

the Tell-Tale

**BLUE MARSH
SAILING ASSOCIATION**
PO Box 6026
Wyomissing, PA 19610

June 2002



COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

Time flies when you're having fun . . . and I'm having so much fun as Commodore that I can't believe that my term of office is more than halfway over.

Although not without its challenges, being the Commodore of BMSA has been a pleasure. I think it is because I am supported by an excellent Board of Directors, and an involved and participatory group of sailors. Everyone in the organization has been willing to take his or her turn at the helm—even if they didn't fully agree with the course.

Our crew has worked through a bit of heavy weather—most recently, the impending relocation of our Vice Commodore and our Social Chair, John and Phyllis Didyoung. The Didyoungs are moving to Cape Coral, Florida, at the end of July and will leave their posts mid-June. However, the BMSA crew had everything under control before panic set in. John headed a search committee to find his replacement, and I am pleased to announce that

Dave Miller, a charter member, has volunteered to fill out John's term as Vice Commodore and will serve as Commodore Elect, committing to don the triple stars in 2003. And Russ and Evelyn Marker will chair the Commodore's Ball, filling out Phyllis' responsibilities for our 2002 social events. So it should be smooth sailing as usual, but please plan to come to the picnic on July 11 to say farewell to the Didyoungs and congratulations to Dave.

Other issues have involved moving more events to the Coast Guard Auxiliary, including our three summer picnics. Equipment Chair Dennis Arentz purchased a new grill to replace the one that disappeared from the Fire Hall. Our library was replenished last year and Librarian, Bob Hartwich and his wife Janet have taken an inventory of new and old items which will be published as a "pull out section" in a summer TellTale. Programs have been great, we have new items in stores, the TellTale is always on time, member-

ship is healthy and our racing, cruising and social calendars are full—all thanks to dedicated committee chairmen.

However, there have been some unhappy moments in my experience as Commodore, due to loss of faithful BMSA members. The club mourns the deaths of Jim Killeen in January and Charlie Deininger in May. Both will be missed for their adventuresome spirits and kind souls. Their departures from our group should remind us all of the necessity to enjoy every day, every sail, every social and every BMSA friend and to be thankful for the good times we are enjoying.

*Joan Whan
Commodore*



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Events For June

- Sat & Sun 6/1-2:
Spring Cruise.
- Sunday 6/9:
Water Safety Festival.
- Thursday 6/13:
Picnic USCGA.
- Sat—Sun 6/15-16:
Vagabond #1.
- Monday 6/17:
Board Meeting 7:30.
- Saturday 6/22:
Race #2 Regatta.

Visit our website at <http://hometown.aol.com/kristela/myhomepage/club.html>

Meetings are held at the Lower Heidelberg Fire Company
the second THURSDAY of each month unless otherwise announced.
(7:30 Social, 8:00 Meeting)

Minutes of the May Board Meeting

May 13, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Joan Whan at 7:35 pm. Present were Joan and Alex Whan, Lou Brown, Jan and Mike Dougherty, Dennis and Kathy Arentz, Tom and Jan Stoner and Bob Harwich.

Treasurers Report:

Jan gave the Treasurers Report in Dick Durofchalk's absence. The current balance is \$3,948.20.

CBYCA:

No report

Chaplain:

In Russ Marker's absence, Joan reported that many BMSA members attended services for Charlie Dieninger. The Club will donate \$25 to The Berks Visiting Nurse Hospice in his memory. Suggested guidelines were discussed. Lou Brown moved that non-member relatives will receive a card; \$25 flowers/donations to members, and \$50 flowers/donations to current committee chairs, Past Commodores and current Committee Chairs. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

Equipment:

Dennis reported the grill will be equipped with a changeable combination lock. We still need to get permission to keep the grill on the Coast Guard Auxiliary grounds. The grill will

be engraved as property of BMSA. Committee boat repairs were also discussed. The boats carburetor was rebuilt, the gas tank was replaced, and the motor was serviced. The boat should now be ready once Tom Stoner fills the boat gas tank.

