

Wind Scoop

THE M B Y C NEWSLETTER

January-February 2009

www.mbyc.com



COMMODORE'S REPORT



As I am writing this, it's hard to visualize summer in Macatawa. We've had three times our "normal" snow fall, and currently we're in a blizzard that's forecast to extend through the Holidays. However, your Bridge and Board are confident that winter will

pass, and have been spending a significant amount of time planning and preparing for the 2009 season.

Congratulations to Commodore John Donnelly and his team for creating an exciting schedule of sailing events for 2009! Check out our schedule on the web at www.mbyc.com, and make plans to be involved next summer. Over a number of years and a number of events, I constantly hear from visitors that we have one of the finest racing venues in the country. Our facility makes sailing easy, our conditions are challenging, and the quality of our race management program compares favorably with literally any event in the country. Over the past several years your race committee has made a commitment to quality racing with the theory that "if we build it, they will come..." Well, it's built. So please take a look at the schedule and make a plan to take advantage of our sailing programs during 2009.

Commodore Bob DeJong has been at work fine tuning the operational side of the club (Dock and Grounds, House) to improve the overall value of the member experience. Bob is building on his experience in 2008 and I'm pleased that we're able to have his continuity in the guidance of these critical aspects of our club. Speaking of 2008, congratulations to Commodore Brown, Manager Marilyn Baker, and our club

staff for finishing 2008 strongly "in the black." As reported at the fall shareholder's meeting, last year began slowly, however with a lot of "hustle" and careful cost controls, the club begins 2009 in a strong financial position. Looking ahead, our new slips have "permanent" assignments, and we've been able to accommodate a number of members who have been on the slip waiting list, so we have a "full house" going into the season.

So with all this going on, you're probably wondering what I've been contributing... Well, as you read this, the 2009 social schedule is also posted on the *WebScoop*. Drafting the schedule has been an interesting exercise. We really do have a lot going on! And while the emphasis is definitely on having fun, it's "important" fun that creates our unique membership experience. Check out the schedule, and please consider helping out with one or more of our events.

Additionally, I've been working on some longer-range issues relative to our membership. Analysis of the distribution of ages of our current members indicates a strong concentration in the 45 - 55 and 55 -65 age groups. While there are a number of reasons for this, including the effect of the "baby boom", it points out our need to look ahead 10 years and develop the next generation of "active" members. Developing actively engaged members in the intermediate and junior categories will provide the level of active members that will be needed to provide for the long term stability of the Club. We're currently looking at the most effective ways to introduce the value of membership to a "younger" group. Stay tuned for more on this as 2009 unfolds.

We've got an exciting year planned. Anne and I look forward to seeing you at our Club!

Roger Gamache

New Board Member Appointed

At a time when filling an "unexpired term" is often fraught with controversy, please extend congratulations and thanks to Jack Knoblauch for his willingness to undertake the remainder of John Donnelly's term on the Board of Directors. Jack and his wife Linda co-own *Capricious*, and are active sailors, race committee members, and part of the *Nauti Shop* crew. Thank you Jack! *rg*

Front Cover Photo

This month's wintry club photos for the cover were taken by Anne Gamache, Tom Slanec, and jb. Thank you to all for answering the call to walk out to the docks in the snow and get some snowy pictures. The **Wind Scoop's** front cover needs entries for future issues. Please email your quality photos to Wind Scoop editor Jon Bontekoe at: jonbontekoe@gmail.com

Macatawa Bay



Yacht Club

MBYC Flag Officers

Commodore Roger Gamache
 Vice Commodore Bob DeJong
 Rear Commodore John Donnelly

Board of Directors

Immediate Past Commodore Paul Brown
 Treasurer Larry D'Haem
 Secretary Michael Hill
 Director Beth Egge
 Director Jack Knoblauch
 Director Tom Slanec
 Director Lisa Ruoff
 Director Joel Krissoff
 Director Mitchell Padnos
 Director David Sligh, Jr.

