

# New Castle Sailing Club

## NEWSLETTER

PO Box 46, New Castle, DE 19720

(302) 307-3060

Editor: Ernest Russell

### *Commodore's Corner*

Haul-out is almost upon us and soon the doldrums of winter begin.... Our Season doesn't quite end at Haul-out though—there's the Fall Membership Meeting to attend too! This year Covid-19 has forced us to forego our annual Fall Dinner, which has always been a great time to reflect on the season while eating some great food and mingling one last time with your sailing mates. Instead we're going to do the Fall Meeting virtually, like we did for the vast majority of the training this year, which went very well. Look for more detailed information about how to connect and the agenda in an upcoming email from me. It's important that we get good attendance at the Fall Meeting because there are at least two issues that we need to get Membership approval for—the new slate of Board candidates and a proposal from one member to elevate another to Honorary Member. If you are unable to participate virtually, we'll provide a means for you to vote by proxy beforehand. For now, put **Saturday November 14th at 10 a.m.** on your calendar for the virtual Fall Meeting!!!

So now I suspect most of you are asking—what's an Honorary member and who's being proposed? An Honorary member is, per our Bylaws, **“a Member in good standing, and whose loyalty and past service the Club wishes to acknowledge in an exceptional manner.”** There are four Honorary members listed in our Membership database—two were founding Club members, now deceased, and the other two joined in the early 1960s. Only one is still alive—Charlie Pashcall who, though in his early nineties, still comes riverside on occasion to watch others sail. All of these Honorary Members did exceptional things for the Club, and the Board thinks that there is yet another current Active Member



who likewise deserves to be nominated—Don Grant. Don joined the Club in 1988 and was quickly tagged by the Membership for leadership roles—first as a safety advisor to the Board and followed quickly by Membership Director, Safety and Instruction Director, Treasurer, Fleet Captain and Commodore! That’s a lot of leadership positions over 13 years! Since 2005, Don has been an Honorary Director, an honor reserved for past Commodores that enables them to participate without voting privileges in Board Meetings, if they so chose. While all of this service is noteworthy in itself, it’s been Don’s continued commitment and passion for advancing the Club and mentoring new sailors that has earned him our attention. As an Honorary Director, it has been a rare Board meeting that Don hasn’t attended, and Don is noted for his sage advice and historical perspective that he often shares at our Board Meetings. But Don doesn’t stop giving with ‘just’ Board meetings—Don is well known by many as a fantastic instructor, and a keying instructor at that. I can personally vouch for the incredible instruction Don gave my wife and I when we first joined—he met us anytime we wanted during the week days and showed us the ropes, just like he’s done for many, many more Members. And Don is well known for organizing all sorts of Adventure Sails to Salem or up the Christina, and for Crabby Dick’s and Riverside Inn lunch sails. Don is there participating in almost every Open House and other activities that promote the Club and attract new members. It is, in fact, Don’s sustained giving over his 32 years of Club membership that has elevated him for consideration as an Honorary Member. So, on behalf of the Board and the active former Commodores (i.e. Honorary Directors), we ask that you join us in voting for Don as an Honorary Member at our Fall Meeting.

OK, so though it’s unusual for me to wax poetic in the Commodore’s Corner (right, you say), indulge me for a few more words about the Fall Meeting. In year’s past, many participants brought their checks for the next Season to the Fall Member Meeting dinner. This year we ask you to not wait until billed later this year and bring a check for the 2021 dues to Haul Out or, on November 1st, just send next year’s \$350 dues to New Castle Sailing Club, PO Box 46, New Castle, DE 19720-0046. Your diligence will really help with the Club’s cash flow and next year’s planning.



Lastly, and I promise these are my last words...many thanks to you all for your support over the last year. This has been a particularly hard year for us all with a pandemic of epic proportions. You’ve all done yeomen’s job in keeping your fellow sailors safe. Thank you. I leave you all after the Fall Meeting in the next Commodore’s capable hands—Laura Fontana will do a great job at the helm of leadership. It’s been a wonderful ride for me over the last 7 years serving as Property Director, Fleet Captain and ultimately Commodore, and I thank the Membership and my fellow Board members for helping make those seven years exceptionally memorable and fun. To quote another: “**May the wind** always be at **your back** and the sun upon **your** face. And may the wings of destiny carry you aloft to dance with the stars.”

Steve Constable  
Commodore

## *From the Fleet*



Congratulations to the membership, boat and equipment captains for a short but successful season! It was tremendous to see most everyone adhering to Covid-19 social distancing rules both on and off the water, and many thanks to all for your safe boat handling and sportsmanship. With such an abbreviated season, it seems like yesterday that we launched our first wave of Scots and Thistles, but (sadly) haul-out is upon us.

