



THE CURRENT

RIVERTON YACHT CLUB
MARCH 2018

Phone at the Pier (856) 829-9894

RivertonYachtClub.org



Into the Mystic: Sunset over the Delaware
Photo by Byron Campbell

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH	24	First Work Party and General Meeting
APRIL	11	Racing Seminar, (topic TBD)
	14	Opening Day, 4:00pm
	18	Racing Seminar, (topic TBD)
	25	Wednesday Night racing begins
MAY	5	RC Pool Penguin Intergalactic Regatta
	5	Kentucky Derby Pot Luck dinner
	12	Rex Showell Pursuit Race and J-22 run dinner
	19	RSLF Festival, 11:00am – 3:00pm
	27	Covered dish get-together

**Join us for the 1st Work Party on
Saturday March 24th!**

**Save the date: The Riverton Steamboat
Landing Foundation's "Day of
Discovery" is May 19th, 11:00am to
3:00pm.**

**Remember: Membership dues
should be submitted by March 31.**

Commodore's Corner

A Sailor Surveys the Land for Teltales of Spring and Maybe Sailing

By Kent Steinriede

The land provides plenty of telltales to help you navigate while sailing. A flag indicates the wind direction; a steeple or water tower can help you determine your location and speed if you're dead reckoning.

Even though the newscasters keep telling us about our weekly nor'easter, the land is showing some signs of spring, and sailing, to come. Recently I've seen crocuses poking out of the snow and new birds pecking at the birdfeeders in our garden. But still, that's not enough. I grew up in Southern California, and for me March 1 has always signaled the beginning of spring. I still have a hard time waiting the whole month of March and sometimes into April for spring to arrive and the sun to shine in earnest in the Mid-Atlantic region. Eventually, however, spring arrives and we're setting up the club and finally putting the boats in the water. It happens every year. You just need to be patient, like when you're waiting in silence for the wind to pick up so that you can finish that last leg of a race.

Another telltale of spring is written on my kitchen calendar: *March 24, Work Party, 9 am*. If it's not on your kitchen calendar, or in your phone, please add it. Last year we had such a good turnout of enthusiastic workers with a wide variety of skills at our work parties that we're trying to get the club set up with just one work party this year. If you haven't been to a work party before, please come. Setting up the club is not all heavy lifting. There are windows to clean, floors to sweep and boats and trailers to transport. Bring gloves and wear boots. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate, and we'll be able to finish in one day.

See Commodore on page 2.

Star Wars

By R. Headley
Staff Reporter

Star class sailboats had been competing at Riverton for years when the movie, *Star Wars*, hit theaters in 1977.

But in 1966 Jim Greenfield, a young Luke Skywalker-like sailor won a Star battle in a rather significant regatta that was worthy of the inspirational moments in George Lucas' classic film.

Jim started sailing at 12 years old, like a young Jedi. Later, as a 27-year-old skipper and former Moth class champion, Jim was working as a boat builder for Fletcher Marine when he drove over to the Lippincott Boat Works from a nearby galaxy called Cooper River Yacht Club and bought one of the last wooden Star boats, hull number 5110, unfinished, from Bob Lippincott.

"It had no deck or keel," he said. "I took it home and bought four sheets of 4-by-12-foot mahogany plywood for the deck. It was easier to install than using four inch wide strips of white cedar and less chance of checking. However, it made the boat a little heavier than the other boats with cedar."

After he finished the deck and fiber glassed the shear line, he took the boat back to the Boat Works and they installed the keel. Jim received his boat just two days before the 18th annual New Jersey Governor's Cup regatta at Riverton. He was almost set for the regatta, but he had one major problem. He had no sails for his new boat.

So Jim talked to Bob Lippincott and in an 'Obi-Wan Kenobi "light saber" moment Bob Lippincott loaned him his sails. Bob's sails had a gold star on the mainsail for winning the World's Star boat regatta in 1950. "The other skippers wondered who I was when they saw the gold star," said Jimmy.

