



SAGINAW BAY COMMUNITY SAILING ASSOCIATION 2010



2010 IN REVIEW

Membership. There were a total of 81 members in the 2010 season (33 Youth, 30 Adult, and 17 Family) vs. 65 members in 2009. Most of the growth was in our Youth membership category. This year we again offered a free Youth membership with any Youth Introduction to Sailing lesson. This promotion was very successful and several of our young student-members stopped by to sail on Open Sailing nights, and they often signed up for additional lessons.

Lessons. In most summers, our instructors often face the challenge of teaching sailing with little or no wind on the river that looks more like a mill pond. However, 2010

the challenge and found ways to get the kids on the water using our bigger, more stable boats when necessary.

In 2010, 70 sailors, or 83% of our scheduled capacity, took lessons. The Youth Intro I and II lesson sequence continues to be popular and gives the kids more time on the water to perfect their sail trim, steering, etc. before moving on to the Intermediate class. An Advanced Youth class was held for the first time this summer. The lesson focus is racing whereby the students have to combine their knowledge of sail handling and trim, boat handling, and right of way rules. The first class looked a bit like organized chaos but by the end of the week, they showed tremendous improvement, and each of the FEVAs was on the starting line at the starting whistle.

Boatbuilding Class. Our boatbuilders finished building a beautiful Ellen, which is an 12-ft sailing dinghy designed by John Brooks, Brooklin, Maine. The boat was



Teaching youth the basics a very windy day.



made using marine grade mahogany plywood, solid mahogany, cedar, ash, and spruce, all coated with WEST SYSTEM epoxy and multiple coats of varnish. The finish and the fine craftsmanship were enough to convince many people to buy a ticket for this year's fundraising raffle.

The class also planked the hull for a second Ellen. The 2011 class will finish the interior and it will be the 2011 raffle prize. Read more about our boatbuilding program on page 5.



Adult Intro Class

was the "year of the wind." Too much wind is just as bad as too little when teaching new sailors. Nevertheless, Karmen Jackson, our Head Instructor, and her two very capable assistants, Nick Dean and Jeremy Smith, rose to

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good Evening Everyone,

As I write this, I am making plans to attend the Strictly Sail show in Chicago the last week of January. Deb and I are looking forward to going again this year, just like we really looked forward to the Annapolis show in October. As I think about why I want to go to the show again this year, I realize that our life revolves around sailing. We like hanging out with sailors. We like working on sailboats. We like talking about sailboats. But most of all, we like sailing sailboats! All of those other activities help us get through the time we cannot be on a boat. I guess it could be said that we are passionate about sailing. I hope that you have some of those same feelings about sailing. If not sailing, something! We should all have something in our lives that keeps us looking forward to the next day, week, season, and our life. Sailing is one of the things that does it for us, but equally important are our family and friends. I go to sleep most nights thinking about our boat, what we want to do with it, and how we can include our family and friends in our sailing life. So the thought for today is: **Find your passion and enjoy it everyday, even when you cannot actively participate.**

I must share a thought I had while attending and presiding over the SBCSA Annual Meeting. We had a pretty good turnout for a nice dinner and great conversation. For me a really exciting part of the evening is that we had at least 8 to 10 attendees that I did not know. I have mentioned this before, but this fact tells me that the SBCSA is meeting its mission of introducing new sailors to the sport. We are bringing new folks to the sport and many are staying involved at some level. For those of you that don't know me, if you have seen a hairy guy lurking around the SBCSA docks, it's just me. I come by regularly to enjoy the scene of folks enjoying their time on the boats as they develop their skills in the boat. I watch folks sailing the club keelboats in and out Bay Harbor and smile.

This message would not be complete without the appropriate thanks being expressed. We could not operate without the support of many folks in the community and without our wonderful staff. Many thanks to our Board of Directors, Bill Coberly, Bill Darbee, Brian Donaldson, Bruce Niederer, Kevin Dykema, Mike Carr, Roy Tuttle, and Tim Atkinson. If you know any of them, please say thanks for the many hours they have volunteered for our organization. These guys (and their significant others) have made major commitments to this organization, some have been involved since the beginning and all of them are interested in continued growth and development in the SBCSA. I also want to thank the many volunteers that come by to work on the club boats and docks, build boats for the raffle, or chair one of several committees formed to improve your sailing experiences.