Fleet:

Mike Adair reported that everything is set for the Spring Cruise. The Captains meeting was held and we anticipate a wonderful weekend.

Historian:

Jan Stoner reported that Heidi Moser donated photographs from recent events. She also has Tell Tales from 2001 and 2002 to date.

House:

In Dave Miller's absence, Tom Stoner reported that he (Tom) will chair the search for a replacement Chair for the House Committee.

Library:

Bob Harwich took inventory at the May meeting. This will be published in the August issue of the Tell Tale in time for the new seasons meetings. He will identify the new items.

Membership:

Kristel Adair reported we currently have 159 members, 51 of whom are also members of the Fire Company.

Program:

Commodore Joan Whan

reported that Joanne Solarec has everything set for the September meeting. Ted Taylor will present September's program.

Publicity:

No Report

Racing:

Tom Stoner reported the first race would be May 18th. Eight boats are scheduled to race at Blue Marsh.

Safety:

On Dave Miller's behalf, Joan Whan reported the Water Safety Festival will be June 9. Dave will have on hand BMSA Pilsner glasses to sell for \$1.00 each. Each glass will have a BMSA informational flyer and membership application form rolled up inside. Four glasses will be used as door prizes.

Social:

There will be a farewell to John and Phyllis Didyoung. The Marker's will chair the Commodore's Ball, assisted by Robb Mutzel and Pat Gery.

Tell Tale:

No report.

Training:

The training day went well.

Vagabond:

Alex reported the Combat Day Sail went very well. Perhaps it might be an annual event. Russ Marker will host the June 15th Vagabond at Bald Eagle. The July Vagabond is in progress.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

Dave Miller will be Vice Commodore for the remainder of 2002 and will assume the position of Commodore for 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Dougherty
Secretary

Editor's Note:

The farewell social for John and Phyllis Didyoung will be held at the July 11 picnic at the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Water Safety Fest

This years Blue Marsh Water Safety Festival is scheduled for June 9th at the Dry Brook Day Use Area. We could still use some helpers for an on water safety demo or onshore to speak to visitors about BMSA. This as an important event that we usually draw a few new members from as we spread the message about the importance of being a safe boater. If you are interested in helping see Dave Miller or call him at 610-678-7121 to volunteer your boat and your time.

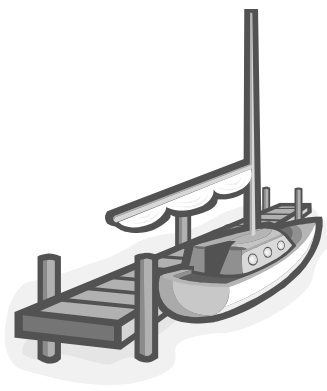
Dave Miller
Safety

Upcoming Programs

In June, July and August we will return to our summer venue of evening picnics at the Coast Guard Auxiliary building on River Road.

Regular programs at the Lower Heidelberg Fire Company will return in September with Ted Taylor presenting a program about his sailing trip to Greece in September 2001. He plans to detail what it was like being in a foreign country aboard a boat and learning of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

In October our yearly photo contest will be held with prizes awarded to our most skilled photographers. So spend your summer adventures camera in hand looking for that award winning shot.



*Joanne Solarek
Program*

Summer Picnics

The first picnic of the season will be held at the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Building grounds on River Road, Thursday, June 13, at 6 PM. Bring your lawn chairs and come and relax and get acquainted with the members of BMSA. Drinks must be purchased at the Coast Guard but everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Joan and Richard Adams and Pattie and Gino Appolloni will be our hosts. Hope to see all our members attend this event. This picnic is free to members. Any guest or non member will be charged \$2.00.

A-M — Bring a Salad

O-Z — Bring Dessert

*Phyllis Didyoung
Social*

Attention Learn-to-Sailors!

The learn-to-sail training class held the last weekend of April had a small but enthusiastic turnout. We covered some basics about how a sailboat sails, how to rig a simple sloop, points of sail, essential knots, beginning seamanship skills, and safety – a lot of material for 4 hours! Now we're looking for the weather to give us a break and let us practice what we've learned.

