

# SHERIDAN SHORTS



## FROM THE HELM



BY CHRIS WRIGHT, COMMODORE

Wow ... what a difference one year can make. Last year at this time we were snuggled up in heavy jackets and hiding from the wind, fog and rain. This year has been a completely different story. I think I may have had about as much time on the lake just this past May and June as I did all of last year (and for those of you who

notice my boating activity, that is not easy to do!)

But with all of this warm weather we can easily get lulled into a sense of security out on the lake. I thought I might use this corner of the Shorts to emphasize the importance of safety out on the water. In the run up to the 104th Race to Mackinac, the Coast Guard is reminding all competitors that even if air temperatures are warm and seasonable that the lake temperatures will likely be cold enough to cause moderate to severe hypothermia within hours. We should all be dressing ourselves with those water temperatures in mind - and of course, wear our personal flotation devices. Hypothermia is an insidious killer that catches unprepared people in the water off guard. My daughter Maggie and I experienced the power of the lake first hand during last year's race to Mackinac in the storm that claimed the lives of two sailors from Michigan. My daughter, my life jacket, my tether and I all have a new found respect for one another.

When we have safety on the water, it ensures that we can all have fun on the deck. We now have one of our fabulous deck parties under our belt (thanks to the Arrow and Flying Scot fleets) and two more planned for July and August. About the time this reaches your mail box we'll be hearing the boom of the third of July fireworks celebration which rings in my favorite event of the year ... the Race Weekend party on Saturday, July 28. Don't miss out on any of the fun.

I find sailing to be one of the great joys in life. Very uplifting. In fact have you noticed that when you are on your boat you are constantly looking up to the sky, and when you are on land you are frequently looking down at the ground? Me, too. Let's keep looking up ... and let's wear our PDFs while doing so.



## CLUB MANAGER REPORT

BY JERI TRAUB

The SSYC Spring clean-up on April 14 was quite a success with about 15 people on hand to beautify the yacht club. Thanks to the following for their hard work; Teri & Allison Canade, Paul Malm, Peter Hoyt, Russ & Ann Grimes, Carol Cleave, Chris Wright, Stan Graves, Steve Grossman, John Creigh, Dick Muller, Hyde Perce, Dave Filkens and anyone else I have forgotten to include.

Once again the Strothmans have made the club look fabulous with all the flowers and flowering trees. Nothing looks better than coming in from the lake to see the beautiful red hanging baskets lining the deck. Thanks for taking on this important part of making the club a wonderful place to come.

The Friday Night Grills are in full swing with great turnouts and beautiful weather. Make sure to check the website for the weekly menu and come have a wonderful meal from A-LA-Carte. The next deck party hosted by the Solings and J24's will be on July 15. Mark your calendars.

The annual Wilmette Fireworks will be July 3rd. Please remember to take one table per family on the lower and upper decks as this is the biggest turnout of people for the year. We want to all be able to enjoy the festivities of the night.

Race Weekend will be July 26-29. The rigging party is the 26th. Fleet Parties on the 27th. Dinner and dancing to music from the 50's on the 28th and Awards Ceremony on the 29th. Stay tuned for more information on the Saturday night party.

Hoping the summer will be filled with good weather, great boating, good friends, good laughs, good memories. Email me at [clubmanager@sheridanshore.com](mailto:clubmanager@sheridanshore.com) for any questions or help I can give you.



SUMMER 2012

SHERIDAN SHORTS IS PRODUCED BY  
THE SHERIDAN SHORE YACHT CLUB  
LOCATED IN WILMETTE, ILLINOIS



Gwen Morrison, Co-Editor  
Peter Hoyt, Co-Editor

# AHOY!

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Sheridan Shorts*. Remember, if you have any ideas or submissions for upcoming issues send them to: [GwenMorrison5@gmail.com](mailto:GwenMorrison5@gmail.com)



## PHOTOS WANTED

We are assembling a photo montage to help us relive all the fun that we are having boating and celebrating this past season. Don't miss out on the chance to see your friends and yourself on the big screen at the year end dinner!