We also need to thank Bob Nelb, Karmen Jackson, Jeremy Smith, and Nick Dean. If you took classes this year, you met most or all of them and have to recognize what a great group of instructors they are. Every person I have spoken to has high praise for our day-to-day operations and the quality of the instructors and the classes they teach. I know they all work hard to ensure our students and members have a great time while learning some important life skills.

I also need to mention the local businesses and organizations that provide us with their support. In no particular order we thank: Bay Harbor Marine, Gougeon Brothers, Meredith Broadcasting, The Morley Foundation, West Marine, Pier 7, Kroger, McKay Press, and many others who donated to our silent auction, as well as the many individual donors for the generous donations of money, goods, and services. Without their continuing support, we would not be able to survive.

I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season. Keep family and friends in your heart during the Christmas Season, and I hope Santa brings you all the sailing gear you want for Christmas.

Happy Sailing (or thinking about it),
Joe

Saginaw Bay Community Sailing Association

2011 Officers

Joe Parker
President

Bill Darbee
Vice-President

Tim Atkinson
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Bruce Niederer
Secretary

2011 Directors

Mike Carr
Bill Coberly
Brian Donaldson
Kevin Dykema
Roy Tuttle

Staff

Bob Nelb
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*The Saginaw Bay Community
Sailing Association is a
501(c)(3) charitable
organization.*

Members' Stories

My First Port Huron to Mac Race

I am 56 years old and have been sailing for four years now on Saginaw Bay. I have a good friend who is a core crew member of well known large sailboat that participates in most of the racing that occurs out here on the Bay. I was able to start sailing on his boat, and slowly gained acceptance and a chance to participate in crewing activities. I was introduced to sailing, and I was hooked, and firmly. Unfortunately, this boat had all the crew they needed, and my chances of going on a Port Huron to Mackinac Island race were slim.

In order to broaden my horizons, improve my sailing abilities, and increase my circle of sailing acquaintances, I became a member of the Saginaw Bay Community Sailing Association. This was the smartest thing I did in regards to learning to sail and having chances to go sailing. This is especially true as I don't have much extra money. As a member of the Association, I now have access to many different sailboats, all for the cost of a membership. And, I am at a skill level now where I can take the boats out and sail them. I am also meeting boat owners who race and are in need of crew members.

This year, I was able to join a three-person Lightning crew and raced on Wednesday nights. Small boat racing is where a person develops racing skills. I had a great year sailing on these small boats, but bigger boats are still



the boats I want to race. So when Bill Darbee [SBCSA Vice President] asked if I would be interested in doing the Port Huron to Mackinac Island race on his boat, *Twisted*, I didn't have to think twice.

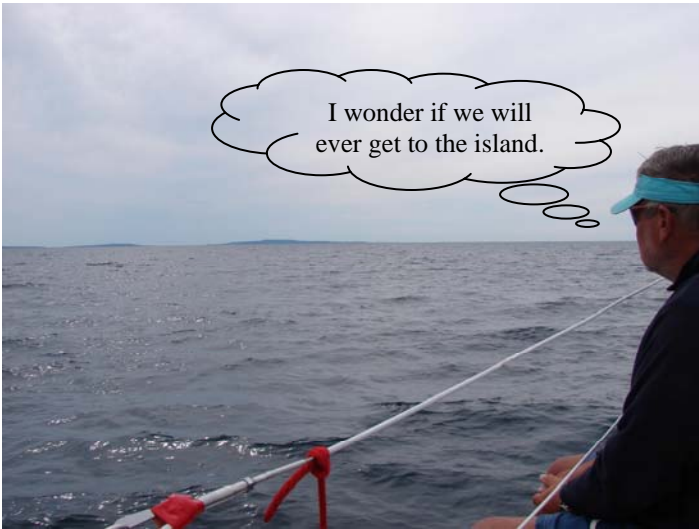
I was unable to deliver the boat to Port Huron so on Saturday I met the boat at the marina in Port Huron. When all the boats are in the marina, it is something to see. I walked along taking it all in until I found *Twisted* with most of her crew on board. The party had begun several days before and some of the crew looked a little worse for wear. Stories of bridge jumping and bar hopping abounded. I was meeting an interesting crew with whom I would share the next few days.

