

March - April 2012

@ The Beach

Beach Opens Weekends ONLY
 March 3rd – April 1st
 Saturday & Sunday 9 AM to 5PM

Beach Clean-Up Opening
 10 AM Saturday, April 7th

Beach Opens Daily Dawn to Dusk
 Saturday, April, 7th

Fleet Meeting

Saturday, April 7th
 12 Noon At the Cat House

Officer's Meeting
 8:00 PM Wednesday April 4th
 At the Cat House

Race

Race Instructional Meeting
 Wednesday, April 18th 7:00 PM
 Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club

Fleet Race 1 (Ice Breaker)
 11 AM Sunday, April 22nd

Ice Breaker Make-Up
 Sunday, April 29th

Safety & Security

Nick Aristovulos

The info regarding club schedules, openings, closings and movement of boats and regulations has been determined by you, the club members. I can only inform you in a timely manner to avoid you having to incur fees, or possibly injuring one another. All this has been created by you, the club members, in an effort to keep this as fair and safe for everyone. It has evolved over the years with out bad intent or seeking uncomfortable results.

Sat., March 3 we open up for weekends only 9 am - 5 pm. During the month of March you must come down and move your boat and trailer to its 2012 Summer assignment. There will also be a beach map and trailer list posted on the bulletin board. We will try to have most beach spots tagged with a white plastic cylinder and # to assist you in your quest, or ask an officer for assistance. Also, your trailer has to be moved to its new location.

During the month of March in order to get your trailer in you must Yank out whoever is occupying your trailer spot leaving them out in the aisle, otherwise if you put your trailer in the wrong spot someone will do it to you. Good luck-

Saturday April 7 - This date marks the official opening where the beach is available to you on a daily basis, dawn to dusk.

Sunday, April 8 - Any boat remaining in Winter storage will be moved and charged accordingly. NO EXCEPTIONS. We also need help on this day, lunch and beverages will be provided. The combination to the upper lock can be obtained from any officer. And if your boat was stored at home for the Winter, please refrain from bringing it down until April 7.

Questions? Nick

732-872-1719

Visit us on the web for the most current information WWW.FLEET250.ORG

Commodore's Corner

Vic Simon

Winter has moved on and spring is here. April 7th we will be opening all facets of the club and hope to see you there. Over the next couple of weekends we will be rebuilding the shed. Time has taken its toll. Your support would be appreciated. Let Scott know of your availability.

The first race is April 22. Contact Greg with questions.

The beach survived this past winter and Curtis has done a great job keeping the bigger debris under control. We opened with a bang and 18 members showed up to take the fence down and other misc. chores. Thanks to all who were there.

Follow the web site for the latest info. Bill Raska has done a super job with upgrading the site. Take a look if you haven't already.

Keeping this short and sweet. Here's to much wind and great weather.



Vic

Race

Greg Raybon

Winter/Spring Instructional: We had a great turnout for our first instructional night on the Ides of March. Approaching the Atlantic Highlands Yacht club for the meeting it seemed eerily strange that there were no boats in the Atlantic Highlands municipal harbor. It was a beautiful evening for a sail with temperature reaching into the 70's that day. I guess it's still officially winter, so about 25 people showed for an evening of rules and downwind sailing instruction inside the AHYC. The class was greeted with a 20 question True/False Quiz on the rules which was required if they wanted to visit the bar. We had a nice mix of new faces and some of the same old guard. After going over the quiz answers, Our Guest Expert, Mark Modderman was introduced as "The Master of all things Wind", because of his prowess with kite boarding as well as sailing.

That was the best I could come up with for an introduction. The focus of the session was on downwind sailing covering things like how to transition from upwind to downwind without capsizing and what to look for while trimming the spinnaker.

Look for the next winter/spring instructional announcement for April 18th at the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club. Let me know if there is a certain topic you would like to cover.

FLEET RACING: The Ice Breaker, our first fleet race, is coming up fast, April 22. Mark and Roger will be the race Committee that day. Let me know what races you want to RC. Preferences are given out in order of last year's finish in the fleet standings, if you tell me your choice by the first race.

