Racing News

I know racers are looking forward to the first day of racing this year. We’ll have the first Sunday Race at 10:30am on April 11th. In addition to Sunday Racing, we’ll have Tuesday Evening Racing at 6pm. The first Tuesday Racing will be on May 11th.

Besides regular racing, we will have three regattas: the Spring Fling on May 1-2, the Dan Rice Memorial on May 30, and the Bone Chiller on October 31. The Spring Fling Regatta is a formal regatta for which we will invite participants from outside of the club. We have one change in the regatta this year: there will be no registration fee. But, we will still have advanced registration. The Dan Rice Memorial Regatta and the Bone Chiller Regatta are intra club regattas, which are open only to club members. There is big news for the Bone Chiller Regatta: Feng Jiang, an enthusiastic racer and an internationally recognized violin maker, will make a trophy for the regatta. Thank you Feng! Information about registration and procedures for these regattas will be distributed by email, poster, and on the web.

If you have other topics you would like to discuss, please share them with us. Whether you’ve been in the club forever or just joined last November, it’s your club, and your ideas count.

Don’t forget to come out to the club on Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day for our legendary member potlucks. Bring your favorite dish to pass. Dinner starts at 1pm each day, be sure to save room for our decadent desserts!

We’ll be hosting “International Day” again, in combination with the International Center at the U-M. For International Day, the club offers beginner lessons to the students and introduces them to the club. Again held on a Sunday afternoon in June (racing ends early that day). The club needs your help to make this event a success: if you’d like to instruct, please show up at the club that day around lunchtime.

There will also be several night sailing evenings, where the club is open all night to sailors and campers (don’t forget your flashlight!).
— Laura Packard, Secretary

Thank You . . . Everyone!

The 2003 season saw a wide variety of projects around the club. We haven’t done this much work in many years. The club thanks the people who worked so hard on the following projects (an apology if we left any out):

• Making/dropping new dock anchors
• Leveling the driveway speed bumps
• Building a new dock box top
• Painting the boathouse columns
• Pouring the new cement slab
• Designing and planting our new landscaping
• Leveling the patio
• Clearing fallen trees
• Hauling away the trash pile

It’s always tough to express particular thanks for projects like these because we don’t want to leave out all of the people who volunteer their time on the club’s ongoing activities, like:

• Teaching sailing and windsurfing
• Assisting capsized boats
• Lecturing in town and at the club
• Administering the web site and email lists
• Maintaining the club equipment and property

So a hearty round of thanks to all our volunteers! Without you the club would cease to function. The amount of work every year is staggering, and the effort our members collectively is just amazing.

We owe thanks of another sort to the Otto and Jenny Krauss Charitable Foundation Trust. The club received a donation of $500 from the trust. In conformance to the trust’s request, we’ll devote half to the purchase of jacket-style life vests for our members and half to improving the club’s educational programs.
— Akiko Kamimura, Racing Chair

Membership Committee

Our goal for this year is to serve our existing members, and recruit new members for the 2004 season too. We have some events that will bring fresh faces, as well as fun activities for our current members. Be sure to check out our website for the most current calendar: http://www.umich.edu/~umsc/calendar.html.

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— Laura Packard, Secretary
Landscape Committee Update

I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree...

— J. Kelmar

You might have noticed a new tree in the middle of the sailing club lawn. Thanks to a generous donor and many volunteer labor hours the club has a dozen new trees scattered about the property and many new shrubs and perennials as well.

In fact, 2003 saw many landscape projects completed: a new patio installed, a new bench, dedicated in memory of Lloyd Grant and made possible by club volunteers, plus an expanded seating area to accommodate the bench, rebuilding of the stone walls around the clubhouse, new drain tile installed behind the clubhouse, plus the many new plantings.

All this was accomplished through the work of volunteers. Thank you to all those dedicated members who helped with these and other more mundane maintenance projects such as trimming trees, hauling brush and cutting the grass. The club will benefit from these projects for years and decades to come.

— Meg Gower, Committee Chair

Vice Commodore’s Comments

The 2004 Sailing Instruction program is off to a great start even as the snow flies. Thanks to last year’s Vice Commodore, Thomas Jabusch, a committee has been formed to review instruction methods and make recommendations for improvement based on feedback from members and students.