Here are your opportunities: Wednesday nights at the State Hill ramp beginning June 5th and going thru August. Come wind or no wind, c'mon out - if we can't sail, we can at least get together and talk about it! Those who have boats, bring them. Those who don't, bring yourselves and we'll try to get you out on one. We had a great turnout last year for our Wednesday nights and we hope to beat it this year. ALL ARE WELCOME.

We also have races throughout the season -- look for Racing Chairman Tom Stoner's articles each month. We need boats and crew! So give him a call and let him know which ones you'd like to attend. This requires NO experience, but is a great way to gain it. Our races are for fun and camaraderie, so please don't succumb to performance anxiety!

Our monthly vagabond weekends are popular among the trailerable folks, but anyone can join in. Vagabond Chairman Alex Whan will be happy to try to put you on a boat if you don't have one. Most are on the Chesapeake and are a fun way to gain experience and make good friends.

The Spring Cruise will be history by the time you read this, but there is still the Fall Cruise in September to plan for. Starting on a Thursday night and running thru Sunday gives a nice long weekend of great autumn sailing with a raftup one night and a marina stay another. Sign up now with Fleet Captain Mike Adair.

Enjoy the season!

*Kristel Adair
Learn-to-Sail Instructor*

Race #1 Cancelled due to Wind!

Mother Nature did us in again! Our Kickoff Race was canceled due to coldness and high gusty winds. Of course three hours later the sun was out and the winds had subsided. This was supposed to be our tune-up race for the Regatta so we will have to polish our skills by coming out on Wednesday nights. Maybe we can do a little informal racing on a couple of the nights. We usually sail until 8:00 and then retire to Ganly's to talk about it. Boats without crew and crew without boats are always welcome.

*Tom Stoner
Racing*

We have Met the Enemy & They Are Us

The Spanish Armada it was not, but May 11 will go down in the annals of BMSA as a fun day sail. A great start to the season. There was a good showing of sailors and it was a beautiful day. Nothing but sunshine and marauding mariners going into harms way.

The theme was based on maneuvering your boat to gain tactical advantage on your opponent. We had three mock battles to test our skills. The reality was he who has the biggest gun gets the least wet.

The winds were tricky and made things fun. If you kept your eyes on the water for the wind gusts, it was possible to out guess the other boats. It was a good sail and a chance to regain those skills that get so rusty over the winter.

Here are some tips from the British Naval Chronicles:

Typically, when two opposing fleets spotted each other

1. They would maneuver into line ahead, or column, formation, meaning every ship lined up behind the leader.
2. They would maneuver to get to the weather gauge, meaning to be to windward of their opponent.
 - a. In other words, they would try to get the wind blowing from whichever side was opposite their enemy, and usually from their own aft quarter.
 - b. In this way, they could maneuver better than their enemy, who would then have to maneuver their lee, or wind shadow.
3. Once the two sides were lined up, they would pass parallel to each other firing broadsides as they went.

Sounds easy, but when the other guy has the same objective it is very tricky. Next year maybe we will try to standardize the weapons. Even if we do not, I still want a rematch.

*Alex Whan
Vagabond*

Going to New Heights Sailing

As if the excitement of sailing isn't enough I recently had a new experience to add to my sailing resume. I spent part of Memorial Day weekend aboard Classic Lady with Armando helping to get the boat ready for the Spring Cruise and doing a short but nice shake down cruise. My new experience gave me a new perspective of the Bay and what it takes to maintain a sailboat. Okay before I keep you in suspense of what my experience was, I'll tell you. I was hoisted to the top of the mast to clean the winter cobwebs out of the sail track and lube the sheaves of the halyards.