Judge Advocate JD Stone

Management

General Manager Marilyn Baker
 Executive Chef Jim Ruehle
 Outside Manager Douglas Knapp

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Wind Scoop Editor Jon Bontekoe
Web Scoop Bob Standish

www.mbyc.com

MBJA Youth Sailing News

Happy 2009 to all! We will be doing a few shifts with our MBJA Learn to Sail and Learn to Race classes in the 2009 season. Please stay tuned to the MBYC website later this month for more details. Because of the success and energy created by last summer, we will also be expanding the West Michigan Youth Sailing Association to include more teams and potentially bigger regattas. It looks to be an exciting summer for everyone!

Congratulations to Caroline Sisson, who has been busy competing Optis in Florida. At the Naples Cup in November, she finished 47th out of 90 in the Opti Green Fleet. In early December, she competed in the JO Regatta at the US Sailing Center at Jensen Beach. She finished 30th out of 50. Coming up in January, Caroline will participate in the O'Pen Bic Miami regatta. BEST OF LUCK, CAROLINE!

We would love to share racing news of our other junior sailors in this column as well. Please pass along information to Marie for next month's issue.

See you on the water... one of these days!

Marie Mell



Caroline Sisson sailing her Opti at the Jensen Beach JO Regatta held in Florida this Fall. Photo by Steve Sisson.

MBYC 2009 Logbook is in pre-press production: There is still time to send in a new picture for the **2009 Logbook**. (Email pictures to editor Jon Bontekoe or mail a glossy to the club office.) Too many member photos are at least five years old and we desperately want to replace them with more recent photos. And so many members are missing in the photo section. Family photos with kids are fine but must include parents.

Holiday Orange Bowl Regatta

Several MBYC youth members will be traveling to Miami for the Orange Bowl Regatta. Alex Kiss, Alex Post, and Mitchell Kiss will be sailing in the Laser Radial Fleet. In the Club 420 class Louis Padnos is sailing with crew Ben Spector, and Morgan Kiss with crew Laura McKenna. Graham Post will be sailing with the Optimist Green Fleet. A record breaking fleet of over 700 junior sailors from 24 countries and 26 U.S. states and territories will convene for the 32nd an-

nual Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta based at the Coral Reef Yacht Club in Miami, Fla. on December 27-30, 2008. The Orange Bowl Regatta is the culminating event of the USA Junior Olympic Sailing season. This regatta is the largest youth sailing regatta in the country, with racing held on Biscayne Bay, featuring fleet racing on four courses for Club 420, Laser, Laser Radial, Laser 4.7 and Optimist classes. Results were not available at press time.

Sailing the Greek Islands in November: Sailing season

Another sailing adventure by Lisa Ruoff

Enter the **Blue Cup** regatta, an annual race in Greece in the Argosaronic Gulf, during the first week of November--MBYC members Lisa & Bill Ruoff, Bob Nepstad, Paula Mutrynowski, and their regular race crew Douglas VanderKam shared a Beneteau charter and a two week vacation in Greece to experience it all.

Approximately **fifty Beneteau** yachts from the **Vernicos Yachts** fleet, with crews from many different countries participate every year in this event. The ever-growing spirit of this race is the mixture of competition and sportsmanship with cocktails, dancing and partying at every port of call. Every island visited has a special welcome for the participants with receptions, parties and prizes for each day's racing. Can devoted Dufour and C & C owners survive a race/cruise on a Beneteau? Add Greece, perpetual sunshine, 52 sailboats and crews from 10 different countries, wine and Ouzo... we will survive! After five days in Santorini and three days in Athens seeing the sites, the five of us set forth to Alimos Marina southwest of Athens to get on our boat.

What an organization Vernicos Yacht Charters is! We arrive by taxi and are met at the car by a fine young Greek man with requests to move our luggage to their office and Bill and Bob to go check in. Paula, Douglas and I are whisked to a car. Feeling confident, we hop in, not really knowing why. We're told we are being taken to a shop to purchase liquids...hmmm... so off with yet



another fine young Greek man who brings us to a warehouse of sorts to pick out what we want for "drinking" the next week.

Ouzo, wine, more wine, perhaps we will need some bottled water. It is all labeled with our boat name "Felicity" and they tell us it will be delivered to the boat. I pay and off we go in yet another car with another fine young Greek man "to the grocery store". We wander through this very lovely gourmet store and fill the basket with yummy foods. We spot some other sailors so we follow them and see what they are picking: toilet paper, paper towels ... maybe we should ask them so we strike up a conversation. They are from Ireland and have done this race before and fill us in on the shopping for food program. Seems we will need **more** tzatziki, more lunch meats, more wine, olives, cheese, bread, salad stuff, coffee. Wow, we filled a shopping cart, giggled a lot and had the time of our life, and we were only two hours into it!