A racing boat is not built for comfort. One might use the term "Spartan." It was a hot day and below deck was a steam bath with very little ventilation. The bunks fold down and have about 18 inches of separation. Cozy. There were ten of us altogether, including one young lady sailor, who would be sharing bunks. This would be my first time sleeping on a boat that was sailing, and I was not sure how that would work. I worried I would be seasick down below with the motion of the boat. No getting off the boat once the race begins so I had my doctor give me a prescription for the patch just in case.

I got to know the crew as we slowly made our way out to the starting line. An amazing collection of hundreds of sailboats was out in the water, sailing around waiting for their start times. We sent two crew members over the side to wash the hull to reduce drag. We then sailed the boat, working our way into position for the start. At the gun, off we went, the race was on.

Over the next two and a half days, we alternated between flying with great wind and flogging sails where there was little or no wind and the navigation computer said it will take four days to get to the island based on current speed. It started out hot, eventually it rained, and then it cooled off. My first off-watch involved trying to sleep in a sweat bath. After my second watch at 4 AM, it had cooled off enough that I needed a blanket. I actually got some sleep, but for me, the whole race was exhausting. Other crew members slept like logs. I envied them.

We ate meals that came in a box. A special plastic bag and some salt water created heat to cook them – civilian MRE's. They were pretty good, and everyone was able to eat whenever they wanted. My personal stuff was in my duffel on a bunk with everyone else's. Trying to get things out, or find them at all, was always a rummage through duffels and stuff. There are really few places to sit where your back is supported or there is some padding, so eventually one gets "boat butt." One sits a lot while on watch tending to sail trim.



A sailboat that is racing is never adjusted correctly. The senior crew and owners constantly try to wring another tenth of a knot of speed. As a less experienced crew, I marveled at all the discussion of sails to fly, how to trim them, what course to take, and possible future wind and weather. Guess right and win, or guess wrong and lose.

We managed to keep up with the other boats in our class until Monday when we chose the north side of the rhumb line. Intermittent cell phone communication was established amongst some crew and their families and we were told we were in the thick of it. Mackinaw Island ap-

peared on the horizon, I was glad to be near the end, but there it sat, never really appearing to get any closer. I was treated to stories of never actually getting there. When we were finally a half mile from the finish line, the wind died. A maddening crawl ensued, and it seemed like it took hours to get the boat over the finish line.

Finally, the cannon fired signaling the end of the race for *Twisted*. The engine started and down went the sails. We had made it. We motored into the marina to find a place to dock. My ride home was holding out to catch the last ferry to the main land. I had made it with about 20 minutes to spare, or I was spending the night, and not sure how I was going to get me home. I said my goodbyes and grabbed my gear.

We ended up second to last place in our class. Not great. The bulk of the class was about 4 hours ahead of us. We got in about 7:30 that Monday night. The last boat got in about 2:00 AM Tuesday morning. I felt for them. The last 20 miles had been incredibly frustrating.

So I made my first Mac race. I was tired, but had a sense of accomplishment. It was uncomfortable, sleepless, and crowded, but I didn't get seasick and we weren't the pickle boat. I can't wait until next year to do it again. I'm going to race in the Chicago to Mackinaw race too! Is there something wrong with me?

Roy Tuttle, SBCSA Director

Tuesday Night Open Sailing

On Tuesday nights throughout the summer, the training boats kept at our downtown docks are made available to our members so they can enjoy a relaxing evening on the river, practice and fine tune their sailing skills, or in the case of our youth members, show their parents how they have become valiant buccaneers.

The wind and weather cooperated on most nights so each week the dock was a beehive of activity, as you can see in the accompanying picture. All the Transfusions, most of the FEVAs, and many prams could be seen plying the waters of the Saginaw River.

And it was even busier on nights when Steve and Renee Eickel, our Social Committee chairs, and their team of volunteers set up their delicious dockside barbecue.



