



Bow Line

Newsletter of the Greenwich Bay Sailing Association

January/February 2007

WWW.GBSA.INFO

Register
online
at
www.gbsa.info

Returning
family
registration:
Feb 1-15

New family
registration:
starts Feb 16

GBSA Board
Meeting
Thursday
February 8
at 7p.m.
EGYC

All are
welcomed and
encouraged to
attend

Welcome to **GBSA 2007**. I hope everyone's holidays were happy and healthy. The new year is off to a great start. A lot of great work is being done by dedicated volunteers, the GBSA staff, the East Greenwich Yacht Club members and staff, and the whole community.

The big news in this issue of the *Bow Line* is our new web site.

We are very excited to be launching <http://www.gbsa.info> on **February 1**. The new site is a great way for the GBSA community to stay connected online. You'll find program information, news, updates, calendars, photos, buy/sell information, race results, and best of all, you can register online.

On behalf of the GBSA board and all of the families, staff, and volunteers, I want to express our sincere gratitude to Christopher Pearson and his staff at ABCLeads.com for creating, designing, writing, and building this new web site.

Those of you who have ever attempted to create a web site know first-hand about the time, complexity, technological and design expertise, and cost involved in creating a great site. If it weren't for Chris and his team, this site would not have been possible.

It is the generosity and dedication of people like Chris that make GBSA such a strong program. Donations like this also make it possible for us to continue to keep our tuitions manageable.

Thanks to everyone who is contributing to our efforts to make GBSA the best sailing program on Narragansett Bay. Much progress has been made, and we still have further to go. So, please join us!

We invite you to come to a board meeting, help with the facilities and boats, make a donation of time, money, or equipment, and definitely come to the gatherings and parties where we celebrate our young sailors and all the good things that come with being part of the GBSA community.

Here's to the best year yet.

Tom

Thomas D'Albora
President, GBSA

A Message from the Program Director

While the recent weather has illustrated why summer is the most popular time of the year for sailing, our coaching team has been planning for the 2007 racing season. I am excited about the enthusiasm from our coaches as we discuss the curriculum, training and racing schedule, and prepare for the upcoming season. The GBSA racing team is aiming to build on last year's tremendous success. Racers should be working on their fitness and seamanship skills during the next five months to begin the season in full swing.

Additionally, the spring season for high schools is near, and our team promises to be well represented on many Rhode Island teams, including Bay View, East Greenwich, Hendriken, Moses Brown, and Rocky Hill. Sailing at the high school level gives sailors the opportunity to accelerate their progress through rigorous practice and competition at multiple sites throughout New England.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the newest addition to our coaching team, Jeffery Knowles. Jeff is currently a freshman at Brown University, and has developed into one of the top freshman sailors at the collegiate level. Jeff also has experience as a competitor and coach in Optimists, 420's and Lasers, and will be able to contribute this array of talents to the GBSA team. During his career at St. Georges, Jeff ranked as one of the top high school sailors in the United States. He led his team to a top ten finish at the National Team Racing Championships and also placed in the top six at the national double-handed championships. Jeff promises to be a great addition to our team and should be a great influence on our students. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Dave

Dave MacMillan,
Program Director

BUY/SELL COLUMN

WANTED TO BUY

New or used Lasers Wanted

Looking to buy or charter a new or used laser. Contact Fred Darlington at Fred_Darlington@raytheon.com

FOR SALE

Used GBSA Opti Hulls

Hulls only are available. Contact Tom D'Albora for more information.
Tom@teamcoconut.us.

List your boat or equipment in the Bow Line.

E-mail your listing to cccooper18@aol.com.

Calling all EGYC Junior Sailing and GBSA Alumni

Are you an EGYC Junior Sailing or GBSA Alumnus? Do you know anyone who is? After all these years, we know that there are hundreds, maybe even thousands of people who have experienced the fun, camaraderie, and great sailing that our program has to offer.

We hope you'll let us know where you are. Get in touch. Forward this *Bow Line* to your fellow alumni. We'd like to get everyone together - maybe a regatta, a dinner, a party, or all of these things.

EGYC and GBSA together form a great community of sailors and supporters who want to give our young sailors all the great things that sailing has given us. And it's a way for all of us to enjoy and improve the sport together.

Contact Tom D'Albora at tom@teamcoconut.us if you would like to get involved with building the GBSA alumni network or better yet....register online at our new website <http://www.gbsa.info> as an Alumni.

