



**SAGINAW BAY COMMUNITY SAILING ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. BOX 2122, BAY CITY, MI 48707-2122**  
**(989) 922-SAIL, www.sbcsa.org**

**WINTER 2006**

## **SBCSA NEWS**

### **A Message from the President:**

Hello Everyone,  
 As I write this message the day after Thanksgiving 2006, I realize that everyone reading it has much to be thankful for. We have the opportunity to live a peaceful and happy life here in mid-Michigan and enjoy all that the geographic region has to offer. For most of us, that includes enjoyment of the Saginaw Bay and River.

The rest of this newsletter will provide details of the past sailing season for the SBCSA, but let me just say that each year the organization gets stronger and offers more for the students and members. The reason that we can continue to develop these programs and services is because of a great group of volunteers and supporters. Folks like Bill Bauer, Bill Coberly, Bill Darbee, Mike Carr, Bruce Niederer, Tim Atkinson, Barry Duke, Roxanne Johnson, Bob Nelb, Brian Donaldson, and all of the members who come to help maintain the boats and facilities. But just as important as these folks are those that provide financial support. The list is long, but we cannot say thank you often enough to the Morley Foundation, LaSalle Bank, Gougeon Brothers Inc., Robert Monroe, Meade Gougeon, Jan Gougeon, and all those that have provided material and financial support to the SBCSA. Without all of these folks, our vision of low cost access to sailing opportunities would not be possible. Next time you see any of them, please say "thank you."

We have now been through the second sailing season with Bob Nelb at the helm as Executive Director. He is doing a wonderful job and has accepted the burden of day to day operations management. His attention to detail and enthusiasm keep the programs on track. A huge "thank you" as well to the fantastic instructors. These are the young folks who ensure the safety of the students while providing the fun atmosphere that promotes learning. From our instructors, Zac Bowdish and Alex Niederer, to our able assistants, James Roesner, Eric Niederer and Brad Parker, the passion for sailing is evident. These guys create the smiles that light the faces of the students after a session on the water.

"Believe me, my young friend, there is NOTHING--absolutely nothing--half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." From *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Thank you again for your support and Happy Holidays to everyone.

*Joe*

Joe Parker, President  
 November, 2006

### **RS FEVAs**

Without a doubt, the top news story of 2006 was the addition of four RS FEVAs to the SBCSA fleet. Thanks to the generosity of Rob Monroe, Meade Gougeon, Jan Gougeon, and everyone who contributed to the Gary Sowden fund several years ago, the SBCSA was able to purchase the FEVAs and floating docks for them. After the mid-season break for Tall Ships, the FEVAs were put into service for the Intermediate Youth classes and Open Sailing. They are a resounding success and a great addition to our program. These two person dinghies are much more responsive than the Transfusions giving instant feedback on your sailing skills. They are also a bit less stable as most students eventually found out! The FEVAs were a favorite during Open Sail and their bright sails attracted a lot of attention on the river. Even the instructors were accused of having fun on the job when they were learning how to sail them. Hey, it's a job; someone has to do it.



### **Membership and Lessons**

In 2006, the SBCSA had 38 memberships: 9 Youth, 11 Family, and 18 Adult. This is about the same number as there were in 2005. In addition to participating in Open and Independent Sailing, many of the new members are taking time to volunteer at our spring and fall work parties and at the various events in which the SBCSA participates over the summer. All this new energy helps to sustain the organization.

Our team of instructors, Zak Bowdish, Alex Niederer, and Bob Nelb, with assistance from Eric Niederer, Brad Parker, and James Roesner gave a total of 46 lessons (25 youth, 10 intermediate, and 11 adult) to 35 different students. On average, the scheduled classes were 70% filled.

### **Open Sailing for Members**

On Tuesday nights, the members may use our training boats at the downtown Bay City docks for free sailing on the river. This past summer, there were 3-4 boats out each week. This is a great way to met other members, hone your newly learned skills, or try out a different boat.



