

# New Castle Sailing Club

## NEWSLETTER

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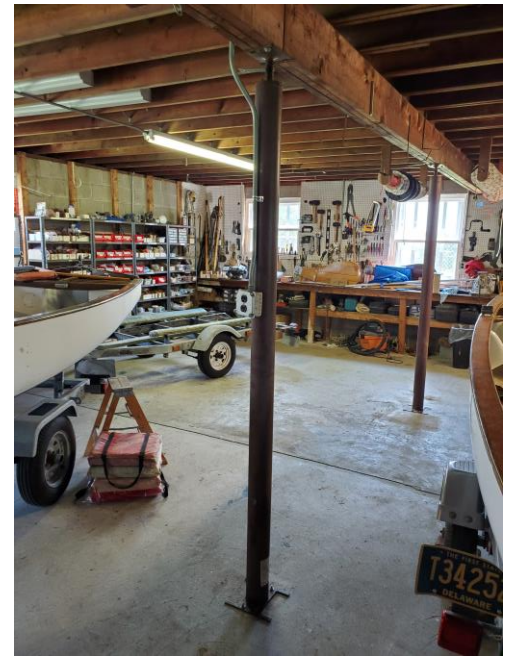
### *Commodore's Corner*

The August doldrums are upon us, and seems like after the scorchers of July, August made up for it with a LOT of rain. I hope you will all be able to take advantage of clear days soon and safely take a day sail and/or enjoy racing. You'll all be happy to know that regardless of the weather, the Club continues to generate a lot of interest by prospective members. The Club financials are sound and our membership continues to grow despite COVID-19, thanks to the great efforts of our Membership Director John Harder and the support of his awesome team (Dave Koppesor, Patti Parziale, Clay Greer, Meg Farrugia). We also anticipate getting new roofs on the Club, dinghy shed and Barn early this Fall, so look for some much needed improvements there. Again, the cost of this roof damage replacement should be nearly completely covered by insurance, so this really helps! We also were successful in arguing our case in front of the City for replacing the mangy hedge (and groundhog and bee homes) along 7th and South Streets with a fence matching our existing. This will help improve the property's safety and security. We hope to also widen the driveway gate as part of this upgrade, and provide a pedestrian gate from the adjacent parking area on the old railroad ROW. The City is requiring us to place some evergreens in front of the new fence segments but we are aiming for small diameter (and height) trees/shrubs that will also allow for safer pedestrian passage along 7th Street, which is a particularly narrow passage in the vicinity of the driveway. So we're hoping by late Fall you'll really appreciate the upgraded look, security and safety features of our Club property!



I'd like to also take the time to give a BIG shout-out to some members who really have gone the extra mile to take care of outstanding issues around the Club. It's their safety and 'can-do' attitudes that should be celebrated:

Bob Cann noticed that the three steel supports on the first floor of the Barn were out of place and poorly designed—they rested on some scrap steel plates and were off center, probably knocked aside accidentally due to them not being tied in at ceiling or floor. Scott Andrews replaced all three supports with a well designed system that is bolted in place, and Bob fixed the electrical box that was tied to one of the old supports and was knocked awry.

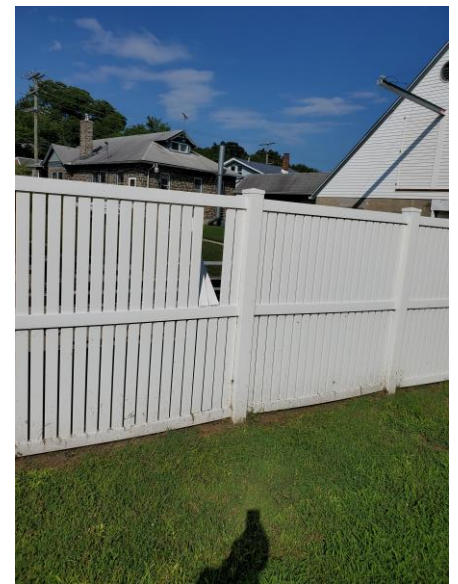


Charlie Nakamura was at the Club house after the big winds in late July and noted that the fan used for keeping the heat down in the sail loft was knocked out of the window and had a broken blade. He found a replacement fan and mounted it. Charlie has also persistently stepped forward riverside to corral roaming moorings and reset them where they belong. Charlie has a plethora of energy and used it to spearhead the development and testing of a tern and rain cover for the Thistles. Look for further development here.

