



BLACKSTRAP

Sailing Club



Spring 2006

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Welcome to Blackstrap



Our Commodore

Sailing season is nearly upon us for another year (our 26th season!), with the work weekend planned as our first event. No major facility changes are necessary or planned. Everything is pretty much ready to go thanks to the ongoing efforts of Bill and others. Carol has been working hard on the new website and spiffy apparel for the fashion-conscious sailor or landlubber, as the case may be. Michele has completed a survey for Eb's Sunset Series on Wednesday nights that will help the race committees organize races that best meet the wishes of all.

A couple of 'new' items that we would like to incorporate for the sailing season – Sunday afternoon group sailing, starting the first weekend in June (when the water is toasty!) at one o'clock.. We thought that by setting a specific time we can encourage the social aspect of sailing through more group sailing. A safety boat will be ready to go for those who wish to push their skills when the winds blow. I would also like to extend an invitation to all who are not particularly interested in racing themselves to volunteer as 'committee assistants' for the Wednesday evening racing. There are few finer experiences in Saskatoon than watching sailing on a sunny spring evening on Blackstrap – and the sun always shines, honest. No experience necessary!

One last-but-definitely-not-least item is the sailing classes scheduled for August, organized by our own Jaime Hogan. Sailing classes are a great way to learn the basics of sailing as well as increase your sailing confidence. It is great introduction for youth to sailing and has provided the initial 'spark' for many current and past members of the provincial sailing team.

Our Executive Members



Leigh Campbell - leigh.campbell@usask.ca

Ken Turner - ken.turner@rbc.com

Barry Ziola - barry.ziola@usask.ca

Brian McSheffrey - jbmcsheffrey@shaw.ca

Carol Hogan - thehogans@sasktel.net

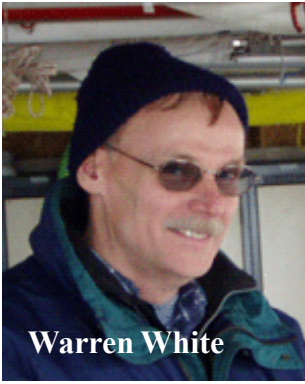
Margo Buckley - margot.buckley@usask.ca

Warren White - whitew@siast.sk.ca

Michele Loewen - michele.loewen@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca



Check out the website at
www.sailblackstrap.ca



Warren White

Harbour Master Notes

BSSC Club Maintenance Needs - Work-bee Weekend April 29-30

Please come prepared to help with one of these tasks:

- Wash windows, in and out
- Wash deck handrail
- Stain picnic tables, one white one dark brown
- Prepare launch area
- Garbage hunt
- Service boat motors
- Install shelf in kitchen cabinet
- Inflate all dolly tires
- Clean club house due to vandalism

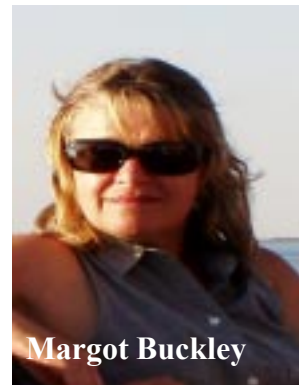
Please bring your own tools and cleaning supplies. Other materials will be supplied.



Thank you for your participation. Come and enjoy the day!

Social Endeavors

Social events start with the work weekend chili dinner – the commodore has been instructed to prepare his special 'Buzzard's Breath' chili from a certain Highland cow ('Heeland coo', steer actually) that met its demise not so long ago, to be served at 5:00 pm. Any contribution to the meal would be welcome by all, I am sure. Continuing on with the Scottish theme, we plan to serve the usual Black Angus steak dinner at the annual Mountain Madness Regatta, as well as breakfast on Sunday morning. Stay tuned for plans for the Cornroast open regatta and the Wrap-up open regatta.



Margot Buckley

The Racing Scene



Michele Loewen

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Racing Survey this spring! Based on responses received we hope to better accommodate the racing preferences of our experts, while at the same time encourage novice sailors to get out and try a race for the first time.