## **Independent Sailing**

*Alongshore* and *Sharp Cheddar* were lightly used this summer, despite several members passing their qualification sail. We will be making *Sharp Cheddar* easier to sail by adding a roller furling headsail and slugs on the mainsail. This is a great opportunity to sail for those who do not have a boat and we will be promoting it much more next summer.



## **Boat Building**

The 2006 class built a beautiful, Joel White-designed Shellback sailing dinghy for our fundraising raffle. The winning ticket, held by none other than Bruce Niederer, was drawn during Bay City's Tall Ship Celebration in mid-July. Raffle tickets were sold at many events throughout the summer and over \$4,000 was raised to support the association's programs.



## **Special Events**

**Try Sailing Day** Our annual Try Sailing Day was held on June 10 during the Art Fair. Rides were given to 24 people and five of these later took lessons.

**Girl Scout Workshop** On June 15, 18 Girl Scouts from the Mitten Bay Council participated in a frenetic-at-times, five hour sailing badge workshop. The scouts were taught about rigging, terminology, knots, and sailing skills. Each scout had a chance to demonstrate their newly learned sailing ability in a pram. The instructors also learned about Girl Scout traditions and had to join in singing Girl Scout songs. This workshop was very successful and will be held again in 2007.

**Tall Ships** The SBCSA had a booth at the Tall Ship Celebration where our Shellback was on display along with information about the SBCSA. A lot of raffle tickets were sold and the association got a lot of exposure. Hopefully, many of our visitors will sign up for lessons next summer.



**BaySail-SBCSA Regatta** The first annual BaySail-SBCSA End of Year Celebration Regatta, held on Monday, September 11, was a resounding success. Despite the weather forecast, there was a good turnout from both organizations. BaySail provided the eats and SBCSA supplied the boats and prizes for exemplary (and not so exemplary) sailing and seamanship. Best of all, everyone brought abundant camaraderie. It was nice to



meet and talk to our neighbors on the dock rather than just waving as we pass each other on the river. Watch for the announcements for next year's regatta and for similar events throughout the summer.

## **Annual Meeting Highlights, October 24, 2006**

The Annual Meeting was held on October 24, 2006 at Tommy V's. Barry Duke, a long time board member, submitted his resignation citing long term family issues that prevented him from continuing as a director. Barry was instrumental in starting the winter boat building program when he suggested that the association build the prams needed to expand the fleet. We all thank Barry for the time he has devoted to the SBCSA.

Joe Parker, Tim Atkinson, and Bruce Niederer were reelected to three year terms on the board and Roxanne Johnson was elected to her first three-year term. Roxanne has become an avid multi-hull sailor after taking our adult lessons class in the summer of 2005. As the Teen Program and Adult Training Specialist for Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay, Roxanne's experience working with youth and organizing events will be a welcome addition to the board.

Tim Atkinson presented the financial report and, once again, the association had a positive cash flow for the year. For a detailed report, please contact the treasurer. Bob Nelb and Joe Parker each gave overviews of 2006. Most of the information from their reports is contained within this newsletter.

## **Board of Directors Meeting, November 15, 2006**

The primary item of business was the election of officers for 2007. After many years of guiding and monitoring the financial course of the association, Tim Atkinson decided to step down as treasurer. Tim has done an outstanding job as our treasurer and he will continue to support the SBCSA as a board member.

Roxanne Johnson was nominated to run for the office of treasurer. All nominees and incumbent officers successfully campaigned for their respective office and were elected unanimously by the board. The new officers are listed at the end of this newsletter. In other business, the project boat for the 2007 boat building class was discussed (see details elsewhere in this newsletter), and the sailing lesson fees were increased by \$5.00 to help cover their cost.



## Looking to 2007

**Members.** We need more members who not only take lessons but also take advantage of the sailing opportunities we provide. These include Open Sailing nights and the SBCSA's boats that can be checked out for sailing on the Bay. The best advertising is through word of mouth so please help by telling your friends about the SBCSA.

