series

Spring	7 races
Holiday	7 races
Summer	5 races
Fall	5 races
Long Distance	3 races

Saturday	May 17	Spring Series 1,2
Saturday	May 24	Holiday Series 1,2
Sunday	May 25	Holiday Series 3
Saturday	May 31	Spring Series 3,4
Saturday	June 14	Spring Series 5,6
Saturday	June 21	Spring Series 7 & makeup if necessary (combine with Lex. Cruise)
Saturday	June 28	Doc Bell Memorial
Saturday	July 5	Holiday Series 4,5
Saturday	August 9	Summer Series 1,2
Sunday	August 10	Summer Series 3
Saturday	August 16	Summer Series 4,5
Saturday	August 23	BSSC Regatta
Saturday	August 30	Holiday Series 5,6
Sunday	August 31	Holiday Series 7
Saturday	September 6	Fall Series 1,2
Saturday	September 13	Past Commodore
Saturday	September 20	Fall Series 3,4
Saturday	September 27	Fall Series 5 & makeup (if necessary)

Cruising Schedule

Saturday	June 21	Lexington Cruise
Early July	Mid July	North Channel Rendezvous (schedules to be coordinated with participants)
Saturday	August 2	Bayfield Cruise
Saturday	October 5	Mystery Cruise

Social Schedule

Saturday	March 29 & April 5	Boat Smart Seminar
Saturday	April 26	Chart Smart Seminar
Saturday	May 3	Splashdown Buffet
Saturday	May 24	Get Acquainted Potluck at the clubhouse
Saturday	June 7	Wine Tasting
Sunday	June 8	Free Fishing Day
Saturday	June 14	Sunset Cruise
Saturday	July 5	Pancake Breakfast
Saturday	August 23	BSSC Regatta Dinner
Monday	August 24	Dick Moses Fish/Sail Memorial
Sunday	August 31	Salmon Barbeque and Fun Races
TBD		Awards Banquet
TBD		Holiday Party

Building a New Website

What exactly motivated me, I don't know. Curiosity, thirst for knowledge, altruism, or the fact that the BSSC website was just plain bad, but I wanted to try my hand at developing a new website for BSSC. It was a journey that I had no idea where it would eventually take me and as often happens to many of us, a new generation eventually pointed me in the right technology direction. Like, geez Dad, what century is that technology from?

As I have surfed through a number of other sailing related websites, many had links to yacht clubs and in most cases, good ol' BSSC was not included. It's one way to get some visibility to new membership, so I started to contact these sites to get our site linked. Having done so, I couldn't bear to have someone connect to the site with what was there. The first step was to look at as many other yacht club sites as possible to see what looked like some good design ideas. A little bit of this and a little bit of that. I also looked at what's called web authoring tools but they wanted **money** for the privilege of using their software which seemed ridiculous since Microsoft Word could do web authoring (according to Bill G.) which I already had.

So having done a little homework; just enough to get myself into trouble; and contrary to every professional discipline I've developed over the years, I jumped right into developing the site. Needless to say, but what's there today has absolutely zero (0) similarity to version 1. Not to get into details, but I was only marginally successful with the Microsoft Word strategy. However, now that I was a little smarter, I did some additional research to find a web authoring tool that I may have to pay for—but not very much. I did find a tool that would allow a 30 day free trial. Heck, I could get this done in 30 days and not have to pay for it at all.

I was now beginning to learn/remember why the image of bleary eyed programmers sitting at their computers in the wee hours of the night is so apt. I was determined to meet every technical challenge and would not let the malice of an inanimate technology conquer me. Finally, it was done and I was pretty cocky—even showed off the site to the other board members at our winter meeting. Now it was winter break at the UofM and my sons were home. Another slice of humble pie, Dad?

Ok, so it won't work on everybody's computer. These pages are too big to download fast enough. Get the picture? The students became the teacher. Oh, and getting the right technology is not a problem. Such resourcefulness! Soon, I had the best tools available to, once again, build a new website. How they got there, I didn't ask. With the right tools, we tackled the design. In addition to layout, colors, banners, frames, style sheets, behaviors, and other technical stuff, I needed to include easter eggs. What are easter eggs you ask? Ok, I tell you. Web surfing junkies like to find humorous little hidden objects on your



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Going Wireless?

