

September 2013

Club Calendar	COMMODORE'S CORNER Vic Simon
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fleet meeting</i> Saturday October 5th 8pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RACE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fleet Race #12 Buoys</i> Sunday October 6th 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sail to Coney Island</i> Saturday October 12th Rain date: Sunday October 13th</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fleet Race #13 Distance Nutsfreezer</i> Sunday October 20th 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BEACH CLOSES ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH ALL BOATS OFF BEACH BY 5PM</p>	<p>Seven months down, two to go and so much for another successful season despite the wrath of Sandy. Enough cannot be said about the efforts of the members who showed up, from the smallest task of picking up debris from the beach to those with the skills to square off a deck or redoing the plumbing. With the lead from the officers of moving forward, we enjoyed a successful season. Two of those officers will not return in that capacity, Greg Raybon who has run the race program and transformed it into a successful entity with the highest of participation and who will help out with next year's points regatta will stop after 5 years of continued service. Thank you for giving up your valuable time to move the club forward. The other was Scott Rathburn who for the last 3 years was instrumental in the recovery from Sandy and setting up the foundation for moving forward. Thank you for your time and effort. With that I am looking for two officers to fill the positions of both Beach and Race Commodore. Please let us know of your interests. We also need to fill three Board of Director positions for two years service.</p> <p>We still have two more races left for the Skipper of the Year series and it is still not too late to come on down and go out sailing. The annual Nuts freezer is also scheduled to take place on the sail to Coney Island.</p> <p>We also have the Wine-Down, which serves as the November fleet meeting, coming up which includes the election and food and drink to celebrate this past year. We will then get to the Holiday Party the first Saturday of December. We will then sit down and prepare for next year's season. Our next fleet meeting is scheduled for Oct 5th, 8pm at the cat house.</p> <p>Along the way will be the beach closing and shutting down of the club's everyday operation from Nov 17th until next March. Winter storage will start after Oct 5th. See the officers with questions concerning this move particularly Nick Aristovulos and Al Dewan. Our new lease will have been completed by then.</p> <p>Keeping this short and sweet, here's to much wind and great weather.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Vic</i></p>

FROM THE WINDY SIDE

Jenna Meyer

I recently had a chance to slow things down and chat with Beth of AHSEP to get a bit more educated about these strange lil boats that invaded our best-kept secret place. Many of you have asked about whom they are and how we would blend our love of sailing. Beth took time to write this article for us and I think you like me will enjoy the content.

Peace, Jenna

An Opti Invasion?

Many of you might be wondering about the little boats on the Eastern end of the parking lot that seemed to have been growing over the course of the summer. We were not being invaded! The Atlantic Highlands Sailing Education Program (AHSEP) set up their program this year at the Catamaran Club after learning in May that their location in the Atlantic Highlands Harbor would not be available as planned. They approached us for support, and we agreed to let them host the program here this summer.

AHSEP is a program that was established by members of AHYC nearly 15 years ago. The mission of the non-profit organization is to introduce students to sailing, to teach basic seamanship, and to instill the love of sailing with a goal of creating sailors for life. The program fleet includes Optimists, 420s and Lasers and caters primarily to children between the ages of 8 and 16. I recently spoke with Beth Fortier who is one of the AHSEP volunteers and she spoke about the program. Here is what she shared.

“The program was started in 1999 by some dedicated AHYC members who had a vision and a true love of sailing. In the beginning, the instructors actually drove to Sea Bright each day to borrow boats to run the program. Over the years, thanks to many volunteers, the program has grown dramatically, both in terms of our fleet, and the number of families who form our AHSEP Community. The AHSEP Committee is led by co-chairs Greg Pollack and Mike Fortier. Like any volunteer run organization, we rely on a few good people who do a lot of work and spend countless hours behind the scene handling the big and small details. Having spent the summer at SHBCC, we know that you understand that!

