



SAGINAW BAY COMMUNITY SAILING ASSOCIATION 2011



2011 IN REVIEW

Membership. The Association had 83 members in 2011: 33 Adult, 17 Family, and 33 Youth. Of the 83, thirty-nine were new members in 2011. This compares to 84 members in 2010 with about the same distribution. This is about the same gain and attrition as we've seen in past years. Once again, a youth membership was included with all of our Introductory lessons, and many of our youthful sailors took advantage by signing up for additional lessons and by having fun on Open Sailing nights.

Membership benefits include reduced rates for lessons, Open Sailing during the summer, and use of our keel boats after a qualification sail. In addition, many members volunteer for maintenance or for moving docks and boats. Thankfully, they see this as an opportunity to help keep the organization strong.

Lessons. It was another good season for our sail training programs. Sixty-four lessons were given, which was 84% of our scheduled capacity. Our Youth Intro classes were nearly filled to capacity but we still struggle to get more kids involved in the intermediate and advanced classes. Both of the Adult Intro classes were full.

If you ever have some free time during the week next summer, come on down to the docks and watch one of the lessons, especially one for the kids. They are having so much fun you'll wish you were young again too. Days when they practice racing are particularly exciting to



watch. There's a lot of expert boat handling at the start as each skipper is tacking or jibing to be in the best position at the start. Of course, there is an occasional

"thunk" which may mean a bit of repair work on a gunwale for our very capable volunteers. On Monday and Thursday nights, our adult students take to the water and have just as much fun while learning to sail.

Open Sailing. Open Sailing was available on eighteen nights this season. For the last three weeks of August, Thursday nights were added to the schedule and the hours for both Tuesday and Thursday nights were extended (4 PM—sunset). Based on our log sheets, 176 members and guests signed in to go sailing. Of these, 21 took advantage of the Thursday offerings and 28 early birds went sailing.

Our social committee, Steve and Renee Eickel, organized two dock parties during the summer. Both were huge successes with a lot of members coming down to sail, chow down some tasty food, and have a good time.



Classes were taught this summer by our two sailing instructors, Nick Dean and Jeremy Smith, with help from Alison Lambert, our sailing assistant. All three have been sailing for many years, and in fact, all three learned to sail through the SBCSA. They did a great job, sometimes under some very trying

conditions — many hot, sunny days with little wind — but they got the job done.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another sailing season is over. It seems funny, but I do not mind the arrival of fall and the end of the season. Debbie and I sail a lot during the season and when season's end is here, we accept that we will be doing other things for a few months. We especially enjoy working on the boat over the winter. I think our short season makes us appreciate the time we have with our boat and with one another even more.

We lost a couple of great friends this year. Mark Morley and Suzanne Bickel were lost during a tragic storm during the Chicago to Mackinaw race. They were both personal friends of the members of our organization and friends of sailing in general. Mark was instrumental in helping us get the SBCSA started so many years ago now. When we needed advice about grant applications or non-profit organization paperwork, he was always willing to take the time and provide advice and counsel (and a couple of good stories). Mark was also instrumental in providing financial support from the Morley Foundation. Our docks and equipment were partially funded by grants from that organization. Both Mark and Suzanne will be sorely missed. Their passing reminds us that every day is a gift and we need to live life and enjoy every moment.

I made it to a couple of Open Sailing events, and again I was amazed at the energy and fun atmosphere. And I always enjoy meeting our new members and am thrilled that we are getting more every year. These are folks that are embracing the sport of sailing as newcomers to the sport and give their time and energy to help others enjoy it as well.

I have to once again mention how much I appreciate our Board of Directors, Executive Director, and volunteers. My travel schedule for work has been very busy this year and I did not help with the work parties this fall. But the work got done as effectively as ever. When I was younger, I would have been put off a bit by that because I would have felt left out and un-needed. Now I realize just how important that is for an organization to be self sustaining. No one person is especially important to the sustainability of the group, but rather the group is the entity. Please thank that group for their efforts next time you see them.