Phil Ianelli and his team will begin putting Scots to bed for the winter after 21 October, and the Thistles are due to be hauled out on **Saturday, 31 October**. I have asked boat and equipment captains to coordinate with their teams to ensure they have the acceptable number of people to assist—please check your emails for further instructions. *Teams should*

*meet no later than 9:30am at either the barn or the beach on 10/31/2020.* If you are not already on a team, PLEASE DO NOT JUST SHOW UP—although we greatly appreciate assistance, we are still operating under state guidelines for group gatherings. Contact me directly if you are looking to assist—we do have some gaps in the teams and I will gratefully advise you on specifics ([fleetncsc@gmail.com](mailto:fleetncsc@gmail.com)). Sadly, because of these guidelines, we will not be able to enjoy our haul-out lunch and social gathering this year...but look for the Commodore's zoom link to the Fall Meeting and Slide Show!

One last administrative item—if you are taking part in haul-out, please consider bringing your 2021 dues check (\$350) with you instead of mailing it in. Laura Fontana will be at the beach to accept dues, and there will also be an envelope on the kitchen counter in the clubhouse if you'd like to leave it there.

Some of you may have noticed an odd top on Red Thistle. This covering is a beta test of a Tern and Rain Deterrent System, or TRDS for short (pun intended). The system has



already shown great benefit in significantly reducing bailing vs. an uncovered Thistle, but it remains to be seen if this system can deter the terns from setting up porta-potties on our Thistles.

We'll see how it (or an upgraded version) does in the 2021 season, but if it's a winner, maybe we'll see more Thistles outfitted in the coming years. Many thanks to Cathy Thompson for her incredible diligence in doing the sewing, Charlie Nakamura for redirecting the latest not-so-bright idea from the Commodore, and to Jim Tait for the willingness to give the TRDS a trial on Red.

Thank you NCSC for a short lived but lively 2020 sailing season—I wish you all the very best of health and prosperity throughout the off-season and look forward to seeing you out on the water in 2021!

Meg Farrugia  
Fleet Captain

## *Racing*



On October 17th, we held the sixth and final race day of the fall Thistle racing series. Amazingly, we managed to hold races all six weeks of the fall series which our variable weather does not ordinarily permit. The past few weeks have featured welcome fall temperatures and winds. Complete 2020 [Race Results](#) to date are posted on the Racing page of the NCSC website.

On October 24th, we wrap up the 2020 NCSC racing season with the Delaware River Perpetual Thistle Trophy (DELRIPETT) Regatta. This regatta features an extended racing time with a longer race course. It gives us all a great opportunity to apply the sail racing skills we have gained this season. Awards will be presented to the skippers and crew of the top three boats. Skippers can sign up for boats in advance. If you would like to be either skipper or crew in the DELRIPETT, send an email to [RacingNCSC@gmail.com](mailto:RacingNCSC@gmail.com). I will match interested skippers with interested crew.

Thanks again to everyone who has served on the race committee this season. You made our 2020 racing season!

Tom Gorman  
Racing Director

## *Membership*



A great membership year with 18 new members! Many of these new members joining are a result of you, our membership, promoting the Club...thank you! While we lost some members this year mostly due to personal reasons, such as moving out of state, the new members we attracted have helped to bring our current Active membership to 103, up slightly from the 2019 season.

Unfortunately, several of our members, both new this year and from years prior, never made it out sailing due to concerns with Covid-19 or other reasons. Hopefully Covid-19 will be under control next year, and we can restart Wednesday night Fun Sails and more sailing community events like our Saint Paddy's Day lunch, Crabby Dick's sail lunches, July 4th sails, etc., and see broader participation from the membership. So please hang in there and hopefully we'll see you on the water in 2021. And if you have any concerns with renewal, please reach out to me, the Membership Director, or other Board members with any questions and we can talk about options that may be available for you.



John Harder  
Membership Director

## Property

You're probably all in awe over the new roof for the Club House facilities. The three buildings look *great*, and insurance paid for the entire re-roofing! Kudo's to our Property Director, Scott Andrews, for a job well done.

But there's more to come. The ratty looking hedge will soon be replaced by a fence.

The fence itself is on backorder due to Covid-19 related production delays, but we hope to see it installed before year's end, and attractive plantings spaced along its posts in the Spring. This will really help us improve the safety and security for our facilities. But the real news here is that we got the approval for erecting the fence through the pro bono work of a top-notch land use lawyer—Pamela Scott, a Partner at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP. Pamela devoted her time to preparing and presenting our case for installing the fence to the City's Board of Adjustment, and her help was invaluable. Though Pamela refused to accept any remuneration for her invaluable efforts, we decided that she needed at least to sail with us. Pam agreed, but unbeknownst to her and at Clay Greer's instigation, we decided to make her an Honorary Captain. So, when Pam showed up for her sail, the Commodore was there in full regalia to give her the Honorary Captain's Cap. Pam loved the honor and the winds gave her a great sail that day. Many thanks to Clay for connecting us to Pam, and be sure to keep her in mind if you need lawyerly advice on land use issues—she's the best!

