

Issue

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# Sandpoint Sailing

Occasional Newsletter of the Sandpoint Sailing Association

## Letter from the commodore



True, this isn't Sandpoint... But it IS sailing! (In Winter!)

Sailors,

The sailing season is just around the corner, paint brushes flying, sails being washed, hulls being cleaned and when the wind picks up you stop for a moment and look to see where it's coming from and how strong it is. Is there enough time to get it all done? Will the weather help us or will the tarps be tied so we can continue to work? But during the long dark hours of winter the Board has been busy getting ready for the season.

The survey we asked you to fill out has been collected and digested. The summary shows we are on the right track in responding to your requests and concerns. I'm sad to say we will not be getting a "kegarator" in the near future. I do love the attitude though! Thanks for all the responses. If you have anything else you want to bring to us don't be afraid to tell one of your favorite Board members. That does include Ivan. See Mike's summary below.

So we still have a lot of work to do and one project is that the "Holders" are still being worked on. We meet at Ivan's shop by the UPS depot and would love to see your smiling face. Even to just stop by and say, "Hi"! We might put a sander or paint brush in your hand but don't be afraid. You'll look good and everyone will think you are working. (I get away with that every Thursday night myself. Ha-Ha.)

It is good to see longer days which means summer is right around the corner. I look forward to seeing you on the docks and may you have fair winds.

~ George

## Sandpoint Sailing Association Member Survey

In early 2011, the SSA (thanks mostly to Merry Brown-Hayes) sent out a survey/questionnaire to the current and recent past members of our club in an effort to insure that their concerns, suggestions, and approvals be better known by the board of directors. Although this, our first such survey, had a few glitches which we hope to correct in future surveys, it still provided us with much valuable input to help us plan for the future and direct the activities of our club. Thanks to everyone who responded.

The following will summarize what we learned. If anyone is interested in seeing more detail just let someone on the board know and we'll provide that to you.

The next "thank you" needs to go to Bruce Robertson who took the time to study the data, correct some errors, read between the lines and produce a compilation, graphs, and a summary. That summary is further refined below.

The first thing that showed up in the responses was an unmistakable high level of positive energy about our club. The members enjoy being a part of the SSA and think we're on the right track. For instance, three of the top four reasons people gave for belonging to the club were, "Camaraderie", "Friendships Formed" and "Parties". Of the top 5 reasons, racing and cruising were the other two. Now that's a healthy, social bunch of sailors!

Along the same lines, keeping the club going and staying fresh and exciting is important to our members as evidenced by 79% of the respondents saying that attracting new members was either important or very important.

Another very interesting response showed that 74% of boat owners that responded to the survey are willing to give newcomers a ride on their boats for the Thursday races. This could be a powerful tool in recruiting new members which we will pursue this summer.

*"No matter how important a man at sea may consider himself, unless he is fundamentally worthy the sea will someday find him out."*

- Felix Riesenberg

An important question that we wanted to answer was what level of community outreach should we be doing and what methods to use. The robust response and good suggestions have already prompted the board to form a permanent "publicity" committee headed by the Vice-commodore (currently Dan Lawrence). Barb Perusse volunteered to work with Dan on this.

A very encouraging statistic from the survey was the high percentage of respondents willing to help out in many of the club activities with the Thursday races being at the top. We will be contacting some of you to fill in the missing slots in the committee boat assignments! 8^)

Although racing is the most popular reason for being in the club, the survey responses showed a very strong interest in cruising activities as well. This was not a surprise to the board and the calendar currently reflects that reality with five fun cruising events scheduled for the summer. And there are already suggestions to add a few more.

The survey provided many good suggestions (and some humorous ones) for the club to do in the near and more distant future. One of the more intriguing ideas was for the club to establish/sponsor/support a class fleet with a simple, low cost, trailerable day-sailor boat. This could do for many club members what the current J24 fleet does; provide the excitement of one-design racing without the need for a boat slip, large expenditure, winter storage, etc. The board will look into this idea and others like it in the coming months.

Even though this survey is now complete and the Summer's sailing activities are about to begin, please don't hesitate to let any of us know your thoughts on anything related to the SSA. After all, the club belongs to all of us and we can all be proud of what it has become. Let's keep making it better!

See you all on the water (and elsewhere) soon!

~ SSA Board of Directors



Oracle working on their eventual 2<sup>nd</sup> place standing



Larry Ellison's "party boat" in the background



## Board of Directors

George Kiselica	Commodore
Dan Lawrence	Vice Commodore
Bruce Robertson	Rear Commodore
Mike Jewell	Secretary
Trina Lawrence	Treasurer
Al Reuter	Webkeeper
Ivan Rimar	Past Commodore
Keith Sheckler	Director (Education)
Fred Gloor	Director (Spud Cup)
Merry Brown-Hayes	Director (Cruising)



RC-44s in San Diego Bay, March, 2011

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