



NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Ernest Russell

Work Sessions and Instruction cancelled for March 21 and March 28

It appears that this and next week are critical for helping slow the spread of the coronavirus and given the closure of restaurants, bars, fitness centers, etc., the Board has decided that the Club should do its part too. We will monitor the situation and give you an update before we restart official work and instruction sessions.

For our new members, please do not worry about the postponed instruction. We love new sailors and we will do all we can to help you become competent sailors this season. We did have a make-up day scheduled late in April, so we can potentially use that to catch up on instruction, and rigging is also taught during our on-the-water sessions, so you will have many opportunities to learn. Class materials can also be found on the [NCSC Instruction website](#), so use the time at home to review these, and you can always set up a time with one of the many Club instructors to discuss questions (telephones are good social distancing!).

Some captains and individuals have stated a desire to work on the boats that are close to having their needed maintenance done and/or do bottom painting on flipped boats. If you do go forward with work, please be mindful of basic safety in addition to social distancing and good hygiene practices, and keep on-site presence to just a few individuals. It takes, for example, 8-10+ people to safely flip a boat, and we discourage such activity in the next two weeks since this is in the range of gatherings that are being discouraged. We can have a concerted effort to get things done once the situation abates. And ultimately if we have to postpone or stagger Fleet launching in order to help save lives, that's a no-brainer: we will do it.

Steve Constable
Commodore
New Castle Sailing Club

Commodore's Corner

Spring appears to be upon us already, capping off one of the warmest, snow free winters locally. The good news is that this enabled the Club to move forward with maintenance on the boats and the property. Special kudos in this issue to our Committee Boat Team, headed by Michael Hyzny and including Tilo Stahl, Tom Bayliss and Steve Haffner, who are doing some sorely needed deck maintenance that no one can recollect was ever done in years past. The Committee Boat is key to our racing program, so their efforts are much appreciated.

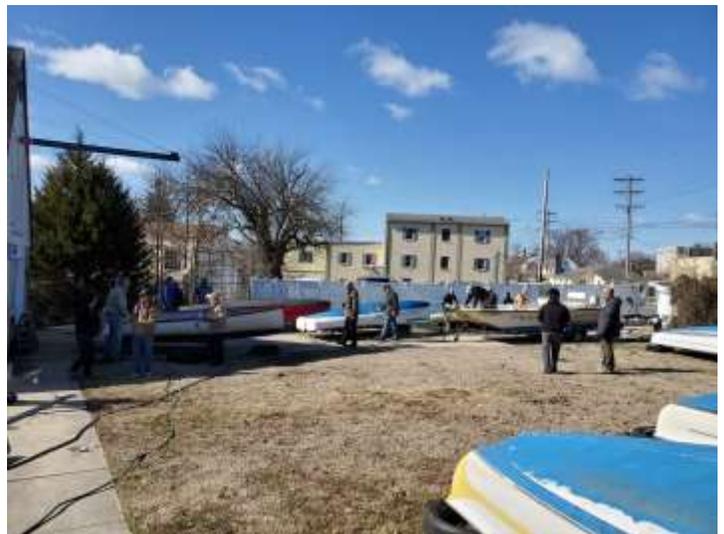


While the coronavirus has put a damper on our social activities, we will have make-up social gatherings once the danger has abated. And as with managing all dangers, do what is right for yourself and for those around you. This extends to not only staying away from work or instruction if you feel sick or under the weather, but also don't forget to be your brother's and sister's keeper in the yard or later in the season, at sea. If you see someone routing an electrical cord through water in the yard, if you notice someone power sanding without a mask, if someone is painting without adequate ventilation, fix the situation and engage them on what needs to be done.



Safety first in all things. And fun--don't forget to have fun!! Speaking of which, if you happen to take a picture of all the fun things we do (and the work we do), please send it along (text, email, etc.) to me or one of the other Board members. We like to feature membership pics in our Newsletter, our Facebook page and at our Fall dinner slide show. So share the fun pics. And don't forget to visit our Club Facebook page and like and promote it, and talk up the Club with family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Every bit of positive press helps us grow membership while also helping to maintain our good community standing.