This summer, while sailing out of the bay and then back at the end of our vacation trip, we sailed past my favorite landmark, Gravelly Shoals light. I always have a special feeling when I am there and this year I think I figured out why. When we are sailing out of the Saginaw Bay, the light defines the point at which you can sail anywhere in the world you want to go. You can sail down through the Eastern Great Lakes and out one of the canals or the St Lawrence Seaway and get to anywhere. Or you can sail around Michigan and down to Chicago. From there down the rivers to the Gulf of Mexico and then on to the rest of the world. That is a very cool thought. But Gravelly also marks the doorstep of home. It feels good to know you can go wherever you want from there, even if where you want to be is at home on Saginaw Bay.

I would like to welcome our newest Board member, Gary Sowden. I have known Gary most of his life and I know he will bring additional energy and fresh ideas to help keep our organization moving forward. He will become another valuable member of our fantastic Board of Directors.

I hope to see you all soon,
Fair Winds,

Joe

Saginaw Bay Community Sailing Association

2012 Officers

Joe Parker
President

Bill Darbee
Vice-President

Tim Atkinson
Treasurer

Bruce Niederer
Secretary

2012 Directors

Mike Carr
Bill Coberly
Brian Donaldson
Kevin Dykema
Gary Sowden
Roy Tuttle

Staff

Bob Nelb
Executive Director

Nick Dean
Sailing Instructor

Jeremy Smith
Sailing Instructor

Alison Lambert
Sailing Assistant

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

In Memoriam

Many of you have heard of the tragic and untimely deaths of two local sailors, Mark Morley and Suzanne Bickel, during the 2011 Chicago-Mackinac yacht race, but most of you may not realize their connection with the Saginaw Bay Community Sailing Association. Mark was instrumental in the formation of the SBCSA in the early 1990s by helping to navigate through the labyrinth of forms and regulations required to gain our 501(c)(3) charitable status. And as the Association grew, Mark was always present when equipment or other resources were needed. Without his support and encouragement, many residents of the Great Lakes Bay region would not have had the opportunity to experience the sport that Mark so loved. Though Suzanne was not directly involved with the SBCSA, she was very active in local and national sailing and racing, and she epitomized the mission of the SBCSA.

Many people gave gifts in memory of Mark and Suzanne. These donations will be used to support the sailing programs organized by the SBCSA, ensuring that area youth and adults will be able to experience sailing, the sport that Mark and Suzanne embraced throughout their lives.

Tom and Huck Would be Proud

Every spring and fall, the wooden and plastic docks are moved to and from the Gougeon Boat Shop next to the Independence Bridge. Ever wonder how it's done? After a few trials (but no errors), we've found that by tying the two power boats near the stern of each section, the docks can be moved quite easily and the unit is surprisingly maneuverable. The plastic docks are moved into position first since they have more attachment points, then the wooden docks and the pram rack are pushed into position. The FEVAs and the Transfusions are then towed in two long strings. The first boat is tied to a power boat, while a hardy volunteer sits in the last boat to help keep the boats tracking straight. Come join us sometime to see it first hand.



Continuing Education

For those of you who want to stay in touch with sailing over the winter, but can't migrate south to find soft water, here is a partial list of resources to expand your knowledge.

Books:

- ◇ *Chapman Piloting and Seamanship*. Just about anything you need to know can be found in this book. Older editions can often be found in the library or on-line.
- ◇ U.S. Sailing has many books and DVDs available at their on-line store. You don't need to be a member to purchase anything. <http://store.ussailing.org/>
- ◇ Check your local libraries for books and videos.
- ◇ Still not enough? Search www.amazon.com for "sailing" and 14,519 results pop up. That should keep you busy.