Imagine sitting on your boat and instant messaging your friends back home—Hey, weather is great., goin sailing—or checking email. Heck, you could even come up a day early, keep up with your work, and not be missed. Chester is interested in knowing how many people would be interested in internet service on their boats. Quite a few people might find it helpful. A wireless network would allow us to connect wherever we like in the general marina area, whether on the boat or in the clubhouse or even the park. If you're interested mention it to Chester or Wayne and let's see if we can put something together.



(Continued from page 3)

site. Kind of like an easter egg hunt. It supposedly keeps them in your site longer. There are a few easter eggs in the BSSC site. See if you can find them.

After a considerable amount of time, what I actually got done was pretty simple, but I learned a lot and had some fun and accomplishment along the way. In hindsight it's just like learning to sail. With a little practice, you can get to a level of competence, and then you realize that mastering it can be a lifelong pursuit.

www.portsanilacmarina.com/bssc

Tim (just don't call me webmaster) Clayson

IRON CHEF OF LAKE HURON ??

Many of us have seen the Japanese cult culinary contest broadcast weekly on the FoodTV channel. For those who haven't, a guest chef competes in an hour long battle against one of the show's "star" chef's using a secret ingredient that is made known just before the contest begins. High drama ensues as the chef's battle to create the most creative dishes featuring the secret ingredient while the announcers bring a sports broadcast approach to the competition. A judging panel at the end of the show tastes the dishes and in suspense that would make Perry Mason proud, the host declares the winner.

Borrowing from such a great concept, we've been kicking around the idea of the **Huron Chef Challenge** as a kind of fun race. Here's how it would work. At the pre-race chef's (aka skippers) meeting, the secret ingredient would be revealed and provided to each entered boat. The boat would then have 2 hours to leave the harbor and prepare a dish while underway— either sail or power, just no anchoring. At the end of the 2 hours, boats return for tasting judgment by an independent and suitably hungry panel. The winner will be duly recognized and earn the esteemed reputation as the **Huron Chef**. And of course, there will be enough food to go around.

Tentatively we are planning on sometime in August so stay tuned and let us know if you like the idea!

Upcoming Social Events at the Bark Shanty Sail Club
Cathy Neuhoff – Vice Commodore – Social Chair

Hello Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health!

Our sail club's social schedule has started with great success. The **Splashdown Buffet** brought over thirty members to the clubhouse where we enjoyed reacquainting our selves with one another after the long cold winter. Russ from Uri's whipped up delicious pots of chili and bowls of coleslaw with other members contributing mini burgers and home made pickles.

Our next upcoming event is the "**Get Acquainted Potluck**" at the clubhouse scheduled for Saturday May 24 following the Holiday Series 1 and 2 races. We have tentatively scheduled the potluck festivities to begin at 6 p.m. We encourage members to bring their favorite dish to pass and enjoy an evening sharing in one another's company. Perhaps if weather permits we might even have a small campfire in the parking lot after dark!

On Saturday June 7th we have planned a Wine/Cheese Tasting Party. Each person/couple will bring a favorite bottle of wine for some blind tastings and evaluations so bone up on your winespeak.

Another fun social event is the **Free Fishing Day** scheduled for June 8. Last year, sailors and fishermen teamed up in early morning fishing followed by an afternoon sail. Perhaps this year the teams will duplicate their success.

On Saturday June 14th we have planned a **Sunset Cruise** aboard the "Miss Port Sanilac." Chester has kindly consented to pilot the giant tug for this new adventure. We are still working out the details – but as soon as we have these in order, we will pass along the good news to everyone! We're limited to 35 people in total, so first come, first serve. Let me know if you want to reserve a spot.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this season!



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Cruising

Need an I-68? Consider a NEXUS card instead! NEXUS cards can be used as an I-68, will last for 5 years, photos do not need to be supplied, and has a mail-in application. The fee is \$50 for five years, compared to \$16 for one year for an I-68, but you can also use the NEXUS lanes at the bridge. Applications are available at the bridge.

Club Participation

As you can see in the newsletter, the board has done a great job in putting together an interesting and fun program of events for club members. It happens with a lot of hard work as well.

We hope you'll join us in participating in these events and making them a success. It can't be done without you.

See you all at the club this summer.