Steve Constable
Commodore
New Castle Sailing Club

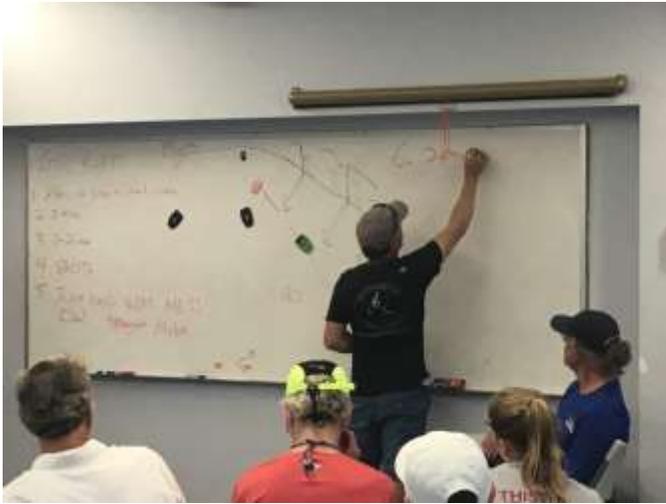


From the Fleet

The Midwinters East 2020 Thistle Championships were held in St. Petersburg, FL during the first week of March. Two NCSC boats competed this year: 4021 (No Excuse), skippered by Chris Annand with Meg Farrugia as crew and 4039 (B Flat), skippered by Scott Buehler with Danielle Buehler and Mike Hennessy as crew. The winds were wild - most days averaged 15-22kts with gusts upward of 27kts with significant chop. As usual, competition was fierce -



US Olympic Sailing Team Coach Mike Ingham and crew won the regatta and was on hand each day to lead strategy and tactics sessions. NCSC looks forward to welcoming Mike later on this Spring when he visits to conduct a classroom and on-the-water instruction session on sail trim and boat tactics. Watch the website calendar for confirmation of this fantastic opportunity.



Switching tacks, the fleet is nearing preparation for launch, and most boat teams have already begun or completed painting boat bottoms and are waiting for warmer temperatures to tackle inner hull and Cetol work. While this is an uncertain time in terms of managing exposure to COVID 19, please be vigilant about wearing masks when necessary and continue to wash your hands (and clean any tools you may be using) appropriately. But above all, treat these work sessions as an outlet to just have a bit of fun with fellow sailors and give yourself the opportunity to shake away any anxiety or worry. If you have not been exposed and are healthy, join in the Saturday sessions when they pick back up. And be sure to ask Chris Annand to tell you why he loves Walterboro, SC more than any other place on the planet.

Meg Farrugia
Fleet Captain

Racing

Introduction to Sail Racing



All members of the New Castle Sailing Club get six months of weekly sail races as a part of their membership. This is a great way to jump start your sailing skills! I am hoping that all our members will join some of our races this season.

In 2020, we will have four skills development race days, three Flying Scot races, six laid back Club regattas, and our regular spring series and fall series Thistle races. Check the Racing page of the NCSC website for the full 2020 racing schedule. There is something for every level of experience and interest.

All new members and existing members who have not participated in NCSC races in prior seasons are encouraged to attend the NCSC Racing Program Introduction class when instruction resumes. The introduction class will be held on the same day as the Flying Scot rigging demonstration. All members with an interest in racing are encouraged to join the Racing Fundamentals class which will be held on the same day as the Thistle rigging demonstration. The Thistle rigging demonstration will be followed by a hands-on race crew demonstration in the Clubhouse yard. Clay Greer will send out an email with the revised instruction schedule and will post the revised schedule on the Club website calendar as soon as we are prepared to resume instruction.

Tom Gorman
Racing Director

Flag Competition

Let loose your creative energy and see if you can design a club flag (see some examples below), that we can use at our clubhouse and at the sailhouse to publicize the club. We suggest that the name of the club be part of the design. Please send your designs to dkoppeser@gmail.com.



Publicity at Your Fitness Venue



Please help the club increase our membership by placing business card holders and flyers at your favorite fitness destination. We have lots of business cards on the kitchen counter. For more help contact our membership director John Harder at memberncsc@gmail.com

Club Publicity Through Facebook



We want to increase the use of Facebook to attract new members, and that means more CONTENT, preferably more pictures of happy members enjoying club activities. So please feel free to send your pics and some commentary to David Koppeser (dkoppeser@gmail.com) for posting on [Facebook](#), and LIKE our page. We do not post names with the pictures. When taking pictures, it is polite to let people know that they could be used on social media, and to respect everyone's privacy preferences.



Annual New Castle Beach Clean Up!

Everyone is Welcome!
Saturday, April 18th 9am-12pm

(Rain or Shine)

Help clean up the winter debris from the Battery Park Beach. Groups and individuals are welcome to help pick up the trash and debris that has accumulated this winter so we can enjoy the beautiful park this season!

Wear old sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves

Trash bags will be provided

Volunteer Certificates will be available

Sign in at the New Castle Sailing Club Sail House
at the end of W. 3rd. Street.

**Celebrate the 50th Anniversary
of
Earth Day**