Strapped in a bosuns chair and harness around my chest I wasn't sure what to expect being suspended in air with only a thin wire halyard connecting me to anything. Clearing the boom, winches and cleats was my first obstacle to even leaving the deck. Once clear and seated firmly in the bosuns seat up I went. My ride up was a bit scary as the sheaves were making that terrible squeaking noise for the entire ride to the top. First stop the steaming light. What a place to put a lightbulb! Cleaned and ensured it was making contact my upward journey continued to the next obstacle, the spreaders. To navigate around them involved pushing myself away from the mast until my knees cleared and only my finger tips touched the mast.

The journey continued the boat below growing ever smaller. Yes I looked down! I also looked out. What a view I wished

the water below would be the clear blue of the Caribbean like on the covers of all the sailing magazines. Finally, I reached the top eyes level with the sheaves and I got down to the purpose of my trip up there.

I cleaned the cobwebs off the windex, and anything else I could reach. Lubed up the blocks trying not to squirt the lube into my face, a trick considering my face was inches from the task at hand. Finally, job complete I yelled down just as a plane approaching the neighboring airfield roared overhead. Any closer I could have got a free haircut with the propeller. For those wondering about the close proximity of the plane the pilot was a lady blonde hair blue eyes.

My downward journey began, sail track lube in hand I sprayed the track, relieved the squealing of the sheaves gone silent as the lube did its intended job. Clearing the spreaders, boom and other obstacles my feet touched deck my task aloft completed.

How high above the water was I? Not sure? Definitely not the 180 foot masts where Armando gained his lofty experience, but high enough for the first time up. Yes it was my first time aloft! I'm interested in someday owning my own boat so I may as well get use to the tasks required to properly maintain a sailboat while sailing OPB's (other people's boats). I see this experience as one less task to have to learn later and no I'm not for hire to change steaming lights

John Hackman



Chapter Eleven

An hour and a half of beach time on Orient Bay was about as much as Flappin' Jenny could take with every other word out of Rusty's mouth being wimp", "sissy", or "gutless". When she pointed out that he didn't seem in any hurry to follow the old adage of "when in Rome do as the Romans do", he announced it was time to get back to the boat to clean up before dinner. He herded everyone back to the dinghy, practically having to drag Ramón by the collar.

When they reached the Valhalla, Rusty was the first one out and helped the girls aboard. He went below for a beer, but came running right back up.

"Everybody back in the dinghy, now! NOW!!" Rusty yelled.

"What? What's going on?" the girls chimed.

"Just do what I say! Off the boat! Hurry!" Ramón sat back down in the dinghy as the girls got in. "Now row away from the boat," Rusty yelled.

"What about you?" Ramón yelled back.

"Just row!! I'll swim to you." He turned and opened one of the lazarettes for a moment, then closed it and dove off the boat. He swam to the dinghy, now about 20 yards away. He climbed in and flopped down, dripping and breathless.

"Rusty, what was that all about?!" Jenny asked, irritated.

"When I went below I smelled gas from the stove. One of the burners hadn't been turned off completely, and neither was the tank. Who the hell used the stove last?" Rusty demanded.

"We all had a cold breakfast this morning. Oh, the coffee..." Ramón faltered.

"I made the coffee," Jenny said defensively. "AND I turned off the tank as well as the stove. I'm very careful about that, and I know I didn't forget."

"You couldn't have, now could you?" Rusty started yelling again.

"Yes, she did," Lorna said quietly. "I saw her." All eyes went to Lorna.

They were quiet for a moment as they all tried to figure out what happened. "How long before we can go back aboard?" Lorna asked.

"Let's give her a little more time to air out," Rusty replied. "And I think I'd feel better having a cold supper aboard this evening instead of going ashore. I'll make it up to you when we get to St. Bart's."

Rusty passed an uneasy night thinking about what had happened and the disaster it could have been. When they had finally returned to the boat, he and Ramón had carefully checked the entire gas line from tank to stove and found it sound. It just didn't make sense. No one used the stove after coffee was made that morning, and Lorna verified that Jenny had indeed turned off the tank. Yet the entire cabin had reeked of propane when he'd gone below.

