

 **New Castle Sailing Club** **N E W S L E T T E R**

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Editor: Nancy Tuttle

Commodore's Corner

Despite the cold, we had an AMAZING turnout for the kickoff of the 2019 season on February 9th and an even more amazing lunch, thanks to the Vice Commodore and the Galley Team. It was great to catch up with old friends and to meet new members. A special thanks to our recently "retired" Commodore, Mike Evans, for doing the first day of Instruction for these new members.

So we've reacquainted ourselves, had an initial meeting of most task teams, and begun some work on the Thistles, sails, rudders and centerboards. Only nine more Saturdays to go until the bliss of Launch! I'm looking forward to a great 2019 Season.

Meanwhile, as you plug away in the work sessions, don't forget to think about the equally as valuable contributions your Board members make. These men and women come out on the second Tuesday of every month, sometimes in the freezing cold or rain, sometimes on that pristine summer's eve when the breezes are blowing just perfectly and half the Club Members are enjoying a great evening sail, and they keep the Club running smoothly- making sure our finances are sound, that we are renewing and repairing key resources, and we're thinking and planning for the future of the Club. And they're doing it over a 2+ hour meeting that many spend a number of hours preparing for or following up after.

Many Board members also show up to pitch in during Saturday and special work sessions. It's really a big personal time and energy investment and no less important than the time and energy other members are spending on getting the boats ready and then keeping them seaworthy. This is a volunteer organization, and their--and your--sweat equity is greatly appreciated.

Don't forget to recognize and celebrate the contributions of your fellow Club Members.

Steve Constable
Commodore
New Castle Sailing Club



Lunch

Saturday, 3/16

Lunch will be served about noon, following instruction and work assignments.

Please let me know if you can bring your favorite Irish food to share. I plan on bringing Bangers & Mash

Some ideas:

Irish stew, Colcannon, Corned beef, Cabbage, soda bread, Scones, Cheese & crackers, Dessert.

Mary Turek
vcmdrncsc@gmail.com

Instruction



NCSC encourages new members to jump in and do their part with fleet maintenance. We also want you to do so safely. All members taking part in work sessions are encouraged to:

Pause – take a moment to observe your surroundings and potential hazards, such as:

- tripping hazards, like electrical cords, loose debris
- power tools, like sanders, grinders, saws
- overhead equipment, like boats hanging from a barn crane
- dust, solvents, strong adhesives

Think – about the work and whether it could do harm to you or others.

- ! Boy Scouts learn a concept called the “blood circle”. Fairly self-explanatory, right? Make sure no one is in--or strolls into--the blood circle of your equipment or tool, both before and during the work.
- ! If you are wearing a dust mask, should the person working next to you have one? If you’re standing next to someone working in a dust mask, where is yours? Same goes for hearing protection.
- ! For most hazards, there’s safety in distance.

Consider – how you leave your work space: could someone get hurt? Tidy up!

Clay Greer
Safety and Instruction Director

Property

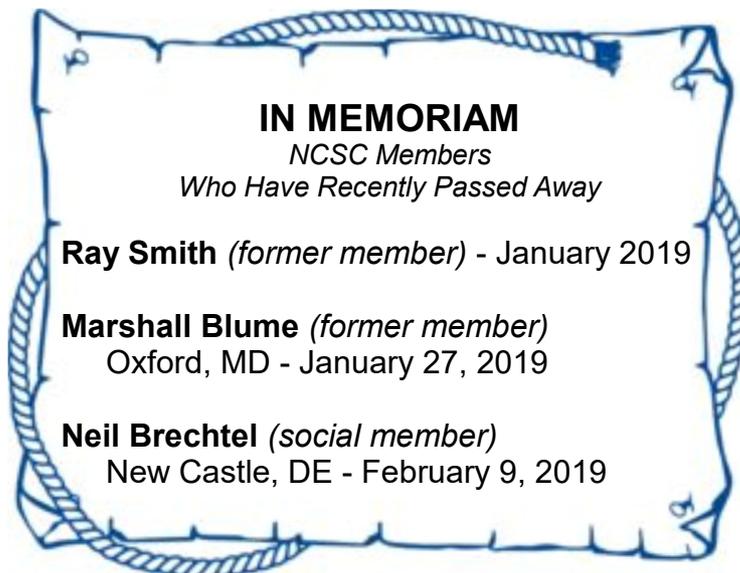


After reading an article in *Practical Sailor*, about a color-safe recipe for cleaning mildew using old school ingredients (washing soda, TSP and Borax), I decided to give it a try.

