

March 2010

## RECORD SNOW STALLS MANY WINTER ACTIVITIES

I was on my way home from a great ski trip in Colorado when I learned that my flight from Denver to Philadelphia was canceled. Nothing was flying into Philly on February 6. We were told that the earliest we could get home would be in two days. Then we got lucky and found a flight to LaGuardia, NY and got a bus home from there. But that was only the first storm. The big one came three days later. All over Pennsylvania people were going into hibernation, and that included BMSA members who would normally be attending our monthly General Membership Meeting and monthly Board Meeting, not to mention our monthly social. This time everything was canceled. What would I write about in the Tell-Tale? I had received only one article for publication. There weren't even Meeting Minutes to publish. I was actually considering an e-mail announcing that there would be no newsletter this month, but our Commodore was having none of that. She suggested I find something, maybe an article about spring boat preparation. And so be it. Just because we have snow it doesn't mean we can't still think, dream, and prepare for the upcoming sailing season. After all....spring is just a few weeks away.

Joe Rutolo

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There were many beautiful winter scenes like this all over Pennsylvania this month after two back-to-back record breaking storms pummeled us with over two feet of snow.

### March Events

Weds., March 10.....Gen. Membership Mtg.  
Mon., March 15.....Board Meeting  
Sat., March 27.....Social

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## February 15, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

**The February Board Meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.**

*Commodore's Message Continued below.....*

So. Here we are after yet another snowstorm. It might be July before all this snow disappears. In the meantime I'm fine tuning my To Do lists for the boat, making my shopping list for the annual Defender warehouse sale (25 to 28 March from what I hear), and staring at a desktop picture of our boat under shrink wrap. Yep. I have it bad.

As I suspect most of the BMSA members do. Many of you have been members for quite awhile and a few walked through the doors when the club first opened up. It has been almost as long since the bylaws and constitution were revised. Vice Commodore Neil Hoffman is leading the charge to update the BMSA bylaws and constitution to bring them current with the way in which the club has evolved over the past twenty plus years. Along with Kristel Adair and Ron Bukowski and with input from other members during our board meetings, Neil has reviewed every word of the documents.

After the March meeting, in lieu of a regular program, I will review the suggested changes. These documents are important as they record the club's mission, purpose and organizational makeup. I hope all of you who are interested will attend, ask

questions, provide constructive input and generally have a hand in the process. Of course, any final changes must be agreed upon by a vote of the membership and that process will not be bypassed, but in the meantime, we want everyone to have the opportunity to have a voice. Thus far, changes on the table include:

- Giving certain committee chairs a Board vote
- Reducing the number of committees
- Giving committee oversight to the Vice Commodore
- Updating the levels of membership

On a lighter note, despite evidence to the contrary, spring is right around the corner. With the spring comes our club races, cruises, vagabonds, and picnics. I hope our members with boats participate as much as possible and include the new members as crew, some of whom are new to sailing and racing.

On my way home from work the night before the last snowstorm, I saw the following message in front of a church: "Whoever is praying for snow, please stop!" I agree. I'm ready to sail.

*"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing". Helen Keller*

## *Spring Into Boating With BoatU.S. Commissioning Safety Checklist*

To help boaters have a trouble-free boating season, BoatU.S., the nation's largest recreational boating association, has a spring commissioning checklist for the nation's 13 million boat owners. Whether you have a power or sailboat, inboard or outboard, following this checklist is an easy way to get ready for the season.

### **BEFORE YOU LAUNCH:**

Inspect and lubricate seacocks. Hoses and hose clamps should be inspected and replaced as necessary.

Replace deteriorated anodes.

Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure. Grip the prop and try moving the shaft – if it's loose, the cutlass bearing may need to be replaced.

*Continued on page 3*

## Water Safety

Hello Everyone. Hope that all this snow is not getting you down too much. It should certainly help the water levels in the spring! We had a water safety festival meeting last week, so now the date is set and we are moving forward with those plans.

The Water Safety Festival will be Saturday, June 12 from 12 to 5 PM at the day use area of Blue Marsh Lake. (Unfortunately, still during the Spring cruise.) Many of the previous participants will be there, as well as some new attractions.

Another date to keep in mind at the lake is Saturday, April 17th. That is Take Pride in the Lake Day - (formally Clean Up the Lake Day). Anyone can go to the visitor's center that morning and volunteer to help for the day - they do provide lunch. It is a good way to support the lake we benefit from all summer long. Hope to see some of you at both of these events.

Heidi

## The Race Around the World

At last check, sixteen year old Jessica Watson from Australia just passed under the Cape of Good Hope off the southern tip of south Africa and was heading home to Australia in the Indian Ocean, while sixteen year old Abby Sunderland of California had just passed the equator and was heading for Cape Horn, South America. Initial concerns that Abby might be in danger from a tsunami caused by the great earthquake in Chile were dismissed, as only coastal areas were at risk.

### *Spring Boat Safety Check – Continued from page 2*

Check to make sure the rudderstock hasn't been bent. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.

Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and properly secured.

Check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for looseness. After the boat is launched, be sure to check these as well as through-hulls for leaks.

Use a hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.

If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.

### **OUTDRIVES and OUTBOARD ENGINES:**

Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds), and replace if suspect.

Check power steering and power trim oil levels. Replace worn-out zincs.

Inspect outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable has to be replaced. Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking.