Wouldn't they have noticed it earlier in the afternoon if it had been leaking since the morning? Every time he thought it through from beginning to end, he kept coming up with the same conclusion, and one he didn't want to accept. Someone had been aboard the Valhalla while they were at the beach. No! There just has to be some other explanation... and he finally fell asleep around 3AM with the mystery still unsolved.

by Jess Pokinfern

(An ongoing tale of fiction - see past Tell-Tales for the previous ten chapters)

June 2002 Events & Birthday's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Spring Cruise Ernie Speros
2 Spring Cruise Tami Maurer Richard Adams	3	4 Jim Gillmore	5 Gino Appolloni	6	7 Larry Seward Tony Stajkowski	8
9 Safety Fest	10 Carol Loveland	11	12	13 Picnic USCGA Jean McGuire	14 Walter Coles	15 Vagabond # 1
16 Vagabond # 1	17 Board Meeting	18 Sarah Bixler	19	20 Jean Vickery	21 Kathy Zvitkovitz	22 Race 2 Regatta
23 / 30	24	25	26	27	28 Cliff Dillman	29

Happy Birthday to all Members Celebrating June Birthdays

2002 Annual Regatta

We want to remind you that the Annual Regatta for 2002 is on Saturday, June 22. Let's have a good turnout this year- the more boats the better!. Hopefully Mother Nature will be kinder to us than last year when stormy weather resulted in rescheduling twice. In any event the format is the same- boats in the water by 10:30 when we have our skipper's meeting; first race at 11:00. Need crew or want to crew? Just call. Also race committee people are always needed.

The Regatta party will be held at the Coast Guard this year and will begin at 5:30. The party is open, of course, to all club members but Regatta participants get in for free. The race wanabees pay \$5. We will be grilling chicken and we ask members A-K to bring a dessert; L-Z a side dish. Drinks must be purchased from the Coast Guard per LCB rules. Don't miss this social event!

Tom Stoner 610-678-0683 or tjstoner@msn.com

*Tom Stoner
Racing*

Message from the Editor

Hi Folks,

It's been over six months for me as Tell Tale editor and its been lots of fun. I enjoy getting articles from all of you who submit them and then placing them together like a big jigsaw puzzle. With warm weather and sailing season approaching I hope you can all continue to be so prompt at getting your articles sent to me. I'm also looking for articles about your sailing adventures and photographs of your journeys sailing. Remember the deadline for articles is the 22nd of each month and the earlier the better.

*John Hackman
Tell Tale Editor*

Sailing the Web

Welcome to this months sailing the web links list:

www.baydreaming.com

Your guide to the Chesapeake Bay

www.by-the-sea.com

An online boating magazine for all things nautical. Check out the Chesapeake Bay section.


www.landfallnavigation.com

Planning to go offshore? Here's a site that specializes in outfitting blue water sailors.

If you have a favorite sailing related website let the editor know so it can be included in future issues.

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Berks County
Conservancy



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(610) 372-4992 • FAX (610) 372-2917
Web site: www.berks-conservancy.org

Events Schedule for 2002

JULY

11	Thursday	Picnic USCGA
13-14	Sat-Sun	Vagabond #2
15	Monday	Board Meeting
27	Saturday	Race #3

AUGUST

8	Thursday	Picnic USCGA
12	Monday	Board Meeting
17	Saturday	Race #4
24-25	Sat-Sun	Vagabond #3

SEPTEMBER

12	Thursday	General Meeting
14	Saturday	Social TBA
16	Monday	Board Meeting
20-22	Fri-Sun	Fall Cruise Annapolis

OCTOBER

5	Saturday	Annapolis Boat Show
10	Thursday	General Meeting Photo Contest
12-13	Sat-Sun	Vagabond #4
14	Monday	Board Meeting
19	Saturday	Race #5 Turkey Race
26	Saturday	Square Dance Halloween Party

NOVEMBER

9	Saturday	Commodore's Ball Crystal Spring
11	Monday	Transition Board Meeting

DECEMBER

6	Friday	Christmas Party
7	Saturday	Baltimore Boat Parade
9	Monday	New Board Meeting
14	Saturday	Annapolis Boat Parade

Welcome New Members!