I mixed up a batch and tested it on some mildewed siding on the north side of my house. It did fairly well compared to the premixed versions I've used in the past, and at a fraction of the price.

The author of the article used it for mildew on the carpet in his boat, so I took some to the club boat barn for a try on some lines and gear on 3881. Donna Powell, our in-house test person said it works pretty well.

Scott Andrews
Property Director



Racing

Racing Awards Qualifications - 2019



The updated 2019 Racing Awards Qualifications are posted on the [Racing Page](#) of the NCSC website. The Qualifications are designed to encourage participation, promote fairness and minimize the potential for a skipper to receive an award based on a single day's performance with potentially biased conditions (crew, competition, equipment, weather).

Understanding that the number of race days in a race series and in the overall season may be limited due to weather, the multiple day requirements are reduced when actual race days are significantly reduced.

The Qualifications also recognize that we would not have a racing season without volunteers willing to run each week's races.

Remembering Neil Brechtel...

This month, I was reminded of the gift we current New Castle Sailing Club members have received from past members who established the Club 65 years ago and have kept it going over so many years. The local and economical sailing option that we all enjoy today was built and maintained by members like Neil Brechtel.

Neil, a current social member of the Club, died on February 9, 2019, at home in New Castle, at the age of 89. Earlier in the day, he was in good spirits when he joined Past Commodore John Ingram for lunch.

Neil served as Commodore in 1988 and 1989. Before becoming Commodore, Neil held other positions on the Board between 1983 and 1987, including Fleet Captain, Secretary and Vice Commodore. On a number of occasions in recent years, when I chatted with Neil by the NCSC sail house in Battery Park, he shared fond memories of sailing with the Club.

Neil is survived by his brother Lynn, his sister Rose, five children, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. When you are out for a sunset sail this summer, take a moment to remember our fellow Club member Neil Brechtel.

Tom Gorman
Racing Director

Membership



Please welcome our new 2019 members:

Ewa Papiez lives in Hockessin and learned about our club through Bob Cann. She previously owned a Flying Dutchman, and is ASA 101 and ASA 103 certified. She has joined the Green Stripe team.

Primal Vora lives in Downingtown and is also ASA 101 certified. He has joined the White Thistle team.

David Trexler lives in Landenberg and has sunfish sailing experience. He has joined the Red Stripe team.

Michael and Kim Denhardt are relatively new to the area and want to learn to sail. They have also joined the Red Stripe team.

New prospective members continue to visit us during each instruction session. Please continue to spread the word and have anyone interested in exploring our Club contact me to arrange attending an instruction session as well as to arrange a tour.



New Castle Sailing Club Open House Sunday, May 19, 2019, from 1-3 p.m.