On Saturday, in his new Star, he finished first and second with his slightly heavier Star boat against the newer fiberglass Stars. On Sunday,

coming off the start gun, heading for the A mark, he fell behind, but eventually worked his way through the fleet and finished 1st. He managed to edge out Stan Lippincott for top honors and win the Star boat class in his first outing. Jim also won the Governor's Cup and beat the defending champion, Ed Walsh, of the Red Dragon Canoe Club, in his Thistle.

Thanks to Bob Lippincott, Jim took those borrowed sails and navigated through the field of Star boats and won. With no sails he had nothing but a dead Star. So Jim's first time out in his new Star he won the boat battles and Governor's Cup at Riverton Yacht Club in 1966. It's a timeless tale: A young skipper comes from another place, gets help from a master boat builder and sailor, and wins the battle. Unfortunately, there was no Princess Leia to greet Jim with the trophy.

But nowadays on Wednesday nights, Jim Greenfield is RYC's Principal Race Officer, with Victor Oberg assisting him.

Commodore's Corner (Continued from page 1)

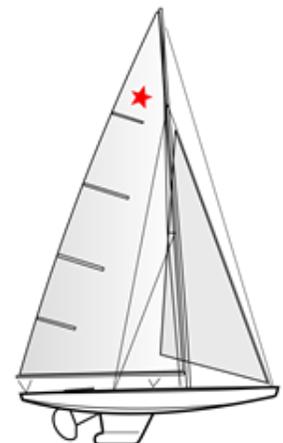
Once the club is set up after the work party, you can bring your boat to the pier. As usual, space will be tight. All fleets will have new boats on the pier. If you haven't done so yet, please send in your membership renewal and boat storage agreement. If you have any boat storage or mooring questions, please contact our Dock Master, Greg Maute.

Finally, please welcome Laura Major as the new editor of *The Current*. For the past few years Laura has been contributing photos and items to the newsletter, has been the club's MAYRA representative, and been involved in the club's youth sailing program. Laura's 11-year-old daughter, Lily, has been sailing at the club since she was 7 years old.

If you have any news, story ideas or photos to share, please send them to Laura at rycnewsletter@gmail.com



The Man Behind the Mic: Race officer Jim Greenfield and Victor Oberg observing a Wednesday night race.



Riverton Steamboat Landing News

Most of you know your RYC Board and the RSLF Board have split most of the cost of a permanent interpretive marker on Bank Avenue at the foot of Penn Street, where the photographer stood in about 1905 to take the iconic photo of the pier, clubhouse, and steamboat. Well, it's in the ground, come down and have a look! This is the second in an initiative by the Historical Society of Riverton that hopes to have ten markers in place in the next year. Special thanks to Barbara Lippincott Martin (Barb Smyth's mom) for loaning her original print of the steamboat, Becky Ratcliff for the great spinnakers photo and Riverton historian Paul W. Schopp for the use of his ca. 1880 woodcut of the pier from the river.

One final touch still awaits, we want to add brass footprints and a plaque in the ground that says "Where the Photographer Stood" so people will understand why the marker is where it is.



Interpretive Marker (photos by Rodger Prichard): Bank Avenue and Penn Street marker has been installed, come down and take a



Taking a Beating: January 21st, 2018 RSL gets pounded by tons of ice.

AmazonSmile Foundation Donation Disbursement to RSLF

Drip by drip we're making it to our fundraising goal. So far we received over \$100 in Amazon Smile donations. Thank you to all who use SmileAmazon and earmark their donation to the RSLF.



In case you didn't know, AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Please visit smile.amazon.com if you would like to contribute to this simple program. All you have to do is choose Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation as your charity. Every little bit helps!

Sail Philadelphia Festival, May24-28

Looking for something fun to do with the entire family?

Spend your Memorial Day Weekend in Philadelphia for five days of waterfront festivities, ship tours, and sailing excursions on the Delaware River as tall ships from U.S. and international ports dock at Independence Seaport Museum and Penn's Landing.