Courses:

- ◇ Delta College (www.delta.edu) has "Boating Safety" and "Sailing Fundamentals" listed in their 2012 course listing.
- ◇ Boat/US (www.boatus.org) offers a free on-line boating safety course. However, read fine print if you need a Michigan boating certificate.
- ◇ U.S. Power Squadron (<http://www.usps.org/>) offers numerous online and class room courses. A fee may be charged.

Membership Renewal

Today is a great time to renew your membership for 2012. Download an application from our web pages. Please list an email address as this is our preferred method of communication. Note: If you joined after August 15, 2011, your membership is valid for the 2012 season.

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

SBCSA'S 3RD ANNUAL WINE TASTING & CHARITY AUCTION FUNDRAISER

*Saturday, March 10th
7:00 to 9:30 pm*

Location to be Announced

Ticket sales will begin in early 2012.
Check our web page for details.

Annual Meeting Summary

The 2011 Annual Meeting was held on November 10 at Rattlesnake Rick's restaurant. A total of 28 members attended the meeting, which was conducted by Vice President Bill Darbee. A brief summary of the meeting follows:

Financial Report. For the twelve-month period ending October 31, 2011, the Association had a net cash gain of \$4,376. The income totaled \$37,682, with the majority coming from membership dues, lesson fees, donations, and fundraising activities. Expenses were \$32,809. The major expense was payroll and taxes, followed by maintenance, and insurance. The SBCSA Designated Fund at the Bay Area Community Foundation, from which the SBCSA can withdraw only about 4% annually, had a balance of \$34,833 on June 30, 2011.

President's Report. In Joe's absence, Bill Darbee gave an abbreviated report. See Joe's full message on page 2.

Executive Director's Report: Bob summarized the 2011 season. The details of his report can be found throughout this newsletter.

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. The activities of many committees are described throughout his newsletter.

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

Nomination and Election of Directors. Tim Atkinson, Bruce Niederer, and Joe Parker were nominated and elected unanimously to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors. In addition, a new director, Gary Sowden, was elected to a three-year term. At the next Board of Directors meeting, the officers for 2012 will be elected by the directors.

New and Old Business. There were no items to discuss, and the meeting was adjourned..

Election of Officers

On November 30, 2012, the Board of Directors met to elect officers for 2012. The results are:

President: Joe Parker

Vice President: Bill Darbee

Treasurer: Tim Atkinson

Secretary: Bruce Niederer

See page 2 for a complete list of the officers and directors for 2012.

Community Outreach

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 major community outreach programs in 2011.

Try Sailing Day. We must be doing something right! A record 171 wannabe sailors took rides during our annual Try Sailing Day on June 11. In the course of about 4 hours, 104 adults and 67 children, enjoyed a ride on the river in one of our Transfusion sailboats. This is the 4th year in a row that over 100 rides were given. Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped with life jackets,

skipping, docking, and scheduling rides. A number of participants either signed up for lessons on the spot or called a few days later to reserve a place in a class. All in all, a very successful day.

Girl Scout Sailing Workshops. In collaboration with the Heart of Michigan Girl Scout Council, three Sailing Workshops were held with a total of 51 scouts earning sailing badges. Scouts attended from all over SE Michigan. Each workshop is about 4 1/2 hours long, and the scouts learn the basics of sailing, including knots, rigging, boating safety, weather, and navigation. The highlight of the workshop, of course, was actually getting a chance to sail in the prams.



Members' Stories

Reflections on Sailing

Why do I like sailing? For me, it's the challenge, the thrill of sailing at 17 kt with spray flying everywhere, the adrenalin rush of a close race, and the serenity of a summer evening sail. It's also the camaraderie among sailors and all those gadgets to tinker with on a sailboat. And, sailing is easier than rowing or paddling. After my first sail – with my uncle on his 17 ft sailboat in Kennebunkport, Maine when I was about 7 years old – I was hooked. After that, I sailed with family friends on a small lake near our home in Connecticut every chance I got. Then, when I was 14, my grandparents bought a camp (that's Down East-speak for a summer cottage) on Long Lake in Maine. After watching me sailing his rowboat with a beach towel for a sail and an oar for steering, my grandfather helped me buy a board boat, an O'Day Funfish. At last, I was a boat owner and have been ever



since. There was a lot of self-taught seamanship that first summer; there were no sailing lessons available to me back then, just books and trial and error. If I capsized the boat less than a dozen times in one day, I felt I was making progress. After the first few summers, I rarely capsized which proves my point that there is nothing better than time on the water to improve your sailing skills.

