



Broad Reach

Volume XIII Number 1

University of Michigan Sailing Club

Spring 2001

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Weekly Meetings
7:45 PM Thursdays
120 Dennison Building
UM Central Campus

Commodore's Comments

This will be an exciting season as we begin our sixty-third year of operation. The Executive Board has been hard at work since January planning for our new season, and we want to encourage everyone to get ready for another year of wind, sun, and boating fun.

So come on out! Join in enjoying the blustery, exhilarating days of spring sailing. As soon as the docks are in the water, we'll be offering our full program of activities. For our newer members, Saturday morning boat school will offer the opportunity to learn sailing basics. More experienced sailors can shake the winter snow off their racing reflexes at the Sunday races. And, of course, we'll all enjoy the best wind of the year during the months of April and early May.

As always, the Executive Board welcomes input from every member on every aspect of club operation. If you have ideas, opinions, or concerns, please share them; we want to hear your thoughts. If you have any observations, comments, or suggestions—let us know!

Opening the Club

Every year, spring means a full schedule of projects lined up to put the club in shape for

the season ahead. This year, we need to replace the rubrail on the dock sections and work on the fleet.

Dock—in will be on Saturday, March 31 starting at 9 AM; with luck, we'll be sailing by afternoon. Please plan to come and lend your support if at all possible; those docks are heavy, and we need all the help we can get. As always, there will be a party afterwards to celebrate the start of the new season.

Welcome, New Members

As I do every year, I'd like to close my newsletter article by taking a moment to welcome new members to the club and I'd like to encourage all of our current members to do the same.

I think that we need to keep in mind at all times that it's not the boats or the lake that make the club what it is—it's the people, new and old. If we want our club to continue to grow and prosper, we need to work hard to maintain a friendly, positive atmosphere in which new members will feel free to join in on every aspect of every club activity.

Regards,

Kevin Bosley

Spring Calendar

Saturday, March 31:

Dock-in, 9 AM.

Thursday, April 5:

First weekly meeting, 7:45 PM, 120 Dennison Bldg.

Thursday, May 3:

Instructors' Meeting, 7:45 PM, 120 Dennison Bldg.

Thursday, May 10:

Open Meeting, 7:30 PM, 120 Dennison.

Saturday–Sunday, May 12–13:

Open Weekend.

Thursday, May 17 through

Thursday, June 7:

Basic Sailing lecture series.

Sunday, May 27:

Dan Rice Memorial Regatta, 10 AM.

Monday, May 28:

Memorial Day. Potluck Picnic, 1 PM.

Bring Someone New to the Club

...And help increase membership. The UMSC is mounting a drive to bring in more new members. This will benefit us all in several ways: more fun people to meet and sail with, more people to participate in club activities, and more dues so we can replace the fleet sooner.

Is there someone you know who might like to try sailing? Keep watch for people who might like to join the UMSC.

They might be:

- Someone who likes the outdoors, water, or other kinds of boating;
- A family with kids who would like a warm, sunny place to go on weekends that is near Ann Arbor;
- Someone who likes to go to Michigan lakes for swimming, boating and picnicking but is tired of long drives, long lines, and high costs;
- Someone who is thinking about buying a sailboat but would like to try it out first;
- Someone who already has a boat but is tired of the overhead involved in getting ready to sail and putting it away.

Remember, people can try the club twice at no cost. Also, the UMSC is open to the public, the cost is reasonable, it is within 30 minutes of Ann Arbor, and we offer boating, camping, picnicking, swimming, and camaraderie. What more could you ask for! Help us spread the word.

—Carey Jones

Family Boat Purchase

The Executive Board is considering the purchase of a "family boat" for recreational use. The desire for a larger sailboat, which would be suitable for several passengers, arose this past year after the appearance of two privately owned boats.

John and Cindy Fink and their family enjoy a sixteen-foot Tanzer. John and Cindy have invited other club members to sail with them aboard "At Last", and Paul

Townsend and Tamar Charney were two of the first members to accept the invitation.

Paul and Tamar enjoyed the Tanzer so much that they decided to look for their own family boat; they settled on an Albacore, a fifteen-foot sloop that seats four.

These slightly larger vessels offer bench seating for 3-5 passengers while still maintaining good room for the skipper. These heavier boats are more forgiving than the JY-15s, thereby providing a relaxing ride to the crew. These are social boats, providing an opportunity to sail with more people than a JY or a Laser.

Since so many members have enjoyed smooth, comfortable sails on these two boats, the Board is thinking that perhaps the club should have a family boat of its own. We believe that for \$1500-\$2000 the club could find a boat in good sailing condition, perhaps another Tanzer, a Buccaneer, or a Mutineer.

