

CLSA Windword

2010 Vol. 1
April 28, 2010

Happy New Year! By now we've already had a couple CLSA events, which I will briefly mention.

Neither the Plimsoll nor the Valley Forge Forage had any takers, though Bill Vokac hosted the Forage and waited patiently for fellow hikers.

Spring Banquet

But then, we get to the spring banquet and that was a very big hit. We had about 55 people come to the marina, the food was catered by Hickory River and was very good (according to me) and we had a rousing — well, as rousing as a silent auction can be — auction which raised almost \$300 for the club.

We had a great mix of old and new faces, including a contingent from the Navy, which was very gratifying to see. Josh and Amy Sigmon's baby, Rhiannon (hope I spelled that right), was by far the youngest participant, and I'm not even going to try to guess who was the oldest.

We had a lively and concise history of the club from Dave Toland, ably assisted by his wife, Betty, on the photo display.

The only potential downer was that just that week the company contracted to replace the marina windows came, removed the old windows, covered them in plywood and then ... left! It made for a somewhat gloomy ambiance, but everyone's high spirits soon overcame that slight glitch. Greg Forrest was as mystified as the rest of us about what the company's plan was.

Marina

Speaking of Greg, in case some of you have not heard, he won the bid for the Dewitt County marina contract for the next 10 years. In addition, to the new windows, the marina will be getting a new roof and all new siding this year. Last I heard from Greg there also are plans to make the back of the marina much more appealing, including a glass back door more like the far side.

In addition, rear commodore Don Johnson and Flying Scot fleet captain Deb Aronson have been attending the Dewitt County Marina subcommittee meetings and recently approached them about the possibility of doing some maintenance and improvement work at the sailing club. Efforts are already underway to fix the road from the paved lot down to the club and other improvements may also occur this summer. Keep your eyes peeled, and/or come to the CLSA board meetings to hear more.

Also, just as a reminder, Greg is now really enforcing the “no parking” along the treeline and will be locking trailers that are out of compliance, likewise those that do not have a renewal sticker on them. So beware! Get those stickers on your trailers!

Workday

April 24 was both the club workday and an unanticipated UI regatta that was a qualifying event for a larger women’s regatta later in the year. At the last board meeting we spent a lot of time working with the UI sailing club rep, Sean Wilson, to work out logistics.

It came down to this; Gerry Christman and Dave Toland got the committee boat in a few days ahead of schedule (thanks guys!), Joe Budden realized the ramp also should be repaired before the regatta so he and his son went Thursday evening and worked three and a half hours to shore it up.

The UI sailing club agreed to pull the boats out from under the pavilion and set up the picnic tables, since they were going to need them early Saturday for the regatta. Then on Saturday seven members came and worked on various projects from 10 a.m. until 3:30, when the rain caused them to quit for the day.

The UI regatta was “chaperoned” by Don Johnson, who drove the committee boat, took finishes and otherwise made himself useful. They ran a total of 14 races in a round robin format, so each of seven schools sailed each boat. Schools represented included University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan and University of Chicago.

There also will be a UI alumni regatta tentatively scheduled for May 1, the same day as the windsurfer regatta.

Racing

The racing schedule has been created and can be found at the club website on the left column. Near the bottom is a button labeled “more” which will show you the entire season, month by month. The first club race, a triangle, is scheduled for May 16.

Up-coming Events

Remember that the CLSA Open House is Saturday, May 15. This is a chance to invite all your friends and colleagues who think they might be interested in sailing. We’ll be giving rides (Bill Vokac says more volunteers are needed to give those rides, by the way. Please contact him if you can help out), displaying a few sailboats on shore, and generally being friendly. The Power Squadron also will be there and can offer all kinds of boating instruction. They are a very friendly crowd and are hosting a brat cookout at the pavilion after the Open House for all CLSA members.

In addition, as mentioned above, this coming weekend is the windsurfer regatta and May 16 is the first club race. Also in May, (Memorial Day weekend) is the Captain Morgan regatta, which takes place over both Saturday and Sunday.

As always, send me photos and I'll figure out how to paste them in the Windword. Speaking of which, here is a photo we took when Ben and I and John and Jen Heizer (with their son, Will) went to New Orleans in March for the Flying Scot Midwinters. Boy, did we all have fun!!