Please submit your digital photos to Chris Wright's email address - [chris.wright@zsassociates.com](mailto:chris.wright@zsassociates.com). Files should be in a .jpeg or .jpg format. If you have a lot of photos to share, you can burn them to a CD or DVD and place them in Chris's Commodore mailbox at the club house (outside Sabine's office) or drop them off at Chris's, home address at 132 Park Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091



## WI FI AT SSYC

We have a Wi Fi service that is available at the clubhouse and on the deck. The log on is SSYC2211. This is great to have for checking weather, emailing crew and planning your next boating adventure.

## THE RACING CORNER

BY JOHN KENNEDY

### The Reason Why We Race

Each of us climbs onto our boats on race day motivated by a variety of factors. Some are in our consciousness like competition (I want to win today), or commitment (I promised myself I'd sail today), or even escape (I have to get out of the house).

Whatever reason gets us to the harbor, let's face it, getting a boat ready to race is no easy task. There is crew to coordinate, the deck needs cleaning, the sails have to be hoisted, and then there is getting out of the most tightly packed harbor in the world. Whatever your tasks, it certainly takes a lot more effort than driving to the 'club' for a round a 18 holes. So why do we do it? Here are some perhaps more subtle "reasons," starting at the beginning:

**The Boat** – Think of her as a machine and like any good machine, things need to work (things move when pulled), and not break. The hull must be smooth, and the mast setup correctly. We can take great pride in having a boat ready to race and looking sharp.

**Physical Conditioning** – Another prerequisite for getting on the course, but also a motivator (it gets me out of bed and to the gym).

**Crew** – A good crew is priceless, but like anything of value, it requires investment of time to coordinate, educate and train, and motivate. Developing a sense of "team" is also important, as well as being able to discuss what went right or wrong in a given maneuver so that everyone is constantly learning. Here is where leadership skills are exercised.

Now your ready for the water.

**Sail Shape** – Your rig is your engine and it needs constant tuning. Adjustments to shape and mast positioning must be made to fit conditions, and of course the conditions change. Since the game is to optimize the "engine", the best "tuning" is done while racing, i.e. experimenting with more draft or easing the jib sheet an inch. How did that change affect your speed

compared to "that guy?" Call this one an exercise in fine-tuning an engine.

**Tactical** – We have to follow rules. OK, but can those rules be taken advantage of? Don't think of them as telling you what you can't do, but what you can do with the other two boats that are converging with you at the same turning mark. How do you turn this evolving puzzle to your advantage. It's a constant game that begins with the first gun.

**Strategic** – What does the forecast say is going to happen? How are the shifts going? Are they cycling or persistent and what does that mean about the first beat? What happens in the gusts? Another layer on "the game."

**Steering** – Those waves are obstacles and if you hit them wrong, they cut into your momentum. So there has to be constant attention to working the boat optimally through the water while keeping just the right amount of boat heel. If there is too much weather helm (which applies a constant braking action), you must recognize the issue and make an adjustment. Enjoying getting to know how your boat "feels" through the water, work with her. For me, this is the essence of racing.

Finally, there are the intangibles:

**Awareness** – Racing requires attention to detail and total focus on the tasks at hand. If have to like being totally in the present or this is not your game.

**Adventure** – There is an element of risk when one leaves the harbor, but you feel confident that you can take on the challenges nature will bring.

**Respect** – For yourself, your crew, your fellow competitors. Walk away from the race knowing that you put forth your "best effort" and others will recognize it.

**Humility** – Realize that the errors are ultimately your responsibility to prevent. If you approach sailing as a constant learning experience, it will give you a graduate course.

## SHERIDAN SHORE SAILING SCHOOL

FROM SAILING DIRECTOR ZAC HERNANDEZ AND  
ON LAND DIRECTOR COLLEEN CROFT

Sheridan Shore Sailing School had another victorious year coaching Evanston Township HS, North Shore Country Day School and Loyola Academy. We recently received an email from ISSA President Don Shea confirming that Loyola Academy is the Largest High School Sailing Team in the United States! All high schools have had a great season and are sad to see their seniors leaving. We would like to say good-bye and good luck to our seniors; Colleen Kollar, Melinda Lee, Marshall Fordan, Matt Goschi, Colleen Croft, Conner Croft, James Kohn and Abigail Julcher.