After moving to Iowa City, IA to attend graduate school, the first thing I did after finding my lab in the chemistry building was to find the Iowa Sailing Club. This is where I learned to race in Flying Juniors and where I put my previously learned boat handling skills to good use. The Sunday afternoon racing was very competitive and we'd be inches apart as we finished. I had my first chance to teach others how to sail while at Iowa. The program wasn't as well organized as we now teach at the SBCSA but all my students still managed to get back to shore. Looking back, I think the sailing club extended my stay in graduate school by 6-12 months!

Skipping forward a few (ok, many, many) years to 1989, my wife, three kids, and I moved from the Connecticut shore to Midland with a Sunfish and an Apollo (a fast, 16' planning sailing dinghy) in tow. The kids were growing bigger but the boats weren't, so in the early 90s, seeking sailing room for 5 people and satisfying our need for speed, we ventured into the world of multihull sailing with the purchase of *Tri To Fly*, our Corsair F24 trimaran. This was a whole different kind of boat to learn to sail

well. This time I thankfully skipped the capsizing part of the learning curve. We had a lot of fun daysailing and swimming with the family on the bay and racing in the multihull fleet. But after 13 years, once again there came the need for more speed and more room for cruising. The answer? *Acadia*, a Corsair 28R, our current (and last?) sailboat.

Amidst all this, the opportunity to become part of the SBCSA presented itself just about the same time as one of Dow's infamous reorganizations. So when I found myself desk-less when the music stopped, I jumped at the chance to become the director for several reasons: I had a great job title, and until the parks department decided to take away my picnic table desk in Wenonah Park, I had the best office ever (and it had a view). But most importantly, I believed in the mission of the SBCSA. I looked forward to giving kids and adults the chance to try sailing and to continue to learn sailing. I enjoyed teaching and watching the students progress. There is nothing more rewarding than to see the smiles on a first time sailor's face, whether they are 8 or 68, when they complete their first successful voyage. It is also very gratifying when you hear that a graduate of our program has found a way to stay in sailing, whether they found a crew position on a local boat or they decided to buy a boat of their own.

So, why do I like sailing? Well, the one common denominator I found is:

SAILING is FUN!

Perhaps E.B. White said it best,

If a man must be obsessed by something, I suppose a boat is as good as anything, perhaps a bit better than most.

E.B. White, *The Seas and the Wind that Blows*, June 1963

Bob Nelb, An Ancient Mariner



Another Member Story

(Note: This story was too long to include in the print edition, but it is included in its entirety in the on-line edition.)

Chicago to Mackinac Island Race 2011

I arrive at the dock to meet my boat at the Chicago Yacht Club. There it is: *Twisted*. I see some familiar faces, and some new ones—my shipmates for the next few days. There are eight of us all together. It's Saturday morning and our race start is at 1:00 PM. This is my second Mac race, but my first Chicago Race, once again on Bill Darbee's *Twisted*.

My wife, daughter, and son-in-law are there to see me off. We smile and laugh; everything is funny and happy. No worries. I will see you on the Island I say to my wife. As

(Continued on page 8)

Boatbuilding

The winter boatbuilding class began as a way to expand our fleet of prams. Once enough prams were built, the class began to build small boats that could be raffled or sold as a fundraiser. The 2011 class just about finished Ellen #2, a 12-ft sailing skiff designed by John Brooks of Brooklin, ME. The hardware and mast partners need to be installed by the 2012 class, then the boat is ready to be offered as our 2012 raffle prize.