We closed out the 2012 season with record enrollment, terrific potential and a successful pilot adult program, so we had very big expectations for the 2013 season. Not dissimilar to the experience of many in the area, Sandy changed our agenda. We lost a significant amount of infrastructure which included half of our opti fleet, our dollies, our storage shed and obviously the Harbor where we host the program. When we took stock in where we were, and looked at the balance in our account in November, we were not sure we would be able to rebuild our fleet. Thanks to the incredible support from a number of sponsors from AHYC we did! We also spent a great deal of time working with the Harbor to ensure that we could optimize our location as the harbor development plans were established.

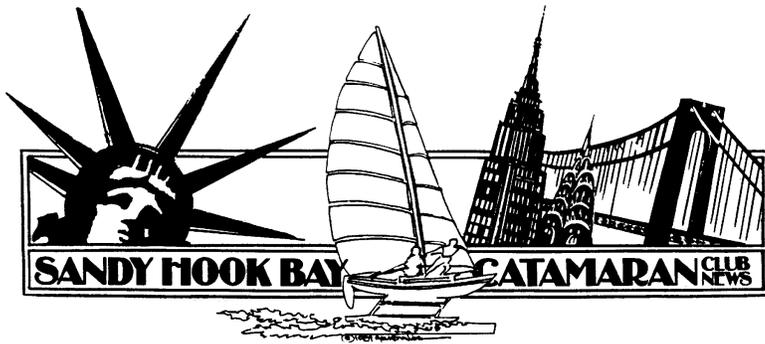
Having a solid plan in place, we launched the program, set schedules, advertised, hired instructors and organized a committee to help us handle the extra work that came along with getting the equipment ready and the program set up for the year. Enrollment was hitting record rates, and we were feeling great until we walked through the harbor in May and realized that hosting a program with small children in an active construction site was simply not an option. The delays in the harbor reconstruction meant that they were not going to be ready for our late June launch. We evaluated lots of options, and approached Vic about setting up on your site. Without hesitation, we had the support we needed. This was a tremendous relief to us. We did not want to lose the momentum we were building, but more importantly, we had families enrolled, and instructors that we had hired (including your own Emily Rathburn). We knew that we needed to make this work.

The program typically runs on weekdays, so you may not have seen much of us, aside from some of the work we were doing on the weekends or during the 4th of July holiday week when many of you were at the club. We run two sessions per day and group the kids by skill. Class sizes are typically between 10 and 20 kids. Our instructors are US Sailing Level 1 certified and are supported by junior instructors. We staffed up higher than normal this year in order to ensure that we had enough extra hands to help the kids and work out the kinks of a new location.

We closed the season with our traditional year end party. This year we hosted it at SHBCC. We had nearly 100 AHSEP guests, and had a naming ceremony for our new boats where the little sailors made invocations to the gods of the wind and each boat was christened. It was a perfect end to a season where, in spite of the challenges, we had record enrollment, and a tremendously successful season. As I gave the remarks at the party, I related the story of how this season emerged, and spoke about the tremendous outpouring of support from AHYC (who knows us well) but also from SHBCC who did not know us at all. Without hesitation, sailors supported sailors. We are incredibly grateful to your club, and we look forward to building our relationship with the catamaran club for the future. What started out as a tactical solution has us talking about how we can collectively work to ensure that we continue to build the visibility and create more sailors on the Bayshore.



Adventure Week Class on 'Dress Like Your Favorite Instructor Day'



P. O. Box 187, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

Security

Beach closes on Saturday November 16th 5pm

That is the deadline for moving your boat.

Due to Sandy Storm we made these deadlines casual.

Now, if your boat remains on the beach the club will move it for you at a cost of \$100 and \$50 to drop the mast.

If your boat is going home for winter storage the same applies as far as the date, when it must be off the property or you will also be charged a winter rate of \$120.

The \$120 winter storage is due now and after December 15th it jumps to \$200.

We are still open daily, dawn to dusk, until Saturday November 16th.

Winter stored boats are stored on their trailer if you have one, tie it down well!!!

Questions?

Nick
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