

2008 Fleet Report

Fleet activities are going well so far in 2008. Weather has cooperated and we've managed to sail seven series races so far (two on some weekends), with good attendance and a variety of conditions – and fortunately no washouts. The 2008 calendar is very similar to previous years and also featured a 2-day regatta (held in July), a Women Skipper's race (on August 9), and a "rendezvous" in the coming weeks. The season ends with the last race and a Fleet Party (open to all fleet members) on the 23rd.

Changes have been limited, and mainly in the direction of furthering priorities that have been a focus in recent years – improving consistency and communication, and expanding participation and coordination with other groups – including juniors, "Vikings" (non-CC21) class, and power boaters.

Toward that end, we have established a weekly e-mail update to communicate results, upcoming events and schedules, and other Fleet matters. We have reached out to the instructors to find junior sailors interested in racing and notifying the fleet in the weekly e-mails, and we have been able to get some juniors out for the race that way. We have a website in development to help expand this effort (thanks to Margy Moremen and Linc Spaulding). (Anyone interested is encouraged to sign up for these e-mails – we keep a sign up on the board, or contact me)

Michelle Royal has been instrumental in revitalizing the Vikings and we continue to have an active and enthusiastic fleet. It's important to emphasize that all kinds of boats are welcome in the races and fleet activities.

Tyler Davis reports the junior fleet of Optimists and 420s are generally hanging tough with routine maintenance. Aside from ongoing maintenance, there may be a need for replacement of the two oldest 420's for the 2010 season and also some sail replacement – the purchase of two new sets of sails to rotate in could be a great decision.

He also reports that the new "RIB" tender (which Bruce MacNeil secured last winter) is "by far the best coach boat I've ever used". In addition it uses less gas and oil than the whalers with 25hp. However, the remainder of the motorboat fleet – which consists of three 13ft whalers – "needs a little tweaking", and we may evaluate eventually replacing with another inflatable, (even used) which appear to be much better suited for the purpose. Other items that may need replacement or upgrades include a fender system for the docks and radios.

Tom Grose has been the catalyst for the power fleet. He reports that this year,

"the CCCA's (Christmas Cove Cruising Association) got off to a troubled start. Our first cruise to Warren Island was cancelled due to the weather. But in spite of that, Neil [Prescott] made it to Warren Island by truck and trailerable skiff. After a delay of a day, the Grose's and Hughes GPS'ed it to Harbor Island where they found a clear spot with beautiful weather. The Williams and Wakemans pushed down east through the fog to Penobscot Bay for five days. Our next sortie is scheduled for the 19th – 21st and anyone interested should touch base with Tom Grose."

As I've learned this year this is team effort and would like to express thanks all those who have volunteered their time whether as committee, crash boats, hosting gams or giving valuable advice.

As a reminder to the sailors, we will have a delayed start at 1:30 today.

Thank you.