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## March Birthdays

March 27 – Michele Rutolo

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Annual membership dues is now past due. Please fill out and submit the form on page 5, along with your dues, to our new membership chair, Muriel Meier.**

*Spring Boat Safety – Continued from page 3*

Check all joints for leaks and make sure all lines are well supported with non-combustible clips or straps with smooth edges.

**ENGINES AND FUEL SYSTEMS:**

Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Clamps should be snug and free of rust. Clean fuel filters. Owners of boats with fiberglass fuel tanks should be aware that gasoline with ethanol can corrode tanks and damage engines. Look for black “goo” under the carburetor.

Inspect cooling hoses and fittings for stiffness, rot, leaks and/or cracking. Make sure they fit snugly and are double-clamped.

Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifold for corrosion.

Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water (if applicable).

Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks.

**SAILBOAT RIGGING:**

Inspect fittings for cracks and rust. Inspect wire, halyards, and running backstays for “fishhooks” and rust.

Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape.

Recaulk through-deck chainplates as necessary (generally, once a decade).

**TRAILERS:**

Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure. Don't forget the spare!

Inspect bearings and repack as necessary.

Test tail and back-up lights. Test winch to make sure it's working properly.

Inspect trailer frame for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Check expiration dates on flares and fire extinguishers.

Check stove and remote tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.

Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure it's working properly.

Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing.

Update or replace old charts, waterway guides.

Check shore power cable connections for burns, which indicates the cable and/or the shore power inlet needs to be replaced.

Make sure your boating license and/or registration is up to date. Don't forget your trailer tags.

Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. Be sure you have fuel spill insurance coverage.

Make sure you have a properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids and pets.

Test smoke, carbon monoxide and bilge alarms.

Be sure to get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. Find out how at <http://www.safetyseal.net>



# 2010 Event Calendar

| JANUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|         |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3       | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10      | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17      | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24      | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31      |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7        | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14       | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21       | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28       |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 7     | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14    | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21    | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28    | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| APRIL |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 4     | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11    | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18    | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25    | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

| MAY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 9   | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16  | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23  | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30  | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| JUNE |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 13   | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20   | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27   | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 11   | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18   | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25   | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| AUGUST |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S      | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 29     | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| SEPTEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 12        | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19        | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26        | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

| OCTOBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 10      | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17      | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24      | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| NOVEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
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| 14       | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21       | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28       | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

| DECEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5        | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12       | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19       | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26       | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

Gold = Board Meeting  
 Blue = General Membership Meeting  
 Light Olive = Race Day  
 Aqua = Daysail/Vagabond/Cruise

Yellow = Christmas Party (tentative)  
 Grey = Land Cruise  
 Lavender = Commodore's Shindig (tentative)  
 Bright Green = Social      Magenta = Picnic/Meeting

## 2010 BLUE MARSH SAILING ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

|                    |                      |              |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| COMMODORE.....     | Donna Ferron.....    | 484-678-4592 |
| VICE COMMODORE.... | Neil Hoffman.....    | 610-670-1764 |
| SECRETARY.....     | Mary Stajkowski..... | 610-370-0505 |
| TREASURER.....     | Jane Moyer.....      | 610-374-8956 |
| REAR COMMODORE...  | Joe Rutolo.....      | 610-678-6206 |

## COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS

|                     |                       |                                |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| CBYCA DELEGATE..... | Russ Witzke.....      | 610-775-9704                   |
| CBYCA ALTERNATE.... | Conrad Vanino.....    | 610-777-2599                   |
| CHAPLAIN.....       | Vacant                |                                |
| EQUIPMENT.....      | Vacant                |                                |
| FLEET CAPTAIN.....  | Conrad Vanino.....    | 610-777-2599                   |
| HISTORIAN.....      | Jan Stoner.....       | 610-678-0683                   |
| HOUSE.....          | Dave Miller.....      | 610-678-7121                   |
| LIBRARIAN.....      | Vacant                |                                |
| MEMBERSHIP.....     | Muriel Meier.....     | 610-678-3707                   |
|                     | Co-chair..            | Darryl Ferron.....610-873-2814 |
| PROGRAM.....        | Vacant                |                                |
|                     | Co-chair...           |                                |
|                     | Co-chair...           |                                |
| PUBLICITY.....      | Vacant                |                                |
| RACING .....        | Tom Stoner.....       | 610-678-0683                   |
| SAFETY.....         | Heidi Moser.....      | 610-779-5582                   |
| SOCIAL.....         | Sally Mastandrea..... | 610-845-0490                   |
| STORES.....         | Anna Grace.....       | 610-678-8709                   |
| TELL-TALE.....      | Joe Rutolo.....       | 610-678-6206                   |
| TRAINING.....       | Vacant                |                                |
| VAGABOND .....      | Vacant                |                                |



Visit our website at  
[www.bluemarshsailing.org](http://www.bluemarshsailing.org)

Meetings are held at the Lower Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Company on the second Wednesday of each month unless otherwise announced.

(7:00 PM Social, 7:30 PM Meeting)

Your comments and contributions are always welcome and can be sent to the editor at  
[Rutolo@aol.com](mailto:Rutolo@aol.com)

Anyone interested in joining BMSA may contact Membership Chair Muriel Meier at 610-678-3707 for more information. Single membership is \$25, \$40 for couples or families.

If you are renewing your BoatUS Membership, be sure to mention our co-op group no., GA87894S, to get the special \$9.50 rate.

THE TELL-TALE 3-10  
 c/o Joseph J Rutolo, editor  
 3032 Octagon Ave.  
 Sinking Spring, PA 19608