There are several new members to welcome to Blue Marsh Sailing this month:

Joe Fleming is new to sailing, and in fact contacted us about our learn-to-sail class we held in April. He said we'd know him by the bewildered look on his face! Well Joe, you did fine in the class and we look forward to having you join us on the water.

Dennis and LouAnn Snoke are local folks with a 26' MacGregor. We're not sure if that boat is in the water since no calling port was listed, but we'll have fun finding out. We hope that Dennis and LouAnn will join us in some of our cruises and vagabonds this summer, as well as our picnics.

Sam and Jeannie McGuire hail from Pottsville and own a Hampton One Design 18'. If I have this story right, Sam is used to bigger boats, like New York harbor tugs. He is a 200 T master, so he can surely teach us a thing or two! I think that Hampton might be fun in a race, too! Sam and Jeannie, the Regatta is coming up on June 22nd...

Tami Maurer lives in Wyomissing, has a tropical sounding email address (see below), and is interested in getting involved in our social and sailing activities. Tami doesn't own a boat so will be looking to crew.

Everyone please introduce yourselves to these new members at the next picnic or sailing event. And to our new folks, don't be shy. Come to the summer picnics, the Wednesday night sails at the lake, and any of our sailing or racing events this season. Jump in, speak up, and have fun!

Kristel Odair, Membership

Here are the particulars to add to your logs:

Joe Fleming
603 Sycamore Road
Mohnton, PA 19540
610-796-1008
kbjoe@comcast.net

Sam and Jeannie McGuire
87 Ryon Lane
Pottsville, PA 17901
570-385-2867
swtgrass@losch.net

Dennis and LouAnn Snoke
300 Spies Church Road
Reading, PA 19606
610-779-3431
scuba@lusa.com

Tami Maurer
25 Larchwood Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-478-9635
flamingotami@aol.com

June Vagabond Bald Eagle State Park

Don't forget mark your calendars for the June 15 & 16 vagabond to Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County, PA. We will have a breakfast rendezvous on the way, stay at the "Bestway" motel near Milesburg, sail on the lake at Sayers Dam and explore State College and Bellefonte.



Please contact Russ Marker if you have any questions.

Russ Marker

2002

BLUE MARSH SAILING ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

COMMODORE	Joan Whan	610-396-1416
VICE COMMODORE	John Didyoung	610-926-3241
SECRETARY	Jan Dougherty	610-926-5581
TREASURER	Dick Durofchalk	610-678-0642
REAR COMMODORE	Lou Brown	717-933-8560

COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS

CBYCA DELEGATE	Russ Witzke	610-775-9704
CBYCA ALTERNATE	Conrad Vanino	610-777-2599
CHAPLIN	Russ Marker	610-678-5606
EQUIPMENT	Dennis Arentz	610-921-9631
FLEET CAPTAIN	Mike Adair	610-775-2438
HISTORIAN	Jan Stoner	610-678-0683
HOUSE	Dave Miller	610-678-7121
LIBRARIAN	Bob Hartwich	610-779-4520
MEMBERSHIP	Kristel Adair	610-775-2438
PROGRAM	Joanne Solarek	610-779-4516
PUBLICITY	Ray Hemphill	610-678-6754
RACING	Tom Stoner	610-678-0683
SAFETY	Dave Miller	610-678-7121
SOCIAL	Phyllis Didyoung	610-926-3241
STORES	Kathy Arentz	610-921-9631
TELL TALE	John L. Hackman	610-678-4437
TRAINING	Ted Taylor	717-751-1794
VAGABOND	Alex Whan	610-396-1416

Contact the Tell Tale Editor John L. Hackman
Home: 610-678-4437 Work: 610-372-4992
Work Fax: 610-372-2917
E-Mail: jlhack@yahoo.com

THE TELL-TALE 6-02
c/o John Hackman, editor
101 Delta Court
Wernersville, PA 19565