Eb's 2006 Sunset Series. FIRST WARNING GUN 6:30pm May 3rd. Things seem to be thawing out really fast this year, so May 3rd should definitely be a go...although you'll want to wear your warmest wet weather gear for the first few weeks at least! The only significant change for this year is the warning gun time which has been pushed back 30 minutes (to 6:30PM) to accommodate racers/race committee volunteers who have to work a little later, or are driving from further away.

We are still looking for people to help run the Wednesday night races. Racers who volunteer for one evening will receive zero racing points for that evening. For novice racers and friends or parents of racers, helping to run a race is a great way to learn how it all works! Plus, it's always more fun out on the water than watching from on shore. If you are interested in volunteering to help run races one evening, please contact either Ben Pickford or myself.

Finally I want to encourage all sailors (novice, recreational) to come out to the club Wednesday evenings! Rig your boat, put on your life jacket and come for a sail with us as a spectator. Watch and learn techniques from the experts close up! Try a start! Follow the pack up wind! If you already know how to tack and gybe a boat, racing is the best way to improve your skill level!

Mountain Madness Regatta. Scheduled for the first weekend of June, the 3rd and 4th. The Skippers meeting will take place at Noon Saturday with the first race to start thereafter. Sunday racing will start at 10AM. A BBQ meal will be available after racing Saturday and overnight camping is encouraged with breakfast available Sunday morning at the club house. Again we are looking for volunteers to help in committee boats and safety boats, so give me a shout if you are interested or willing.

Thanks to Bill Hogan. Finally I want to thank Bill Hogan for the many long years he has served as race director at BSSC. Over these years, Bill has dedicated his springs, summers and falls to growing the sailboat racing community at BSSC. In stepping away from this position Bill has left behind him a fantastic model for club racing fun, training and competition, which combined with a few pointers here and there, is making my first year as race manager a breeze.

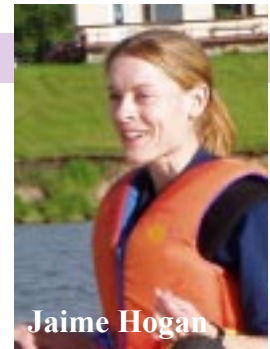
See you all out on the race course!



Blackstrap Sailing School

Blackstrap Sailing Club will be hosting an SSCA Sailing School August 7-11th. Learn to sail or use this opportunity to improve your confidence and skills on the water! All ages are welcome.

The focus of the course based on Canadian Yachting Association standards, will be to spend as much time as possible in the boat, under the guidance of qualified instructors. Safety and self rescuing skills will be important components of the course. A fleet of 420 Sailboats will be utilized. For non-members, a guest membership is included with the \$150 cost of the lessons. For more information contact Jaime at 665-7930



Jaime Hogan

2006 Calendar

BSSC Clubhouse Opening April 29-30 - Get the sailboats and safety boats 'Sail-ready', clean up Buildings and grounds. Special 'Buzzard's Breath' chili from a certain Highland cow ('Heeland coo', steer actually) that met its demise not so long ago, to be served at 5:00 pm.

Eb's Sunset Series of Races May 3 to June 21 - Members tune up your boat handling skills and enjoy the camaraderie every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We plan short and variable courses for all types of sailboats. Volunteers are welcome to help with running these races as well.

Mountain Madness Regatta June 3-4 - Sailors of all classes are welcome. Again we plan to have a good time with a healthy dose of competition. We encourage camping overnight. Plan to stay for the excellent Barbeque Saturday evening. Invite friends and family to join us for the meal and of course to watch sailing and the fireworks too. Breakfast is also available Sunday morning.

Sailing Lessons August 7-11 - Operated by the SSCA by qualified instructors. The number of participants are limited. What better gift than learning to sail. Call Jaime for more information or to book for the school.

The Great CornRoast Regatta August 26-27 - What a wonderful way to end the summer. Whether bracing cold or warm and balmy. Plan to join us for two days of sailing fun. And the corn - so delicious hot Barbequed, buttered smoky corn, who could resist? BYO lunches & fixins.

Blackstrap's Wrap-Up Regatta September 23-24 - Time for one last sail before putting our sailboats to bed for another season, though a few will sail into October weather permitting. BYO food and beverage, the BBQ is always available or if you prefer use the fire pit.