SBCSA'S 2ND ANNUAL WINE TASTING & CHARITY AUCTION FUNDRAISER

*Saturday, March 5th
7:00 to 9:30 pm
in the showroom of
Kelly Marine Sales
at Bay Harbor Marina
5309 E. Wilder Rd, Bay City, MI*

Excellent wines by
Oppermann's Cork 'n' Ale
Gourmet cheeses and hors d'oeuvres by
Artisiano of Caro
Musical Entertainment by Hoolie
Fabulous Auction Items by
Many Generous Donors
Tickets \$30 in advance

Ticket sales will begin in early 2011.
Check our web page for details. Don't delay, the
tickets were sold out for the 2010 event.

Annual Meeting Summary

Financial Report. For the twelve-month period ending October 31, 2010, the Association had a gain of \$5,587. The income totaled \$49,500, while the expenses were \$43,963. The income includes dues and fees, raffle receipts, fundraising events, and cash and non-cash donations while expenses include payroll and taxes, maintenance, insurance, advertising, and the value of non-cash donations. Our two major fundraising activities, the wine and cheese tasting with auction and the boat raffle helped our bottom line with net incomes of about \$6,400 and \$6,500, respectively.

Committees. The chairs of the various committees were introduced with a brief description of their duties. If you

would like to help out with a committee, contact Bob Nelb or the chairs directly.

Maintenance – Bill Coberly

Boat Building – Brian Donaldson, Bill Bauer

Fundraising and Grants – Bill Darbee, Bob Nelb

Sailing Programs – Bruce Niederer, Bob Nelb

Membership and Social – Steve and Renee Eickel

Wine and Cheese Tasting Event – Tim Atkinson,
Mike Carr, Joe Parker

Keelboats–Terry Monville

Election of Directors. Mike Carr, Bill Darbee, and Roy Tuttle were elected to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors.

Community Outreach

In a state surrounded by the Great Lakes and with hundreds of inland lakes, one would think that it would be easy for people to satisfy their curiosity about sailing. Surprising, it is not easy to try one's hand at sailing unless you have friends with boats or piles of cash.

One of the SBCSA's goals since its inception has been to introduce as many people as possible, both youth and adults, to the sport of sailing. To address that purpose, the SBCSA again participated in two community outreach programs in 2010.

Girl Scout Sailing Workshops. In collaboration with the Heart of Michigan Girl Scout council, three Sailing Workshops were held with a total of 35 scouts earning sailing badges. High wind was an issue for two of these workshops, but our staff made sure that every scout had a turn sailing. This program has given many girls a chance to experience sailing – and have fun.

Try Sailing Day. Once again the wind and weather cooperated, and despite the dredging barges anchored in the middle of our sailing area, we had a very successful event. This year, rides were given to 165 aspiring sailors. Many thanks to all the volunteers we had helping with set-up, docking, life jackets, scheduling rides, and raffle ticket sales.



Boatbuilding

The 2010 class finished Ellen #1, a 12-ft sailing skiff designed by John Brooks of Brooklin, ME. The hull was made at the Wooden Boat School by a class attended by our head boatbuilder, Bill Bauer. Our class fabricated and installed the frames, gunwales, seats, and mast partners. A mast, spars, daggerboard, and rudder were also fabricated so the boat would be ready to launch by the lucky raffle winner. See page 1 for pictures of the finished boat.

A second Ellen was also planked by the 2010 class. This boat will be finished by the 2011 class and it will be the prize for our fundraising raffle.

The 2011 class will also start the construction of a Zurn 22 configured as an electric launch. It will be cedar strip planked, then sheathed in fiberglass/WEST SYSTEM epoxy. If you are interested in learning how to build wooden boats, see the details below or visit our web page.



Boat Building Class - 2011

Dates: Wed., January 4 to mid-April, 2011

Time and Place: Mon. and Wed. evenings, 6 - 9 PM at the Gougeon Boat Shop, Martin St., Bay City, MI.

Cost: SBCSA membership (\$130 adult / \$220 family) + \$70 materials fee.

Enrollment is limited. Call or email Bob Nelb to reserve a place in the class: bob.nelb@sbcса.org, (989) 922-7245.

Volunteers.

What non-profit organization could survive without a dedicated, hard working team of volunteers? Whether it is prepping boats in the spring, repairing any damage to the boats, moving docks, or helping at Try Sailing Day, Open Sailing dock parties, and everything else that keeps the Association going, we are never short of an able-bodied team of volunteers. In mid-July, our volunteers also stepped up to the task of staffing two booths during the Tall Ships Celebration. The result: a lot of kids tried their hand at raising a sail and we sold hundreds and hundreds of raffle tickets.