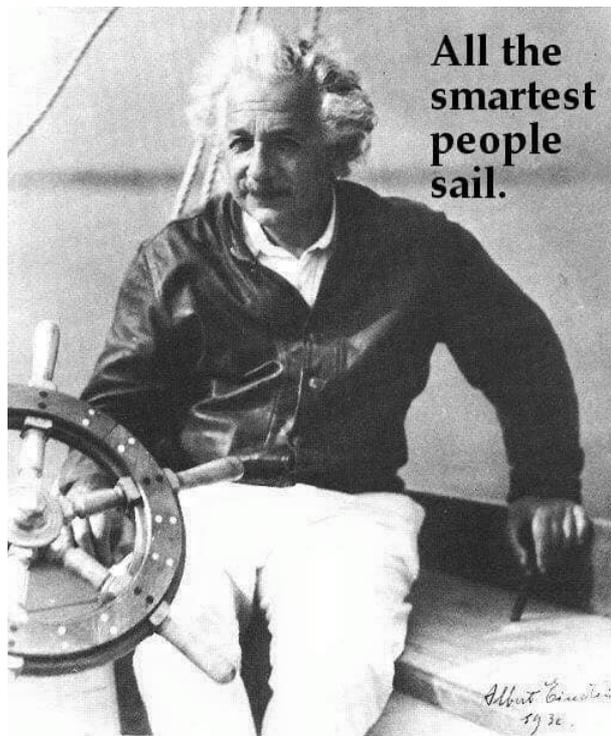
We have scheduled our Spring Open House, for people interested in joining our club. We will take prospective members out for a short sail (weather dependent) and give them a chance to speak with NCSC members and ask questions.

John Harder
Membership Director

Fleet

Work sessions are in full swing, and teams are continuing to fill with new members. As a club dependent on volunteers, it's brilliant to see so many of our experienced sailors and boat captains providing insight on boat mechanics, repair and maintenance. Many thanks for all the amazing work getting the fleet ship-shape!

One of the many strengths of the club is the free flow of both formal and informal instruction on and off the water, which is augmented by various opportunities within our cruising and racing communities. A few of us are heading down to St. Petersburg, FL, to represent NCSC in the East Coast Midwinters Thistle Championships. National Thistle Class Association (TCA) Champion and current Olympic coach Mike Ingham and Past US Sailing president Tom Hubbell will be coordinating the renowned "Coach TCA" sessions.



Each day during the championships, competitors meet for a briefing about weather, strategy, rules, tactics, boat mechanics, sail trim, etc. As is tradition, we come home keen to share the knowledge with our New Castle Fleet. Watch this space next month for newly gleaned information on how we can improve on and off the water skills. (And brace yourselves for some lively discussions recapping our experience when we return to participate in the work sessions!)

On a more immediate note, please check out the [Fleet Page](#) on our website, where you will find a wealth of links such as the Thistle Handbook, Tide Charts, Measurement Specs, and the Sailors for the Sea Green Guidelines. There is also a link to US Sailing, which provides an overview of sailing and racing rules. This information will support your work session experience in getting the boats tuned for launch in April, as well as complement the classroom sessions which will be useful for the upcoming season.

All that said, the main goal of this club is to create a community of fun on and off the water. Safety and instruction play a vital role in ensuring that goal is met, but as one of my favorite skippers continues to drill into us, "The first rule of sailing is to have fun"!

Meg Farrugia
Fleet Captain

CRUISERS' CORNER

CHESAPEAKE CRUISING Not a big turnout for the most recent cruisers meeting in January. ANYONE interested in going on a Chesapeake weekend cruise in May or June see me or Steve Constable or Kathy Leef. Or post in the cruisers shout out -- found on the Cruisers section of the NCSC site.

We will accumulate a list and probably get a follow-up cruisers meeting in April to put something together. Probably will be a sleep aboard Friday night -- cruise Saturday -- anchor/moor/dock Saturday night--somewhere--and pull back in on Sunday afternoon. Weather permitting, pool is usually available Friday night and Sunday afternoon at the base, with good places to eat pre and post trip, too.

BAHAMAS COMING UP !! Getting late but if folks want to put a third boat together with hire a captain or a skipper from the club--let us know. We are heading out in 2 waves--end of March and early April--to the "EXUMAS" Bahamas.

AWAY CRUISE SOMEWHERE WARM AND TROPICAL Looking for interest in CRUISING VACATION for a week in September to early November. Destination UNKNOWN at this time. If interested, see ME.

CRUISERS MEETING -- will try for mid April for next meeting !!!

HAPPY CRUISING!

Craig Quigley
quigley.craig@gmail.com



VISIT THE CRUISING PAGE ON THE NCSC WEBSITE FOR ALL THE DETAILS.