



## Commodore's Corner

Cleveland's gray weather begins! But have hope, spring will be just around the corner once the holidays are over. Please keep thinking about sailing over the winter. Don't lose what you have learned by neglect. There are wonderful videos on line about various aspects of sailboat racing. As you need a break, take time to watch, review, and learn. Perhaps make a suggestion that a good gift for you would be a book on sailboat racing.

Another good way to stay in touch with sailing over the winter is to get together with your crew for dinner. A big part of sailing is the camaraderie and remembrance of fun times. Don't forget to include your boat owner and coach. Talk to the best crew on your boat to see how they keep dialed in over the gray months.

## Changes to the By-Laws

If you are a 2009 NCWSA member, you have already received a separate email regarding the Board recommendations for changes to the By-Laws of our organization. To summarize, there are two major

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## NCWSA HOLIDAY PARTY and Appetizer/Dessert Contest!



Come join NCWSA on December 1, 2009 at 7:30 pm for our holiday party! NCWSA and EYC members are invited.

NCWSA members, please bring a dessert or appetizer to share. If your dish is homemade, it will be entered in our contest. EYC's Robert Rocawich will put his taste buds to the test and judge the winning dish.

The winner will take home a bottle of wine and, of course, bragging rights. There's one catch. The winner must relinquish her recipe to be published in the February *Racer*. So no secret sauces!



NCWSA will provide beer, wine and some appetizers from the club. All you need to do is provide your favorite dish and holiday spirit. Please come. It's a great way to stay connected during the off-season.

*Karen Lunka and Joani Huber  
Social Chairs*

## NCWSA Meetings

7:30 First Tuesday of the Month

DECEMBER 1, 2008

Membership Voting:

*By-Laws and NCWSA Board*

Holiday Party

Appetizer/Dessert Contest!

JANUARY

NO MEETING – Club Closed

2010  
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2, 2009

MARCH 2, 2009

## 2010 NCWSA Board

### 2010 Board Nominations:

Most of the board has agreed to stay on for the 2010 season, but some could not. The bios for the nominees for the vacant positions can be found on page 4.

We will vote on the 2010 Board at the December 1 meeting (along with the By-Law)

If you can not attend the meeting, please use the absentee ballot (sent only to 2009 NCWSA members as a separate attachment with this newsletter).



## NCWSA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

NCWSA IS AGAIN HAVING A FOOD DRIVE during our holiday party.

**Bring a bag with at least 8 items, and receive a FREE drink ticket for the bar!**

THE "SUPER SIX" MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

**Boxed Cereal • Peanut Butter • Canned Tuna • Canned Vegetables • Canned Beef Stew • Canned Soup**

*Also needed is baby food and formula, all beans, pastas, rice, pasta sauces, canned hams, jams, etc.*

PLEASE be sure sure that the food items are NOT expired—the centers have to throw those out...

If you can't bring anything, consider volunteering at the Cleveland Foodbank (see below ), or making a monetary contribution directly to the Foodbank or other hunger center.

According to the Cleveland Foodbank, for every \$1 donated, the Foodbank is able to distribute enough food to prepare four nutritious meals for the hungry in the Cleveland area.



## Volunteer with the Ensign Fleet - December 9th!



What to do on Wednesdays in the off-season? How about joining the EYC Ensign Fleet once a month and volunteer at the Cleveland Foodbank?

From November through April, we will be working the 2nd

Wednesday of each month, from 6:00-8:00 pm. I continue to find this a very worthwhile service to



the community, and it's a good excuse to get together with sailing friends in the winter.

Members of NCWSA are invited to join us. If you have questions about the foodbank,

and the work they do, check out their site at [www.clevelandfoodbank.org](http://www.clevelandfoodbank.org)

**Would you like to be on the email reminder list each month?**

If you would like to be included, please send an email to [kj@kslarch.com](mailto:kj@kslarch.com) and we will add you to the list.

This does not commit you to work at all (or any) of the sessions, but just includes you in the reminder email. We do need to know how many to expect for each work session, though, so be sure to confirm!

Our next session for this winter will be December 9, and we will continue on the second Wednesday of every month, from 6:00-8:00 pm.

*Pat Metzler  
- NCWSA Secretary*

changes to be aware of, plus several minor ones.

The first is that much of the text of the current By-Laws has been removed to a separate document called the *Procedures Document*. This is primarily the sections regarding duties of the officers. This was done to make our By-Laws more in line with standards, and easier to make changes as needed. The By-Laws require a vote of the whole membership, while the Procedures require only a super-majority vote of the Board.

This is important because some things just change with new technology. For instance, the Secretary was charged with maintaining mailing labels for the group. We no longer do that since nearly all of us receive our Racer via email. It seems silly to have a vote on a change like that.

The second major change is that the setting of the dues is removed to the Procedures Document.

That means the Board can change your dues without your vote. The Board suggests this because we are anticipating that the Edgewater YC Fleet Captain will raise

our fee for sailing to be more in line with other fleets. That would probably be an additional \$500 per year. In addition, the club does not currently charge us for setup and take-down costs for our meetings. This could change as well. As was announced at the last meeting, we will have an additional bartender next year for our race nights. That will very likely be charged to us. As we set our budget over the winter, the Board will watch the dollars closely and keep the dues as low as possible.

One of the minor changes is to change the dollar amount needed to bring a budget change to a membership vote. The original amount was \$300; the new amount is \$500 before a membership vote is required. Another is to add a statement about how to deal with conflicts of interest. Most of the others are changes to make the language more clear.

Please read these documents carefully, talk to a Board member if you have questions and PLEASE VOTE!

- Sherrie Desmond,  
NCWSA Commodore



## Membership Forms Are Under Construction



We are currently in the process of updating and improving our membership and seasonal forms.