A common request from members has been for advanced sailing seminars. Last year many advanced clinics were offered with good attendance. Topics included Laser sailing, trapeze use, racing techniques, and heavy weather sailing. These and other advanced sailing topics will be taught again this year, primarily on Saturday afternoons. Our goal is to raise the overall level of sailing competence and increase the number of helm rated members who can help run the club.

Instructor training has been another common request. Thursday April 29th will be an instructors’ training class to prepare for the summer season. All instructors are encouraged to attend. We will discuss various teaching methods as well as an incentive program for instructors. This class will be offered again in mid-summer as new members join.

Everyone, no matter what sailing skill level, has something they can share with another. Please consider volunteering to teach once a month (or more!) this summer. Your contribution is vital to the continued health of the UMSC sailing program.

— Meg Gower, Vice Commodore

Join the Email Lists!

Keep in touch with the club even when you’re not at the lake. Don’t forget to join the club’s two email lists. The moderated list covers upcoming events and official club announcements, and the unmoderated discussion list is for anything and everything related to the club. To add yourself, send an email to Join- umscdiscuss@umich.edu.

Treasury Notes

Financially, 2003 was another good season for the club. We sold roughly 231 memberships, plus 30 team members, for dues revenue of $32,220. We also received $500.00 from the Krause Family Foundation, for the Instruction program. Add in tuition sales, sales of old equipment, investment interest, and other donations, and our total revenue was $36,899. At the same time, we spent roughly $11,000. The excess goes into our long-term savings accounts, and will help us stay on track to replace the JY-15s at the end of the 2005 season.

— Joe Gelinas, Treasurer

Windsurfing Update

2003 saw a remarkable resurgence of interest in windsurfing at UMSC, and we expect more in 2004. Last year many long-time and new members alike took advantage of the superior instruction, equipment, and wind (ahem) at the club to learn one of the most thrilling, addictive sports known to man.

Here’s an update on what to expect in 2004.

Instruction

The windsurfing instruction program kicks off in June with a special Weekend Workshop. Saturday June 12, will be learn-to-windsurf day and Sunday will feature racing. We are not sure how often we’ll be offering windsurfing instruction for the remainder of the summer. We will teach 4x, 2x, or once a month, depending on the number of instructors who volunteer.

We need more instructors! Will you join us? The National Windsurfing Association has developed a step-by-step method for teaching the basics, which we’ve been using for the past two years with much success. We will teach you how to teach. If you are interested, send an email to Peggy Glahn at peggy_glahn@hotmail.com.

Equipment

In response to demand, the club membership approved the purchase of a second Prodigy. The Prodigy is a wide, stable board that is easy to learn on and fun for people of all ability levels to sail. It was so popular last year that the Prodigy spent more time in the water than any other sailing vessel in the fleet.

Wind

We can safely predict that the wind will be gusty and wavy all season, but particularly in the spring and fall. However, despite the less-than-optimal wind conditions, we can also safely predict that you will have a blast windsurfing at the club.

Fleet News

Try the club’s new catamaran. Last June Jon VanderMeulen donated a Hobie Cat 14. This is the fastest boat in our fleet and is amazing on those high wind days. We’ve seen some spectacular capstox as our members learn the tricks of driving a cat. Thank you Jon!!

— Carey Jones, Fleet Captain

Take the Member Survey!

Help the club become a better place for everyone. Please set aside a few minutes to take the annual member survey. The results help us, the board, find out what’s important to you and give us ideas for improving the club.

The survey is available on the web until the end of March, at http://www.umich.edu/~umscsurvey/. Results will be available at dock-in.

J O I N N O W F O R T H E 2 0 0 4 S E A S O N

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Name

Address

City ___________ State ___________ Zip ___________ Phone ___________

How did you hear about the Club? ___________

Rating:  [ ] Crew  [ ] Skipper  [ ] Examinig Skipper  [ ] Helm  [ ] Sailboard  [ ] Helm Key

MAIL TO: University of Michigan Sailing Club
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Ann Arbor, MI 48106