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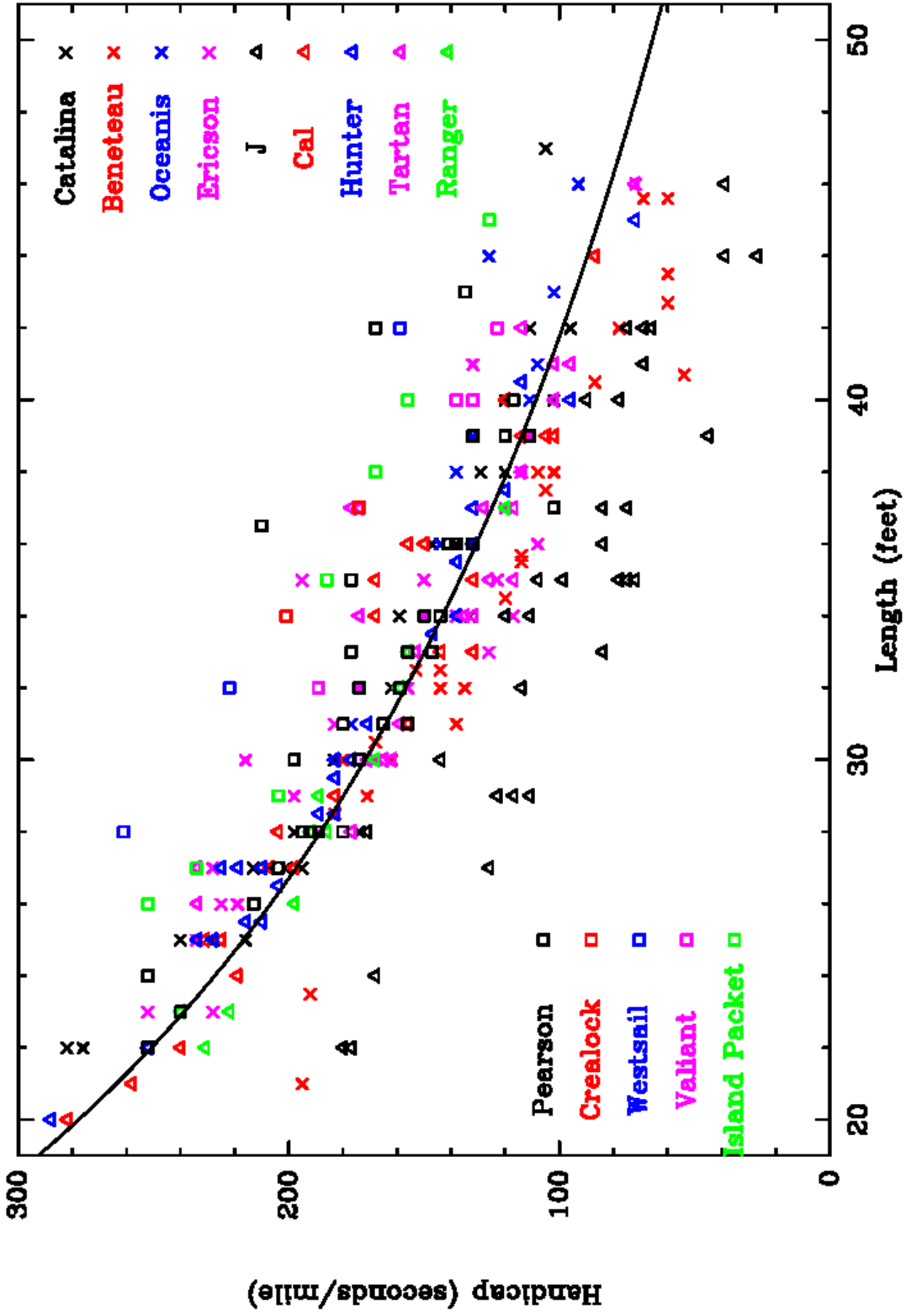
Cruising Part Deux

This year's North Channel Rendezvous is now scheduled for July 19th at Beardrop Harbor which is above John Island at the mouth of the Whalesback Channel. Currently, the Best's, Smothers, and the Beesley's are planning on coordinating schedules. If you're interested, just let Judy or Ron Best know and they can give you details. I don't think Expedia.com will be able to provide directions for some reason.

PHRF—Not all Boats are Created Equal

I found this chart in my internet wanderings and found it interesting so I thought I'd throw it in the newsletter. It's a good thing that Bill Weiner's trimaran isn't listed. I'd have to add another page to the newsletter.

PHRF Handicaps for Various Sailboats



Bark Shanty Sail Club

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