We expect to have new forms posted to the NCWSA web site in January, 2010.

Kathy Jankowski  
NCWSA Membership Chair

## EYC APPRECIATION

THANK YOU all for your contributions to Edgewater YC that you made in the spring with your dues! We collected \$1350 to give to the club.

The Board thought that our contribution should go to something special that would help racers as often as possible. After discussion with the EYC Commodore, we settled on buying a (very) big-screen TV that will hook up to the computer. Now, on race days, the screen, located in the Main Room, will have the radar showing. It will also be used for presentations and videos on sailing, and be available to all for meetings and background for events.

The TV was presented to the club members as a surprise at the Sailing Awards night on November 14. Over 200 members and their crew were present. A plaque will be added with our organization's name shortly.

THANKS AGAIN

## NCWSA 2010 Board Nominees Biographies

Get to know the nominees  
before voting on December 1

We will be voting for the 2010 Board at the December 1 General Membership meeting. If you are unable to attend, please fill out an Absentee Ballot, and email it, or regular mail, or drop it off at the club so that it arrives by December 1, 2010.

### VICE COMMODORE — Merideth Dresher

I pretty much have been sailing since before I was born. (Mom was pregnant with me on a trip over to Rondo and I got her seasick. Oops!) However, I didn't start racing until about eight years ago. I started out trimming the spinnaker, and gradually learned the foredeck, which is now the position I now fill most of the time.

I really love sailing, and racing is a huge passion of mine. Wanting to learn more and expand my racing experience, I started sailing with NCWSA this past year as a co-skipper of *Play It Again, Sam!* I've also started Frostbiting this past fall. I've really enjoyed being a part of NCWSA and wanted to become more involved. I feel a great way to do this is as Vice-Commodore. I feel I would bring a fresh perspective to this position. I have some new ideas for things like merchandise and the regatta that I would love to make happen. I'm incredibly excited for the coming year.

### SECRETARY — Nancy Conrad

"Better late than never" is my motto for experiencing sailing. I picked up an interest in sailing six years ago. Although I was attracted to sailing twenty years ago, I never had the time to pursue my interest. In 2004, I joined NCWSA, which has been an invaluable learning experience plus loads of fun. Apart from NCWSA, I crew on a T-Ten in Fleet 19's Sunday series. I also volunteer through the Cleveland Sight Center taking visually impaired people sailing.

Helping with Membership the last couple of years has allowed me to welcome many of you to our organization.

### SOCIAL CO-CHAIR — Bev Keeler

I would like to be considered for the Social Co-chairman position for NCWSA. I have been involved in organizing several events for EYC and the J22 fleet. My experience with NCWSA and EYC will assist me in being an effective Social Co-Chair.

I have been racing sailboats for the last 15 years. I have competed at the club, local, national, and international levels. My experience includes racing in mixed fleets, as well as women's sailing and women's match racing.

### SOCIAL CO-CHAIR — Melanie Whiting

I just wanted to throw my name out there for the social co-chair position for NCWSA.

I'm very much a planner, liking to be organized and plan events in advance, and I am very detail-oriented. I love to plan parties, and fun social events, and I have experience in helping with weddings, showers, and events at the school I work at, where I am on the Social Committee. I have a lot of ideas, but I would also love to hear ideas and suggestions from the other members of NCWSA.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS CO-CHAIR — Liz Wilber

North Coast Women's Sailing Association has made me proud to say I sail like a girl.

I grew up around sailing and would occasionally tag along with my dad as crew. I always loved the excitement of a race's start and the thrill of a close finish. Unfortunately, I knew very little about what happened in between. However, I always knew I wanted to learn everything I could about the sport. It wasn't until I became a member of NCWSA that every element of racing came together.

The acceptance and enthusiasm of everyone involved with NCWSA has allowed me to ask questions, and to make mistakes on and off the race course. The attitude and mission of NCWSA has inspired me to get more involved with sailing. I understand just how important it is for people to donate their time to make NCWSA as wonderful as it is. I would truly enjoy being able to help promote and support NCWSA by being Public Relations Chair.

In addition to my passion for sailing, I have extensive knowledge of marketing and public relations strategies. After graduating from Kent State with a Liberal Arts Degree, I worked for an advertising agency for a year. Currently I am working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to promote programs and events. I also am earning another degree in Graphic Design. I believe my knowledge and passion for will be an asset to promote and encourage women to get involved with NCWSA.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

# Photos from the November Meeting Awards Night



North Coast Women's Sailing Association  
P.O. Box 771502  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
RACER

DECEMBER 2009



# NCWSA **RACER** *Sail Like a Girl*

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## NCWSA BOARD 2009

Commodore	<i>Sherrie Desmond</i>	Public Relations Co-Chair	<i>Melissa Scott</i>
Vice-Commodore	<i>Bobbie Sundman</i>	Public Relations Co-Chair	<i>Carolyn Kovach</i>
Secretary	<i>Pat Metzler</i>	Social Co-Chair	<i>Karen Lunka</i>
Treasurer	<i>Pat Mahoney</i>	Social Co-Chair	<i>Joani Huber</i>
Race Chair	<i>Suzie Florence</i>	Membership Chair	<i>Kathy Jankowski</i>
Race Co-Chair	<i>CC Skoch</i>	Member-at-Large	<i>Katherine Schiele</i>
Education Chair	<i>Cathy Newpher</i>	Website/Newsletter Chair	<i>Cheri Morabito</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Marianne Eggett</i>		

## NCWSA Mission Statement

~ to encourage women to become more actively involved in sailboat racing through regattas and clinics, and to create a spirit of good fellowship among members.