I think I might want to make this a regular piece of the newsletter. Well maybe a semi somewhat regular place to blog or share my thoughts about our mutual love of sailing, wind, and warm weather with like minds.

I sometimes look back at my love of all things related to larger bodies of water. I mean why the water when I really do long for those long quiet hikes in the big forest also. But I am always drawn back to the water. I wasn't always a sailor or a cat sailor for that matter. I didn't start on a catamaran thou I remember being this skinny sun burnt kid of 12 on vacation in Lavellette that would wander to the bay when the rest of the family was on the beach ocean side. I would watch these two guys that had plywood custom built catamarans flying all over the bay and was just dying to go with them but afraid to ask. So, I went faithfully to watch but was never sitting on their sleek looking hulls. It is funny how I still recall that so clearly today so many years later.

I did however borrow a Gordon Smith 9 foot 3 inch board from a local kid I knew and learned to surf. I mean I was about 70 pounds so I more likely was there for the ride and not really cutting up and waves like so many others. But it was fun none the less. But this is about how I got involved with sailing so let me get back on track. My Dad and I were like oil and vinegar and there really was no pleasing the man and he had a horrible temper when mad. One that you avoided if given the opportunity to do so. We had a family friend with a small mono hull sailboat. It must have been about 17 foot long day sailer and it really was no fancy boat just the basics and practical. He brought the boat down from Colts Neck and we had it for the week. He showed my Dad the ropes and then left the next day to leave us to our own demise and I do mean demise in capital letters. You see men don't ask for directions on how to sail either let alone for directions while driving a car. The next day my dad says lets go we are sailing today. I was excited about the possibilities and the two cats

there had my mind swirling of the fun we would have as we caught them and passed them by.

We made it down to the bay and unloaded the sails from the Chevrolet Impala wagon it had that fake vinyl wood on the sides to make it look like a woody. I helped pull the boat in off its mooring hoping a crab wouldn't bite my foot while doing so. We set the boat up and we headed out, my Dad and I alone on our big adventure. It was thrilling and the boat was faster with just the two of us on it. We were on the big open bay and life was perfect even if it wasn't a catamaran.

My Dad called out, coming about watch your head. It was about this time that my father realized that he didn't know how to sail back to the beach (or what tacking was) and the more he tried the further away we got from the land. I kept throwing out words of encouragement and the longer we floundered the angrier he became so being silent was a good idea. We soon were getting near an island out in the bay and he jumped into the bay to pull the boat to it. It was a near miss but somehow he was able to get us close enough so that I could jump in and help pull the boat around to the side facing the beach again. We walked the boat for what seemed forever in the July heat until a skiff came by and asked if we needed a tow back to the beach. I wanted to yell out no we are going to sail it back ourselves but my Dad quickly accepted the offer. Needless to say the boat never went off the mooring again and I could not get my Dad to get the owner to come out with us again.

I was soon back to watching those two plywood cats and was too shy to ask for a ride and still regret it today. Years later when Lavelette would still allow you to tie a boat up in the water I brought my first catamaran down there one season but soon rethought the long ride from Belmar down to there and opted to keep it in Shark River instead. That is where Mark and I learned the fine skills required to pitch pull a boat during hurricane season. But that is another story for another day. By the way that boat was the first Crazy Daze correctly named for when we thought it was the best time to be on the water. No fear, no brains required.

Club Officers

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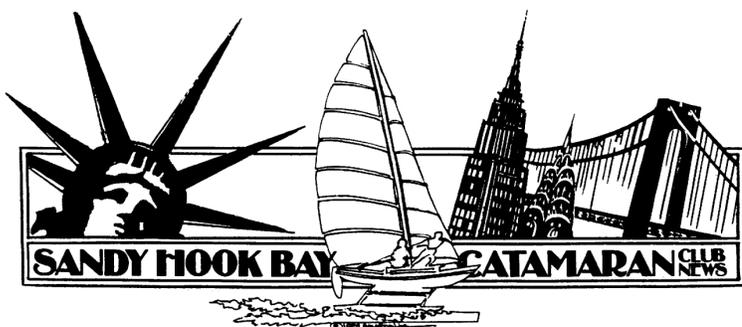
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