How GBSA.info Works

GBSA is proud to announce the launch of a new website and web-based information system that will provide a host of features for registering students and keeping everyone informed. The new site features a calendar of all classes, regattas, and events, and all registered users will receive e-mail notifications for various events and announcements.

Here is an overview of the benefits of registering on <http://www.gbsa.info>:

For Parents

You'll be able to easily register on-line for all programs and sessions. Once you register, the system will generate an invoice, medical and waiver form that you simply mail to GBSA. You will receive a user name and password so you can login and access or edit your information any time. See the simple registration instructions in the "at-a-glance" section to the right.

One of the most important goals of this system is to foster better parent/staff communication by providing a vehicle for quick and appropriate processing of any questions or concerns.

For GBSA Supporters, Friends, Donors, and Alumni

We also have a registration process for those who would like to be a part of the GBSA community. Perhaps you would like to know about upcoming events, volunteer or fund raising opportunities. If you are interested in this please visit <http://www.gbsa.info> and click the "Sign-up" link. Complete the form and indicate you are a "Supporter." You will receive a user name and password for your on-line account. Not to worry! You're not committing to anything, but if you want to get involved, we want to have a way to communicate with you.

For the Staff and Board of GBSA

The new system will help us track how many children are registered for each class on a live basis, so we can plan class sizes and instructor and safety resources accordingly. We can accurately account for your payments and invoices in real time. With your waiver and emergency contact information stored on-line, we can easily access parental contact information in case of emergency.

Most importantly, the new website and information systems will facilitate good two-way communication between parents, instructors, the registrar, volunteers, the staff, and the board.

Get started now at <http://www.gbsa.info>, register for 2007, and give us your feedback on the site at info@gbsa.info.

Online Registration At-a-glance

1. visit www.gbsa.info
2. Click on the "sign-up" link
3. **Register** your children for class and, immediately upon completing that process, you will be sent a user name and password for your on-line account.
4. Your registration will also **generate an invoice, waiver, and medical form** for each child. Print out these forms and mail them in to GBSA with your payment.
5. Receive **e-mail confirmation** from GBSA that your registration and payment have been received.

Important Note:

Your registration(s) is only confirmed upon GBSA receiving your payment and confirming your registration.

Registration period:

Returning GBSA members

February 1-15

New member registration starts

February 16

Questions on the site or how to register: registrar@gbsa.info

Contact GBSA

General program information:

Dave MacMillan
Program Director
884-6280
dmacmillan@rockyhill.org

Patti Whelan
Registrar
884-8399
pattiwhelan@cox.net

Cecilia Cooper
Bow Line info and
announcements
885-2950
cccoper18@aol.com

GBSA Mailing Address
P.O. Box 267
East Greenwich, RI 02818

GBSA Board

President

Thomas J. D'Albora

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Secretary

Debbie McClatchy

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Registrar

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Directors:

Kevin Coughlin
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Notes and News

GBSA "Fun"-raising Event Update

We're still planning a spaghetti dinner "fun"-raising event to take place in the next month or so. We just have to book the date with EGYC and we'll be ready to announce. It will be great to get together with everyone in the off-season and gear up for summer!

Stay tuned for details.

Contact Tom D'Albora or Tracy Boyajian with ideas or if you'd like to get involved. Tom@teamcoconut.us or TBoyajian@abcleads.com.

Registration Information

In the next week, parents of returning students will receive a letter from the Registrar.

The letter will inform you of the recommended class placement of your child for the Summer 2007 season. It will detail registration and payment deadline dates as well as information regarding the new web site, www.gbsa.info.

Please be on the lookout for the letter and if you have any questions, contact registrar Patti Whelan at pattiwhelan@cox.net.

What Do You Know About Fixin' Boats?

If you are knowledgeable about boat maintenance, engine repair, or general boatyard work, we need you.

Even if you aren't an expert at fixin' stuff, we still need you. We'll have the experts give you instructions.

Contact Tom@teamcoconut.us if you can come down and give a hand. Snacks and "refreshments" will be provided. We'll put you on the call/e-mail list for when we need people to help.

Donations

Donations of every size and type are so important and make a big difference. Whether you donate time, money, equipment, or services, you are supporting GBSA in its mission. Thank you!

Here is our current equipment "**wish list.**" Please check your garages and basements to see if you have any of these items.

- Fenders
- Lines - 1/2 inch
- Trailers for 13ft-17ft boats
- Dollies
- Opti sails no longer being used
- Hand-held radios
- Other general boat stuff