Cathy Thompson and Scott Andrews worked with me to repair some mysteriously damaged pickets on our fence, and Nancy Peffer has dedicated numerous blocks of time to help weed and de-vine our mangy hedge, until time comes to replace it

Really guys, job well done!! Its the little things that add up to big things, and the sweat equity of our Members is greatly appreciated.

Steve Constable  
Commodore  
New Castle Sailing Club



## *From the Fleet*

What a crazy past few weeks this has been: terrible terns (and some fabulous experimental deterrent systems to thwart the best efforts of those destructive gulls), major storm systems, torrential downpours, flash floods and migrating moorings. It is a fine thing that our sailors are a hardy lot—a very big thank you to those who show up time and time again to help bail, ship shape and maintain our good fleet.



Racing started in mid-July (which is a facet of sailing near and dear to my heart), and although we haven't been extremely lucky with favorable winds, we have managed to get a couple of excellent races in. Thanks to all for continuing to respect and understand the need for social distancing, wearing masks and adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. The governor continues to hold us in Phase 2 of a reopening plan, so we continue to abide by state and local mandates and our own club COVID-19 policies.

As we move forward into the fall sailing season (heavier winds and the potential for more storms), please be alert when you are rigging and ship-shaping—report any equipment in disrepair immediately to the boat captain by writing it on the white board in the sailhouse. If it is a major issue such as a broken halyard/rudder/tiller/stay, please also wing me a text so that I can pull a team together to address the issue.

Above all - please keep having fun!

Hope to see you on the water,  
Meg Farrugia  
Fleet Captain

## *Membership*



Membership interest continues to grow. The spring and fall open houses were historically a great way to get people out on a sailboat to literally test the waters. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we were not able to hold our spring open house. In lieu of the open house, we have been scheduling individual trial sails, which have been working out very well. A special thanks to Dave Koppeser, Tom Gorman, and Steve Constable for hosting recent prospective members. Membership is currently at 100 "Active", with 15 new members in 2020.

Please welcome our latest members:

- Michael and Judith Biliunas of Middletown. Michael is an experienced sailor, sailing 24 and 41 foot keelboats, and is ASA101 certified.
- Dan and Karlee Rogers of Elmer, NJ. They are new to sailing and have been active in instruction.

John Harder  
Membership Director

## *Safety and Instruction*



Chet Hadley passed his key test on a Thistle after last Saturday's races. Congratulations Chet! And thanks to the instructors who helped him get there!

Clay Greer  
Safety and Instruction Director

## *Racing*



We were happy to resume our weekly sailing races on August 1st with the Boat Captains Race. The following week, we had to cancel the first Flying Scot race due to insufficient winds.

On August 15th, we had 8 boats out for our annual Founders Day Regatta, including the five Thistles on the water, two of the Flying Scots, and Mike

Berninger's Laser. Unfortunately, Mike had to withdraw due to a malfunction of his boat's traveler. Congratulations to Sally and John Rusk on their first place finish. Full [Results](#) can be found on the Racing page of the NCSC website.

Next Saturday, August 22nd, we begin our fall Thistle racing series. Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, we continue to require advance sign up for races. If you would like to either skipper or crew in a race, send me an email at: [racingncsc@gmail.com](mailto:racingncsc@gmail.com) after I send my weekly racing email. I will match interested skippers with interested crew. The boats will be assigned on a first come-first served basis with priority going to Club members. If you can serve on the Race Committee for a race this season, please sign up on the [Race Committee Sign-Up Sheet](#).



Tom Gorman  
Racing Director