Head down to the Penn's Landing Marina, where you can experience these ships up-close, enjoy interactive programming, family-friendly experiences, and food and beverage offerings. Festival admission includes complimentary access to Independence Seaport Museum on same day. For more information, go to <http://sailphiladelphia.org>.

Schedule of events

Thursday, May 24: Afternoon (times TBD) – Parade of Sail: Tall ships arrive into port

Friday, May 25 — Monday, May 28:

11 am — 7 pm – Waterfront Festival

Noon — 7 pm – Ship Tours

Day & Twilight – Sail Aways on the Delaware River



2017 festival attendees enjoy a beautiful day by the river.



MAYRA 2018 SUMMER SCHEDULE

Thursday Junior Series

June 28 GWYC/YCSIC
 July 5 YCSH
 July 12 BYC
 July 19 AYC
 July 26 OCYC
 August 2 CYCCM
 August 9 CRYC

* Midget Qualifier
 ** Bemis & Smythe Qualifier

Weekend Regattas

July 14-15 OCYC
 (Lightning Championship)
 July 22 CRYC
 (Sunfish Championship)
 Aug 11 CYCCM
 (Laser Championship)
 Aug 18 AYC
 (Flying Scot Championship)
 *** Sears Cup Qualifier

Offshore MAYRA Regattas

July 15-16 Leukemia Cup
 July 29 Avalon Cup
 August 4-5 Cape-to-Cape Challenge

Classifieds: For Sale:

Trailer wheel, never used; \$20
 Size/model: ST175/80D13
 Contact Kent Steinriede, if interested.



If you have any sailing-related items to sell, please send a photo and write up to editor Laura Major.

The Current is edited by Laura Major.
 R. Headley is staff reporter.

Commodore's Banquet Award Winners



Lightning Champions: Hugh Hutchison and Cecile Steinriede with Bill Mills and Bruce Nicholson



Mariner Champions Harry Mayer with Bruce Nicholson and Bill Mills

PHRF A Champions: Glenn and Barb Smyth and the crew of *Shadowfax*



J22 Champions Pat Curran (right) with Crew Dan Rau and Bruce Nicholson



PHRF B Champions: Kerry Brandt and crew of *Dr Pepper*.



Nominees of the Upside Down Trophy with Commodore Bruce Nicholson on the far left. L-R: Chris O'Brien, Pierce Lilholt, Jim Irwin, Roy Vollmer and Keith Fencil.



Bruce Nicholson, Bill Mills and Flying Scot champion Mark Johnson.

Club News

Welcome New RYC Members

Natasha Mitchell from Philadelphia is the proud, new owner of a Flying Scot and will be racing with the fleet.

L. Arthur Littleton from Skillman, NJ will be sailing his Flying Scot.

New Sail Camp Director

Please join us in welcoming Aaron Haegle as the new Sail Camp Director. Aaron has been sailing at RYC for 17 years. He began in sail camp at age 5, when John Frazier was the Director. Aaron was quite timid about being out on such a small boat on such a large river. But John was determined to teach Aaron to sail. Soon he was racing Optis and Lasers (not to mention using his dad as ballast because he was only 70 lbs.) and having a blast! He knew at 14 years old he would most certainly become a CIT with hopes of becoming an instructor. At 16, Aaron became an Instructor Certified by U.S. Sailing and began teaching at RYC. Aaron felt that teaching sail camp was the best summer job he could ever have. At 18, he took on the role of lead instructor for the adult sailing program. Also, he decided that he would no longer just crew on Wednesday nights, but indeed would purchase his own Flying Scot and become active in the Scot Fleet. Since then, he has enjoyed his involvement at RYC from teaching kids to adults, being part of a great group of sailors in the Flying Scot Fleet, and being part of a wonderful sailing community. Aaron is looking forward to taking on the new role as Sailing Director this summer!



2018 RYC Flag Officers and Directors

Commodore	Kent Steinriede
Vice Commodore	Mark Johnson
Rear Commodore	Bruce Nicholson
Secretary	Mary Keppel
Treasurer	Uwe Mewes

Board of Directors

Dan Curran	Greg Maute
Bill Mills	Chris O'Brien
Devon Rau	Glenn Smyth, Jr

The race team is excited to have seasoned sailor Sam Croft as their new sailing coach! Best wishes on a great season, we're lucky to have you.