Yet another fine young Greek man (see a trend here?) whisks us and our 20 bags of groceries into yet another car and we return to the Marina to see what Bill and Bob are up to. **Felicity** is a 2003 Oceanis 47.3 with four cabins and three heads

and just lovely. We load the groceries and wine and Ouzo (it was all delivered!) and then walk about the docks checking out the other boats and crew. We say hello to the other sailors and ask about the agenda. The folks next to us are a lovely group of Swiss men on a sister ship. This was a repeat event for them. We are to spend the night on the boat at the Marina and then sail/motor 30 miles to the starting venue on Sunday. We will follow them.

After a great dinner that night at "Jimmy and the Fish" for lobster spaghetti, Ouzo and wine, we head back to the boat to get a good nights sleep. We do learn that the boats in the charter fleet tend to build up barnacles and we can get an ice scraper and jump in to scrape the barnacles off the hull if we would like the boat to "go faster". At the same time Bill is inquiring about holding tanks and water and we learn that the boats here have no holding tanks. It's overboard discharge. OK who wants to go in and scrape barnacles? No takers! That's ok, we will sail slow.

We are not even 12 hours into our adventure! Our delivery to the starting venue in Epidavros was, as deliveries go, pretty typical, 30 knots on the nose! No kidding. It should be a great race with all



does not have to end when the snow begins to fly

of this wind! Our first experience with stern-in Med-mooring went pretty well. Bill at the helm, Bob at the windlass and Lisa, Paula and Douglas with stern lines and fenders. Success! tied up and ready for the party. (Suffice it to say not all the med-mooring experiences went as well). Our kickoff dinner was just fabulous, cloth napkins, actual wine glasses, wine on the table, and a phenomenal feast of Greek food. Each boat and crew were introduced and then music and Greek dancing into the wee hours of the night. We learned, over the next 5 days, that racing was secondary to eating, drinking and dancing. *Note to self... we will need to buy more wine and Ouzo.*

So off to the start, our Oceanis looking as slick and race savvy as any 15+ ton sailboat can look. Little did we know that our 2003 boat was the **oldest** boat in the fleet. Who would have thought a 2003 boat is old? A racing yacht she was not! Our competition you ask? They were in Beneteau 40.7's ; Oceanis 40's even a Beneteau 57... You get the point, we were not in a competitive boat, quite a lovely boat, but NOT competitive. As point-to-point race starts go it was yet again typical conditions. NO WIND! And so it goes in yacht racing.

The race stops included: Methena, a geo thermal area in Greece with sulfur baths and royal spas; Poros Island, a lovely and quaint island with yummy restaurants

and bars; Soupia, which offered nothing much other than shopping, easy med-mooring, great sites, and great bars; and then the final venue, Porto Heli where the final ceremony and banquet were held. Three of the four nights were fabulously catered meals with wine and dancing and even fireworks one night! Our second night we were greeted at the pier with two more bottles of wine. It was a good thing as our supply was already getting low. **We are proud to say that, after 2 races we were tied for second!** Perhaps I should tell you that the whole fleet was tied for second as only one boat was able to finish before the rest of the fleet was timed out. There was not a lot of wind for the other races as several were even cancelled. We finished only two races and were careful to calculate time so that when we couldn't finish in the time allotment we could turn on the old iron genny and get into port to explore. We won *many* of "those races".

Although there was not a whole lot of wind and what little wind we had was not enough to move a 15+ ton Oceanis across Greek waters, the crew of Felicity had one fabulous time. The scenery along the way was just delightful. Meeting so many wonderful people from so many different countries and forging new relationships along the way was reason enough for the trip. Perhaps you all will meet some of the Hungarian crew next year at Mac Bay!!



Greece photos by Lisa and Bill Ruoff.

- A Rounding a mark
- B Sailing into Poros Harbor
- C Regatta welcome port
- D Doug Lisa, and Paula staying afloat.