Cara M. and Brian B. helping at Tall Ships.



Deb P.'s power of persuasion in action as she sells raffle tickets.



Our Boston Whaler

A brand new, 4-stroke outboard motor was purchased and installed on the SBCSA's Boston Whaler coaching/safety boat this spring. This purchase was funded in part by grants from the Consumer Energy Foundation and the Bay Area Community Foundation's Community Initiative Fund.



Before the motor was installed, a group of volunteers refurbished the boat. The multiple layers of old antifouling paint were removed from the bottom and a epoxy moisture barrier was applied (WEST SYSTEM epoxy of course). New bottom paint was applied and the hull above the water line was repainted. To finish off the project, the wooden interior parts were painted. Once the project was completed, the SBCSA had what looked to be a great looking, "new" boat.



The new motor performed flawlessly all summer. It was quieter and much more fuel efficient than the old motor. But best of all, it started on the first try every time. No wonder the instructors were smiling this summer!

Upcoming Events

Wine & Cheese Tasting and Auction Add to your calendar
Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 7 PM at Kelly Marine Sales,
Bay Harbor Marina, 5309 E. Wilder Rd, Bay City, MI
We will need volunteers to help and supporters to eat and
taste. More information will be forthcoming.

TRY SAILING Day—2011 Add to your calendar
Save **Saturday, June 11, 1-4 PM** on your 2011 calendar
for Try Sailing day. The more volunteers that help, the
more fun we have.

To view this newsletter, or previous issues,
in full, living color, visit
www.sbcsc.org/letters.shtml

If you like social networking, join our group, Saginaw Bay
Community Sailing, on Facebook.com.

Membership Renewal

Today is a great time to renew your membership for 2011. Download an application from our web pages. Please list an email address as this is our preferred method for announcing activities. Note: If you joined after August 15, 2010, your membership is valid for the 2011 season.

Fundraising Made Easy

GoodSearch and GoodShopping All it takes is a few clicks of your mouse. By using GoodSearch.com and GoodShopping (use the link on Goodsearch.com), the SBCSA earns about 1¢ per search and 1-5% of any on-line purchases made through a GoodShopping link. It may not seem like much, but it adds up. So, avoid the crowds and let your keyboard do the shopping through GoodShopping. There is no cost to participate. For more details, see our web page or call Bob Nelb.

Kroger Community Awards In the last 12 months, The Kroger Company donated \$160 to the SBCSA through this program, and that's with only about 6-7 members participating. Just think how much we could get with all our Kroger-shopping sailors signed up. All that is necessary is to register your Kroger Plus card to the SBCSA, then go shopping. Instructions for signing up are on our web page or contact Bob Nelb.

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 return. In addition, donations to the SBCSA Designated Fund, a component fund of the Bay Area Community Foundation, may qualify for an income tax credit on your Michigan income tax return. Consult a tax advisor for details.

Cash Contributions to SBCSA. Contributions of cash may be sent directly to the SBCSA using the form below and the envelope provided. To qualify as a 2010 donation, the IRS stipulates that the envelope must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2010.

Contributions to the Bay Area Community Foundation. Send your check payable to the Bay Area Community Foundation to the BACF, Pere Marquette Depot, 1000 Adams St., Suite 200, Bay City, MI 48708 with a note indicating that your contribution is for the SBCSA Designated Fund, a component fund of The Bay Area Community Foundation. Donations to this fund may also be made online: www.bayfoundation.org/donate.htm. Be sure to select the SBCSA as the recipient fund. A portion of the annual 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, donations of boats, equipment, or materials will be accepted. The association may choose to use the donated item or to sell it and apply the funds to meet other needs.

SBCSA CONTRIBUTION FORM

YES! I want to make a contribution to the SBCSA.

Name: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to SBCSA, and mail it in the envelope provided to P.O. Box 2122, Bay City, MI 48707.
Please use this space for any comments about the SBCSA.

SBCSA
P.O. Box 2122
Bay City, MI 48707-2122

Note: Please email info@sbcса.org if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.



Saginaw Bay Community Sailing Association Newsletter 2010