The 2011 class also began the construction of a Zurn 22, a cedar strip-planked electric launch. So far, the strongback and molds have been set up and the keel affixed. The 2012 class will finish milling the cedar strips cut last winter and begin to install them on the molds.

The second project boat for the 2012 class will be a 12' cedar strip canoe following plans from Bear Mountain Boats.

If you are interested in learning how to build wooden boats, see the details below or visit our web page.



Fundraising

Gourmet cheeses from Artigiano, fine wines from Oppermann's Cork 'n' Ale, music by Hoolie, a nautical setting at Bay Harbor Marina, and dozens of fabulous auction items made for a very successful Wine and Cheese Tasting with Charity Auction. The proceeds from this fundraising event help to defray the costs of the sailing programs so they can be offered for a very affordable fee. Thanks to all who volunteered to help and to all that attended a very enjoyable evening.

The 2012 Wine and Cheese Tasting with Charity Auction is still in the planning stages, but set aside Saturday night,

March 10, 2012.

The details for the 2012 event will be sent out once they are finalized.



Upcoming Events

Add to your calendar

Wine & Cheese Tasting and Auction
Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 7 PM
at a location to be announced .

We will need volunteers to help and supporters to eat, taste, and bid high. More information will be forthcoming.

Add to your calendar

TRY SAILING Day—2012
Save Saturday, June 9, 1-4 PM on your 2011 calendar
for Try Sailing Day.

The more volunteers that help, the more fun we have.

Boat Building Class - 2012

Dates: Wed., January 4 to mid-April, 2012

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) plus a \$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.

Our Endowment Fund at the BACF

Almost since its inception, the Saginaw Bay Community Sailing Association has had a designated endowment fund administered by the Bay Area Community Foundation (BACF). The income from our endowment fund is used to replace and upgrade our equipment so that our members and students have the best equipment possible while still making our dues and fees affordable for the residents of the Great Lakes Bay Area. Recent examples of how the income was used include the new mainsails for the Transfusions and partial funding for the new outboards on our coach/safety boats. In addition to helping the SBCSA, your contributions to the SBCSA's Designated Fund may lead to certain tax savings on your state and federal income tax returns. Please consult your tax expert to determine your exact tax situation.

Unfortunately, the 50% Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit will end on December 31, 2011, so to take advantage of any tax savings, you need to consider making a donation very soon. Donations can be made by sending a check to the Bay Area Community Foundation, 1000 Adams Street, Suite 200, Bay City, MI 48708, and indicate that the donation is for the SBCSA Designated Fund. Or, you can donate on-line via the BACF's web site: <http://www.bayfoundation.org/donate.htm?id=3033>

Make sure to select "Saginaw Bay Community Sailing Association Designated Fund" from the drop down list of funds. Of course, you can donate directly to the SBCSA at any time or to the endowment fund, but in future years the MI tax credit will not be available.

Be a Fundraiser

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 \$400 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.

Contributions to SBCSA. Contributions can be made directly to the SBCSA by sending a check using the form below and the envelope provided. *To qualify as a 2011 donation, the IRS stipulates that the envelope must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2011.*

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.

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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.

Another Member Story

Chicago to Mackinac Island Race 2011

(Continued from page 6)

this is my second year racing to Mackinac Island, I know I will be physically uncomfortable and will not get much sleep for the next two and a half days. I am not expecting anything bad or scary to happen. My wife and the other members of my family have no concerns.

It is an overcast day, and not much wind to start. We hoist a spinnaker as we cross the starting line and the race begins. It is slow. I start to get to know some of our new crew members. We have three women on board this trip, which is a first for me. Allison is young and not very experienced, but Heather and Lindy are extremely competent. I am happy to be here with them. I hope to learn as much as they have forgotten. The Captain and his son are very experienced and I am just happy to be here at all.