Three MBYC 7.9's competed in the National Championship on Percy Priest Lake outside of Nashville, TN. Doug Padnos's K2, the Bergman's Second Wind, and Scott Derby's S'mac competed in the 7.9 National Championship on October 22nd thru the 25th in breezy conditions. Spike & Brad Boston won the eight race event convincingly with K2 placing third and Second Wind closely behind in fourth.



Photo above: Jeff & Doug Padnos' K2 (432) and Don & Jean Bergman's Second Wind (507) charge off the starting line at the recent S2 7.9 National Championship Regatta in Tennessee.



REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT



The 2009 race program at MBYC will be a busy one. We will have our standard five MBYC offshore Saturday races: May 23, June 6, July 11 and 25, and August 29. We also expect more out of town sailors to come to MBYC to race than in any year of our 100+ year history. We will

be hosting the following regattas: Laser Great Lakes (June 13/14), Catalina Rendezvous (July 11/12), West Michigan Youth Champs (August 1), Commodore's Cup (August 8/9), 420 North Americans (August 13-16), M20 Nationals (August 21-23), Farr 40 Great Lakes (August 29/30) and the S2 7.9 Nationals (September 17-19). We have a great sailing venue and sailors from around the Great Lakes and beyond are looking forward to visiting us this very busy upcoming summer.

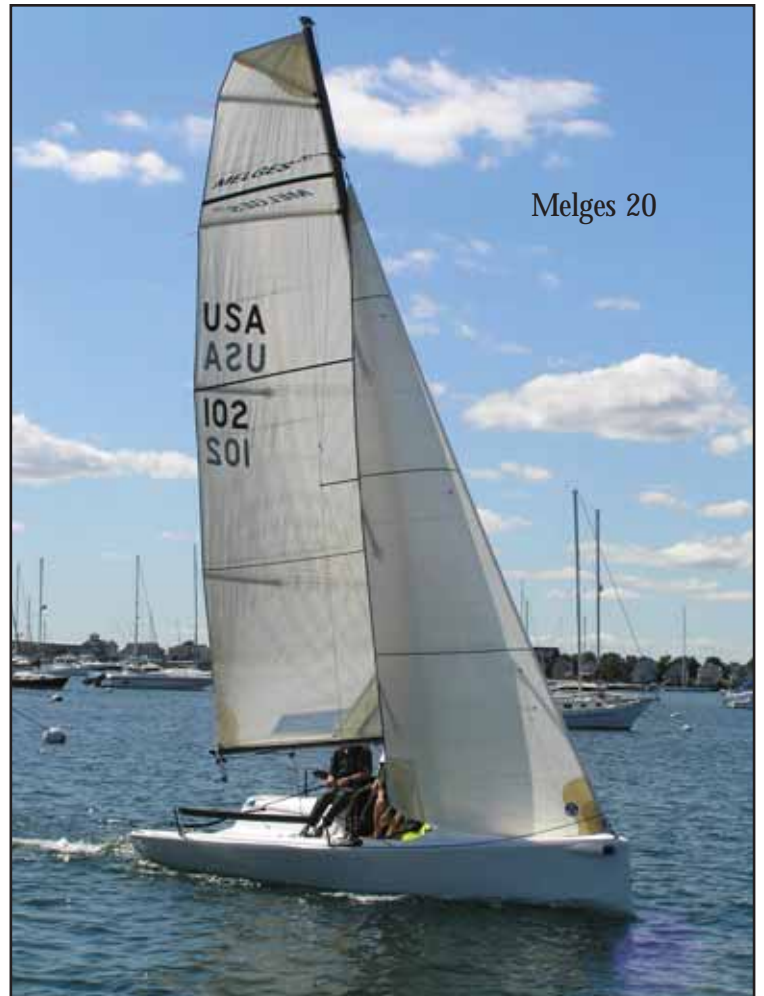
A new fleet is starting at MBYC - the Melges 20, a new boat (pictured at right). We expect at least six M20s to hit our starting line this summer. A fleet organizational meeting took place at MBYC on November 22 and a number of new and prospective owners got a look at the boat. The only thing that prevented people taking a sail in the boat were temperatures in the 30's and winds in the 20's. The not-so-easy to please editor of Sailing Anarchy had a ride recently on the M20 off of Fort Lauderdale and gave it a very favorable review "The boat (M20) feels very high performance to drive up and down. The bow penetrates the waves very well upwind and I did not notice the bow wanting to bury downwind. The ergonomics of the cockpit are spot on. It has a big boat feel. My guess is the Viper and M20 will thrive as the sport of sailing finally decides to modernize the equipment it uses."