**Membership Renewal.** Speaking of membership, now is the time to renew your membership for 2007. You can download an application as a pdf file from our web pages or call Bob. Please list an email address that you monitor frequently as email is our preferred method of announcing activities. Note: If you joined after August 15, 2006, your membership is valid for the 2007 season.

**2007 Boatbuilding and Boat Maintenance Class.** The next project will be an Eddycat, a 13' catboat built right here in Bay City by the Eddy Shipbuilding Company in the 1940s and 1950s. This will be a two year project. Classes will be held from 6 – 9 PM on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the Gougeon Boat Shop starting on January 8. Students must be a SBCSA member and pay a \$50 materials fee. If interested, please call Bob at 922-7245.

We have identified a few boats that need a few nicks and dings repaired (now how did those get there?) and a new coat of paint. So, whenever there is some spare time working on the Eddycat, students will learn how to repair and maintain wood and fiberglass boats.

**Try Sailing Day.** Save Saturday, June 9, 2007 on your calendar for our annual *Try Sailing Day*. This is a great way to entice people to try sailing and sign up for lessons. We will need volunteers to take people sailing and to describe the programs and benefits of the SBCSA. More details will follow.

**SBCSA Web Site.** In 2006, our web pages were updated with even more information and pictures. And now, thanks to Bill Bauer and his mastery of html code, we have a dynamic slideshow on our home page. New pictures will be added soon. Any feedback and suggestions would be welcome.

**2007 Lessons.** The schedule for next year will be posted in the spring of 2007. We plan to hold one of the Intermediate Sailing for Youth classes earlier in the season and are considering holding an Intermediate Adult class to fine tune sail trim and boat handling, and touch on topics such as Rules of the Road and navigation. Call Bob or periodically check the web page for more info.



OOPS!!

## Donations

The SBCSA can offer affordable sailing opportunities only through of the generosity of its members and supporters. Because the SBCSA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all or a portion of your donation may qualify as a tax deduction on your federal income taxes. In addition, donations to the SBCSA's endowment fund with the Bay Area Community Foundation may qualify for a partial income tax credit on your Michigan tax return. Consult a tax advisor for details.

**Cash Contributions to SBCSA.** Contributions of cash may be sent directly to the SBCSA.

**Contributions to the Bay Area Community Foundation.** Send a check payable to the Bay Area Community Foundation to the BACF, 703 Washington Ave, Bay City, MI 48708 with a note indicating that your contribution is for the SBCSA Designated Fund. The income from this fund is available for use by the SBCSA.

**Donations of Boats, Equipment, and Materials.** With the prior approval of the SBCSA Board, we will accept donations of boats, equipment, or materials. The association may choose to use the donated item or to sell it and apply the funds to meet other needs.

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Joe Parker, President  
Bill Darbee, Vice President  
Roxanne Johnson, Treasurer  
Bruce Niederer, Secretary

### Directors

Tim Atkinson  
Mike Carr  
Bill Coberly  
Brian Donaldson

### Executive Director

Bob Nelb, bob.nelb@sbcса.org

## SBCSA Contact Information

Telephone: (989) 922-SAIL (7245)

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Web page: www.sbcса.org

SBCSA

P.O. Box 2122

Bay City, MI 48707

## And Finally...

Looking back over the 2006 season, we have accomplished a lot and have had great fun doing it. But none of this would be possible if it were not for the countless hours put in by our members and volunteers. From serving on the board, standing around hawking raffle tickets, repairing equipment, helping rig boats on the docks, to spending a Saturday in the rain, wind, and cold to power wash boats and move docks, your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

As a result of your help, each year we introduce more people to the sport of sailing and give many people a unique opportunity to sail. From an instructor's point of view, there is nothing more satisfying than seeing what we have tried to explain on land finally "click" on the water and the student, either youth or adult, beaming with pride!

Hoping for a short winter and an early summer,

*Bob*

Editor (who is solely responsible for any errors or omissions)

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