By Sunday afternoon, the wind has picked up and we are in a following sea. We surf on the waves and a contest begins between the various helmsmen to see who can register the fastest surge time. I think John hits 11.5 knots. That is almost supersonic on a 40 foot monohull. It was fun for me. We are finally making good time and we are on course.

I'm a little on the seasick side so I put on a patch. They work like a charm for me. One of our other crew was not feeling well either so I gave her a patch. She may have waited too long.

When you are racing, getting seasick is not a reason to stop. Everything continues. That also applies to the weather. If it rains, or its cold or hot, you have to deal with it. Maybe a storm comes up. That is why we have foulies and warm clothes. If you are sick, oh well. Unless it is life threatening, you get to deal with it.

Two weeks before the race, my family and I spent a weekend in Glen Arbor. We had a condo on the water. From the beach we looked out on Lake Michigan's Windward Channel and the two Manitou Islands. To anyone who would listen, I said, "I'll be sailing through here in two weeks on the race to Mackinac." Now, on Sunday, I am in the Channel on *Twisted*, night has fallen, and the wind is picking up. And then, the light show started.

The bolts of lightning were off in the distance at first and intermittent. As time went by, they got closer and more intense. Sometimes, it seemed like daytime. We could see other boats. We could see the crew members on deck. Then we could read the numbers on their sails. We could see purple and low, gray clouds. I still really wasn't concerned. We were barreling along making great time to the finish.

I have strange memories of everything that happened next. I have talked to the other crew members to see what

they remembered. At some point, I put on my foulies. We were going to get rain. That was a given. Our wind instruments were showing wind speeds in the lower to middle twenties [knots]. It was very exciting. John stood in the companionway and said, "We should shorten sail." Captain agrees. We get the jib down. We start to bring the main in to the center of the boat in preparation for a gibe. We pull up the two runners. We are on a starboard tack.

All of a sudden, the wind shifts way over to our port side and hits somewhere in the 60 knot range. Everything gets surreal. There are six of us in the cockpit and we are trying to release the mainsheet and the starboard runner. The mainsheet becomes cleated in the sheeting mechanism on the traveler; it is very hard to release. The wind at 60 knots is blowing on the mainsail and making it all the harder to release the mainsheet. *Twisted* is starting to go over. It is heeling farther and farther to starboard. The Captain is yelling "Release the main!"

I have the mainsheet and I am tugging furiously on it trying to release it. It finally releases, and somehow the runner is also released and the boom swings way out to starboard and the 60 MPH wind blows across the mainsail rather than into it. The boat stands up. Later, John tells me he kicked the mainsheet and that is what released it. I take his word for it as I have no memory of it.

Now we sit in the cockpit and watch the wind tear by. The mast and boom and mainsail are shaking with an unbelievable violence, and the rain is horizontal. The noise of the storm is overshadowed by the noise the sail and mast are making. I sit in awe and wonder, and for the first time, fear settles into my stomach. I think to myself, we may not live through this. For a half an hour, we sit huddled together watching the tempest rage. At some point, the fear subsides and a feeling of invincibility settles in. We beat the storm!

The next morning the weather has cleared and we learn of the tragedy on the boat, *Wingnuts*, and the loss of Mark Morley and Susan Bickel. I did not know them, but most of the people on *Twisted* did. What we have survived has taken two lives. Some new feelings settle in. I have gratitude for my captain and crew and a good boat that withstood the storm. We made it. But there is sadness over the loss of two good sailors.

Quite a few boats end up dropping out because of storm damage. We keep going and finish the following day. My wife is very glad to see me. She never used to worry. Now, she always will.

I will never forget the Chicago to Mac race of 2011. I have a new respect for the Great Lakes and the storms that form on them. I want to think I am a better sailor for the experience. And, once again, I am looking forward to next year's races. I can do without the storms, but I won't be as afraid in the next one.

Roy Tuttle, Director