Congratulations 2017 Fleet Champions:

- PHRF "A": Glenn Smyth
- PHRF "B": Kerry Brandt
- J22s: Patrick Curran
- Lightnings: Hugh Hutchison
- Flying Scots: Mark Johnson
- Mariners: Harry Mayer



2018 RYC Calendar of Events

All events and dates are subject to change.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: April 25 thru August 29. All fleets racing.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS: April 29 thru October 21; Mariner fleet racing.

MARCH

24 First Work Party and General Meeting

APRIL

7 Second Work Party, (check with Greg M. after the 1st work party, this one may not be needed).

11 Seminar, (topic to be determined)

14 Opening Day, 4:00pm

18 Seminar, (topic t.b.d.)

25 Wednesday Night racing begins

MAY

5 RC Pool Penguin Intergalactic Regatta on the pier, followed by...

5 Kentucky Derby Pot Luck dinner

12 Rex Showell Pursuit Race and J-22 run dinner

19 RSLF Festival, 11:00am – 3:00pm

27 Covered dish get-together

JUNE

16/17 NJ Governor's Cup Regatta (all fleets host); party June 16th.

19 **Adult** Sail Camp begins (June 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, & 28.)

22 **Junior** Sail Camp Session 1 begins (ends 7/6)

25 Monday Night Laser & Opti Races Begin

30 Fourth of July Cocktail Party, (Riverton 4th of July Committee event)

JULY

1 Club 420 Round Robin

1 Covered dish get-together

4 4th of July Raft Race

9 Junior Sail Camp Session 2 begins (ends 7/20)

10 **Adult** Sail Camp begins (July 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, & 26.)

23 **Junior** Sail Camp Session 3 begins (ends 8/3)

28 7th Annual Pursuit Race and BBQ – Autism fundraiser, (Mariners host)

AUGUST

6 **Junior** Sail Camp Session 4 begins (ends 8/17)

11 Single handed race

12 Club 420 Round Robin

20 Final Monday Night Racing

29 Final Wednesday Night Racing and General Meeting.

SEPTEMBER

2 Covered dish get-together

8 Themed Party with band

9 Fall Series Laser, Sunfish, Opti (4 Sunday's thru Sept 30th).

22 Overnight Pursuit Race

OCTOBER

6 Pursuit Race and Oktoberfest (Flying Scot's host)

14 Mariners host The David Reily Memorial Regatta

21 Final Sunday Mariner Races

27 Fall Work Party, followed by general meeting (& election of officers)

NOVEMBER

17 Commodore's Banquet

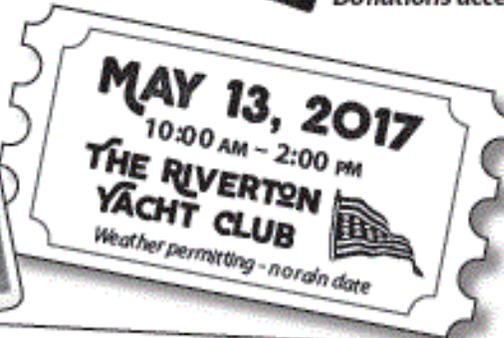


The Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation presents

COME, SEE
and LEARN!

A TIME OF DISCOVERY FESTIVAL

Admission
is free!
Donations accepted



FUN INCLUDES

- Live music including our local talent *Danovan Moore & Helen Mack*
- The Philadelphia Seaport Museum's *Whaleboat*
- Tours of the Pier and Clubhouse, a Historic Treasure
- Learn of Riverton's Origins & Steamships
- RYC's Sail Camp and Ships Store
- Riverton Historical Society
- Hands On Fun for the Young and Young at Heart
- Art • Crafts • Food!

AND
MORE!



Visit us at

www.RivertonSteamboatLandingFoundation.org Facebook: Riverton Steamboat Landing Foundation