MBYC hosted the U.S. Junior Women's Single-Handed Championship regatta in August. In the September, 2008 Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club (near Newport Beach, California) newsletter, there was an article titled "BCYC Girls Take On Lake Michigan". It is about two BCYC sailors, Chloe and Kiersten McDonald, and their participation in the USJWS regatta at MBYC with an emphasis on the windy Thursday afternoon. I would like to share some quotes written by Chloe McDonald from the article: "We got back on the race course Thursday afternoon, but the wind had gone CRAZY! Sailing a Laser in those winds is the greatest feeling in the world. Kiersten and I are really aren't that big, so it was difficult to

keep our boats right side up...With hearts racing and muscles exploding we stayed focused one boat length at a time in sailing downwind in 35 knots. It was scary, but such a rush.. I was feeling pretty good about surviving and finishing until a monster wave broke right on top of me. After capsizing a couple of times, a safety boat told me it was best if I sailed in taking a dreaded DNC. I still had fun hydroplaning to the jetty. Upon reaching the dock Kiersten showed me her main that was shredded near the foot. We felt it necessary to give her a hard time for her blond moment, all in good fun! We had a blast meeting girls from all over the country and look forward to representing BCYC again in this regatta. It was an amazing experience and we were very proud to have been part of it."

It would appear that Chloe McDonald has a bright future not only as a sailor, but also as a writer. We look forward to hosting many other sailors this summer, and I hope that they will be able to share exciting and positive tales back at their home clubs about racing at MBYC.

John Donnelly



Melges 20

Life Lines

(Assembled by Melanie Aves to help members track member news of interest to many. Please submit entries to Melanie at writeaway.mta@gmail.com)

Jon and Shae **Kobs'** son Jon Kobs IV married Andrea Cartmill on October 18 in Menomonie, Wisconsin. The couple lives in Boise, Idaho.

John and Melanie **Aves** welcomed 3 new grandbabies in 2008, one from each of their daughters, Pirrie, Amy and Alison. The total count is now 7!

Members wishing to read about or correspond with **Peter Kok** following his recent surgery may visit the blog: <http://www.carepages.com/carepages/peterkok> You may have to create a temporary user name to view entries.

NAUTI-SHOP

COMING FOR 2009

NAUTI-SHOP & TEAM ONE NEWPORT

The Foul Weather Gear Experts

An Exclusive Website
at Team One Newport
for
Macatawa Bay Yacht Club
Members

*Gill *Henri Lloyd
*Musto *Patagonia
*Slam *Puma

And More....

- Look for an E-mail Blast in January with the details when the website is up and running
- We will still have exclusive MBYC clothing at the Yacht Club
- If you have any questions, call Annie Gamache at 616-836-3861

Macatawa Bay
Yacht Club



Macatawa Bay Yacht Club

2157 South Shore Drive
Macatawa, Michigan 49434

FORWARDING AND RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Special Dates:



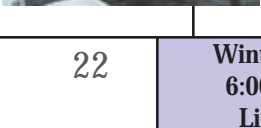


Friday, Jan 23: Winter Blues Party 6:00 - 10:30

Friday Feb 20: Mardi Gras Party 6:00 - 10:30

Friday, March 13: St. Patrick's Day Party 6:00 - 10:30

Saturday, March 28: Basic Race Management Seminar
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wednesdays in April: Learn to Race Seminars
7:00 - 9:30

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
January - February 2009						
<i>Race Events</i> <i>Social Events</i> <i>Private Parties</i>			JANUARY	1	2	3
4	5	6	7		9	10
	12	13	14		16	17
	19	20	21	22	Winter Blues Party 23 6:00 - 10:30 PM Limited menu	
25	26		27	28	Strictly Sail 29 Chicago	Strictly Sail 30 Chicago
1 FEBRUARY	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	Windscoop 17 Copy Due	Grand Rapids 18 Boat Show	Grand Rapids 19 Boat Show	Mardi Gras Party 20 6:00 - 10:30 PM Limited menu
22	23	24	25	26	27	Grand Rapids 21 Boat Show
						28