

The Horse Shoe Crab

December 19, 2012

Motto: Of Crabs, By Crabs, For Crabs

Holiday Greetings from Commodore Batchelder

I am pleased to present this special holiday issue of *The Horse Shoe Crab*. The Flag Officers, Board, and senior staff have been hard at work over the past few months planning for next season, and we have a lot of exciting news to report. 2013 is shaping up to be a banner year at the Club, and I look forward to your continued support and engagement.

New 420s

The Club adopted the 420 as its standard racing boat in 1986. In announcing this development to the membership, Commodore Allen Mottur observed that the 420 “will become a major factor in our sailing school program.” Mott was certainly prescient, as the 420 has served the Club well over the past 25 years. From our initial six-boat fleet in 1986, the 420 fleet has grown to 15 boats. Beginning in 1996, the Club began a replacement program, and every few years, has replaced the older boats in the fleet with new ones. The Club’s last purchase of 420s was in 2008, when three new boats were acquired, and so the time was right to make another purchase. At its meeting on November 24, 2012, the Board approved the purchase of *six brand new 420s, all fully equipped including new North sails*. This is our largest purchase yet, and should significantly improve our competitiveness in sanctioned regattas and also allow us to team race in a three-on-three format with equal boats. Team racing is becoming increasingly popular, and with the new boats, we plan on bringing back the tradition of team racing against other clubs on a home and away basis. As anyone who team raced at the Club in the 1970s and 1980s can attest, these races were a lot of fun, and will give our sailors an opportunity to hone their skills while making friendships with sailors from other clubs. We are in discussions with a number of clubs, so look for more news on this subject in an upcoming newsletter. Three of the new boats will have red colors, and three blue, to facilitate recognition during team racing. We are in negotiations to sell six of our older 420s to defray the cost of the new boats, and keep our fleet at 15.



New Sails for 420 and Optimist Fleets

In addition to getting six new 420s, we are also going to have *a complete set of new sails for all 15 of our 420s and 18 of our Optis*. The new sails are the gift of the Bainbridge Family, who has been incredibly generous over the past 50 years to the Club and Sailing School. The new sails for both fleets will be of the same cut and cloth as the sails used in regattas. This is a significant upgrade over our existing inventory, which consists of heavier-weight training sails. On behalf of the entire membership, our thanks go to Bob Bainbridge for this wonderful and timely donation.

New Engines

Last season, the Club added the new rib Coach boat to its fleet of motor boats, and this coming season, we will have two brand new Yamaha engines on our 13 and 17-foot Whalers. Our staff will be trained in the use and maintenance of these new engines, and the addition of these new engines will allow us to respond to any on-the-water situation quickly and effectively. Special thanks to Steve Keenan for identifying the appropriate models and negotiating their purchase.

Junior Membership Update

The Junior Membership category for individuals or married couples ages 25 to 30 was added in 1996 for the 1997 season, and expanded to age 35 in 1997 for the 1998 season. In the 15 years since, the Club has had approximately 15-20 Junior members each year,

but has not had many activities specifically geared to Junior members. At last summer's Annual Meeting, the Club unanimously adopted a change to the by-laws, lowering the age range for eligibility for Junior membership from 25 to 35 to 21 to 30 (with existing Junior members grandfathered in until age 36). The goal was to provide an earlier point of engagement with prospective Junior members, with the hope of increasing our Junior membership ranks and giving them more ownership over activities that they would like to have as a group. This fall, we had two kick-off parties for prospective Junior members, one in Boston on November 9, and the other in New York on December 8. The parties were a great success, and I am pleased to announce that as of December 18, the following Juniors have joined the Club for the 2013 season:

Maggie Casady, Greg Cassidy, Kevin Cassidy, Emily Doyle, Elizabeth Fouhey, Jane Frye, Sara Gotschewski, Sophie Griscom, Allie Gullquist, Alexa King, Jeff Plumer, Nathan Batchelder Riley, Tully Saunders, J.J. Schock, Katherine Schock, Peter Schock, Dan Taylor, Dave Taylor, Kelley Taylor, and Julie Webster

We welcome these 20 new members – which double the size of our existing Junior membership – and look forward to channeling the energy they will bring to the Club. We encourage others to follow their lead and make this Club your Club. Special thanks to Sonja Bartlett and Doug Landy for helping organize the two parties and to Doug and Kathy Landy for hosting the New York party in their beautiful home. Also, many thanks to Katherine Schock, who attended both events and helped spread the word about this new and exciting initiative.

Junior Members at India Wharf Rats, Boston, November 9, 2012



New York City, December 8, 2012



SHSS Program Changes

Throughout the fall, I have been working closely with Trude Goodman, our longtime Head Instructor and new Program Director, on plans for next season. While the 2013 calendar is still being finalized, we wanted to announce a few changes that we think will allow for better utilization of our boats and staff, and reduce the student to staff ratios on the water. First, Hermit Crabs, which formerly met on Monday (Hermit Crabs 6 year olds) and Friday (Hermit Crabs 7 year olds) mornings, will meet on Wednesday mornings, with Hermit Crabs 6 from 0930 to 1030 and Hermit Crabs 7 from 1030 to 1200. This change will give us more time on the water for these young sailors. To accommodate this move, and to increase attendance by hopefully encouraging more “Weekend Warriors” to join our Adult Sailing class, we are moving Adults to Friday afternoons from 1330 to 1600. Please consider joining this class, and starting your weekend off right with a sail in Stage Harbor.

The new O’pen BIC class was a big success last summer, so we will be expanding it to twice a week, from 1330 to 1530 on Mondays and Wednesdays. As a reminder, this is a

“bring your own boat” class, so if you would like your son or daughter to join in the fun, and do not already own an O’pen BIC, please consider purchasing one for next summer.

Intro to Opti will move from Tuesday and Thursday mornings to afternoons, in order that we will have a sufficient number of Optis for both our Old Mates class (on Tuesday and Thursday mornings) and our Intro to Opti class. Finally, a new Intermediate 420 race team is being added, and they will have practice on Monday and Friday mornings from 0930 to 1200. All other classes and race teams are scheduled to remain at their 2012 dates and times, pending finalization of the calendar, which will be announced in the spring. Thanks again to Trude for her thoughts on putting together the new schedule.

New Year’s Day Gathering

The Club hosted its first New Year’s Day gathering on January 1, 2005. Don’t miss this fun way to start the year. We will gather around the fire from 1000 to 1130. A separate invitation will be e-mailed to all members.



Final Thoughts

As I write this newsletter, the country is still in shock over the senseless tragedy of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the families of the victims and their friends and loved ones. Closer to home, we also mourn the loss of 13-year-old Brad Liska, who passed away on December 4 after a courageous battle with cancer. Brad was a Chatham resident and together with his sister, Camille, learned to sail at the Club. These events remind us that life is precious, and that we are fortunate to be with friends and family this holiday season. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.



“God bless us, every one.” (Tiny Tim, A Christmas Carol, 1843)

Sincerely,

Richard D. Batchelder, Jr.