The summer program is in full hoist thanks to Sheridan Shore Yacht Club and Wilmette Harbor Association for the use of their facilities. We started Session 1 with a gust of wind, selling out morning and afternoon classes. Session 2 in the afternoon is completely sold out while the morning still has a



few spots. We expect to completely sell out all summer sessions by the first week of July. If you are interested in signing up your sailor, contact us as soon as possible. Adult sessions started last week, which continue to be ever growing. Sea Squirt Session 1 has

started, but don't worry Session 2 is starting soon; we still have spots in the Tuesday and Thursday classes.

SSSS is lucky to have most of our staff back this year. All instructors are U.S. Sailing Level 1 Small Boat, CPR and First Aid certified. The coaches are excited to see some of the same kids and meet new eager sailors. Each day, they go out on the lake and teach the kids boat handling, knots, boat parts, basic rules and seamanship.

SSSS is glad to welcome Brown University sailor, Drew Shea, as the 420-race team coach and Mark Gargula as the Optimist race team coach. Mark is currently sailing varsity for Rodger Williams University. Both are thrilled to be with us and ready to improve the SSSS sailors on the local, regional and national level.

The Sailing School would like to thank Sheridan Shore Yacht Club and the Wilmette Harbor Association for allowing us to host Wente Cup Regatta here on the weekend and granting us full use of the parking lot on those two days. We would not be able to host this event without their support!

## FISHING DERBY RECAP

BY DICK ELESH, POWER FLEET CAPTAIN

The SSSC Fish Derby was a great success this year. Six boats participated, the weather was perfect, and the fish were extremely cooperative. First prize for the largest fish, 11 pounds 4 ounces, went to Bryan Baker Jr. and Sr. aboard General Meade. The origin of that name remains to be researched. For the first time in several years, not only one but two boats maxed out with 15 fish each: Mike Oseland aboard Old Squaw, and Mitch Sroka on Scorpion, both were tied for the most fish. NO ONE was skunked. The weigh-in was followed by a great lunch from the SSSC deck crew. Everyone who missed out can sign up next June.

## FROM WHA: JULY 3 WILMETTE FIREWORKS

BY SABINE HERBER

### The BAD news:

There will be no parking in the park from 11:00 pm July 2 until 11:00 am on July 4. Entry to the park will be allowed after 10:00 am on the 3rd and 11:00 am on the 4th. Sheridan Road will be closed to all but bus traffic after 5:30 pm on July 3.

You may still park your car in the Harbor's lot overnight on the 3rd and spend the night on your boat; however, no cars will be allowed to leave our lot until 11 AM on Wednesday morning. The South side parking lot will be reserved for staff parking ONLY on the 3rd but open at 8 AM on the 4th.

Out of respect for your neighbors we ask that people contain chatter during the show and, please, no music. If you feel the need to play music during the fireworks take your boat onto the lake.

### The GOOD news:

The Harbor will be grilling under the crane on the 3rd for your convenience. The staff will be making and selling burgers, bratwurst and hot dogs in the parking lot from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm. We will also have chips, sodas and icy desserts, as well as 8# bags of ice. No work and no schlepping for you so come hungry!

You may drop off people and supplies in the Yacht Club's turnaround from 10:00 am until approximately 5:30 pm when the police close Sheridan Road. You may not leave your car in the turnaround, so be prepared to drop off your items and park outside of the park. Harbor personnel will be keeping things moving.

The shuttle busses will drop you right on Michigan Avenue. Check the schedule and get information about the other Gilson Park festivities and schedules at <http://www.wilmettepark.org/news/independence-day-2012>

Sheridan Shore Yacht Club presents  
2012 Race Weekend

## Sock Hop & Soda Shop

Saturday, July 28th • 6:00 pm

Featuring:

Dinner  
Beer Truck & Cocktails  
Soda Shop Goodies  
Hula Hoop Contest  
Best Costume Contest  
Live Music



Tickets:

Tickets must be purchased by July 22nd

\$40 Adults / \$10 Kids - under 5 free

Available at SSSC - 847-251-2211

[clubmanager@sheridanshore.com](mailto:clubmanager@sheridanshore.com)



SHERIDAN SHORE  
YACHT CLUB

Wilmette Harbor  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

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SSYC DATES TO REMEMBER



JULY 3 WILMETTE FIREWORKS

JULY 15 DECK PARTY

JULY 27-29 RACE WEEKEND

AUG. 25 DECK PARTY

AUG. 26 INTERFLEET REGATTA

SEPT. 2 OPEN HOUSE