Let us know your opinion of buying a larger, more comfortable cruising boat. If member feedback is favorable, we expect to convene a business meeting shortly after dock-in.

—Meg Gower

Don't Forget!

Dock-In

Saturday, March 31

9:00 Sharp

Online Sailing Club Interest Survey

As a part of our New Year's resolutions to encourage club participation, the Executive Board is publishing an online survey. This general interest survey asks members what the crucial elements of the club are (i.e., what can we not do without) and tries to determine what additional activities or equipment members might desire. The survey is a follow-up to two very productive brainstorming sessions, which were held last fall. We encourage everyone to take this five-minute survey so that the best possible sample of the membership is obtained and everyone's voice is heard.

If you are a member of the UMSC electronic mailing list, you will receive a personal invitation to participate. If you have Internet access but are not on the mailing list, you can

find a link to the survey at <http://www.umich.edu/~umsc/survey>

If you do not have Internet access and would like to participate, you can obtain a paper copy of the survey by contacting Meg Gower at 734-433-0150.

—Meg Gower

Electronic Mailing List

Don't forget to join the club's electronic mailing list. To join, visit our web site at <http://www.umich.edu/~umsc>.

This year we've merged the racing list with the overall club list.

Racing Clinics

Meg Gower and Mark Allen will help us with racing this year. Join us to learn the rules, how to properly tune the JY-15, and how to improve your starts

and finishes. Clinics will be on land before, during, and after the races on Sundays. During some of the clinics, we will have instructors in the crash boat to give suggestions while you are sailing. Skippers and crew will also switch around so everyone will have a chance to sail with someone more experienced and someone who is just learning.

—Carey Jones

Club Business

A Club Business meeting was held on October 5, 2000. The membership authorized the Board to spend \$2200 on a new sailboard, to sell the three unused Lasers, and to sell or give away all but two of the old sailboards.

The club also voted to increase dues by approximately 10%; see below for the new dues schedule.

Join Now for the 2001 Season

			Student	Non-Student
Mail To:	UM Sailing Club	May-June	\$55	
	PO Box 4023	May-September	\$65	\$115
	Ann Arbor, MI 48106	Annual	\$110	\$155
		Annual Family Membership	\$190	\$240

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Rating: Crew: ___ Helm: ___ Skipper: ___ Examining Skipper: ___ Sailboard: ___

Fleets and Fundraising

At the 2000 Finance meeting, the Board presented a projection showing that we could expect to save the money for a new JY-15 fleet by 2012.

That's plainly not a tenable plan; our last fleet sailed for twelve years, while the JY-15s would need to last for seventeen. As a consequence, the Board and membership have been discussing ways to increase club revenue. Ideally we'd like to be able to replace the JY-15s at the end of the 2005 season.

We've taken the first step by increasing dues 10%; that change moves the replacement date back to 2009. If we could earn an additional 10%, or \$2000 per year, we'd be on track and able to replace the fleet in 2005 as we'd prefer.

That's not actually much money: it's 9 non-student annual family memberships, 37 student 2-month memberships, or some similar combination.

For the 2001 season, the Board would like to focus on increasing membership, rather than on other forms of

fundraising. We feel that the non-financial advantages to a larger membership weigh in to make this route to follow if at all possible.

We think that it's important to remember that the club is primarily a membership-driven organization. Members make the club work by participating in the club's various programs, by sailing, teaching, racing, and serving as skippers and officers. Anything we can do to increase our ability to attract and retain members is to our advantage in a dozen ways at once.

Contrariwise, the club is not primarily a moneymaking organization. We need funds to operate, but any effort we put into fundraising is effort diverted from our primary focus on sailing and teaching. If we must put effort into fundraising, we will, but we feel that it would be a much bigger win to earn our funding by putting our effort into something we need to do anyway: attracting members.

The Board has created a Membership Committee to develop ideas on new ways to attract and retain members. Initially, Akiko Kamimura (kamimura@umich.edu), Laura Packard (lpackard@umich.edu) and Rick Szumski, are members. Please get in touch if you'd like to join the committee or have ideas to share.

We plan to take one other major step: to try to secure classification as a 501c(3) non-profit corporation. Doing so would eliminate our obligation to pay sales tax and enable us to accept tax-deferred donations if we should need to fund-raise in future years.

At the end of the 2001 season, we'll reevaluate this strategy. If we are unable to raise membership as we hope, there'll still be plenty of time, given the relatively small amounts of funding that we actually need, to look outside the club for funds.

—Kevin Bosley

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