



Jibs and Jibes

Official Newsletter of the Webster Sailing Association

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2005 Season

The older I get the faster the seasons seem to pass. It seems like yesterday, I was launching my boat with expectations of a great season. Well, the weather didn't seem to cooperate this past summer. A lot of light air days on the weekends and terrible weather in October. You always feel a little cheated when you cannot sail as much as you would like. As you can see from the picture above, my new Mariner is stored under covers for the winter. I look at it out my kitchen window and think about all the sailing I want to do this coming season.

Overall, activity at the WSA seemed low this past summer. I'm not sure if it was the weather or people were just too busy with other activities. Participation in racing seemed to be at the same level as previous years, although we had to cancel two races due to lack of interest.

Scheduled events were lightly attended with the exception of the Point Breeze Regatta and our work parties. Hopefully, we can encourage some of you to become more active during the coming season.

On a positive note, all boats were removed from the facilities by the deadline of November 30th. Good job everyone.

A Sad Farewell

Our long time secretary, Alis Nims passed away this December. She was 95. I first met Alis back in 1978 and a strong friendship developed. While Alis was tough about enforcing the rules and regulations of the club, I knew her as the heart and sole of the organization. She will be missed. A memorial service is planned in the spring.

The following is a tribute written by long time member and past treasurer, Bill Boyd.

IN MEMORIUM ALIS NIMS 1910-2005

The first time I saw this lady, the year was 1948, and the place was at Sea Scout Point (on Webster Lake). The Sea Scouts were supervising W.S.A. sailboat races on a Sunday afternoon, up in the tower of their club house. I could see the top of a white-haired lady. I asked the person I was with who that was, and the answer was that is our secretary, Alis Nims. She records all the race results.

Sea Scout Point was sold shortly after, but the Putnam family stepped up and offered to run W.S.A.'s races from their boat house on Wawela Point. John and Charles Putnam supervised the races while Alis once again did all the recording of the races.

Time moved on and Alis continued to record race results through the years. We finally grew to a point where everyone in the W.S.A. said it was time to obtain our own property. We then obtained two parcels of land in Winter Cove from George Hall, and sold shares to pay for it. Alis continued to be our secretary, but once we obtained a committee boat her response was, "I do not get into any type of boat or I will have motion sickness." From then on, our Race Committee recorded the races and Alis received the results from them.

When Alis' husband Phil Nims passed on in 1983, she took a year sabbatical, but the following year, she was back as our secretary. This was her 47th year as secretary of the W.S.A. ! In 1989, in recognition of her 50 years of service to our club and by vote the Executive Committee and general membership, the hall at the Anchorage was named "The Alis M. Nims Recreational Hall" in her honor.

The years passed but Alis kept going as secretary, keeping excellent records of our races and a multitude of membership types. She was a one of a kind person giving her best for a total of 60 years of service to W.S.A. by my count. Thank you, Alis, from a grateful Sailing Association.

Bill Boyd
November 2005

Lottery

Last season, the W.S.A. decided to offer a parking slip on the dock on the far right (facing lake) to a lucky member for year. It was done through a lottery with chances costing \$25.00. Norm Cloutier was last year's winner. The Executive Committee decided we could offer two slips this year utilizing both sides of the dock. On your renewal form, there is a section for buying chances for the 2006 season. Cost is still \$25.00 per chance. The drawing will be held at this years opening work party, April 22nd.

Work Parties

Three work parties have been scheduled this spring...April 8th and April 15th to build two new docks and April 22nd for the opening work party. We would like to see as many people as possible at each work party to make fast work of the tasks needing to be done. Bring tools for the dock building work parties

Dues

As it is each year your dues must be paid by March 1, 2006. The W.S.A. needs the money at this time to cover early expenses. In the past, the Association has been lenient with those who paid late, but this year a fine will be assessed for late payment. In addition, those paying later than 30 days will have to reapply for membership. I know this seems harsh, but in fairness to those who pay on time, we must enforce the rules.

Note: Make sure you include proof of insurance with your application.

Storage

Some of us (including me) have been storing our outboard motors that have internal fuel tanks, in the storage shed. This is a serious fire hazard which could lead to a disaster. Also, some batteries have been stored in there which could explode if accidentally shorted out. The W.S.A. will no longer allow the storage of personal outboard motors or batteries in the storage shed attached to the main building. If you have equipment in there, please remove it.

Also, the gas bin is filled to the top with gas tanks...some of which I'm sure belong to inactive members or are no longer being used. We will be removing all the containers from the bin at this years work party. If you have one you want back in the bin, make sure your name is on it. All unclaimed containers will be discarded.

Spring Banquet

This year's Spring Banquet and Business Meeting will be held May 6th at the Point Breeze Restaurant. In addition to a great meal and socializing with fellow members, we will be discussing by-law changes and talk about ordering some WSA t-shirts. I encourage everyone to come and help us get the new season started. Enclosed is the reservation form along with this season's schedule. Make sure you mark your calendar for any events you want to participate in this season.

Fleet News

Many of you may not be aware, but the W.S.A is host to two fleets...Day Sailer Fleet 49 which is affiliated with the Day Sailer Association <http://www.daysailer.org> and the Mariner Fleet which is affiliated with the U.S. Mariner Class Association <http://www.usmariner.org>. Fleets not only promote racing, but offer owners a chance to get information on how to repair and improve their boats. They work closely with the manufacturer to insure the availability of quality boats and parts. As a member of a fleet, you are part of a community that shares a common interest.

Starting Line

I know a lot of you would like to improve your sailing skills, but are reluctant to do the one thing that can help you the most...race. Nothing is a better teacher than matching your skills with other boats. Some of you may have tried it and decided you didn't like it or you felt you would be in the way, or any number of other excuses. But you have to try it a few times, in different conditions to get a real feel for it. We are not serious racers and are always glad to see new faces out there. Help is always available and you can always crew for experienced skippers if your not comfortable racing your own boat.

For Sale

This is a new section for those of you who would like to sell a sailboat or other boating items. The next issue of the Jibs & Jibes comes out July 14th, 2006, so get your ad in at least a week in advance.

1982 Spindrift Daysailer I

Excellent condition with 2 mainsails and 1 jib. Hinged mast, Harken deck mounted jib leads, new vang, hiking straps, new combing and custom shelves. Tailor Sailor boom tent cover. Drydock galvanized tilt trailer with 12 inch wheels. 1998 Nissan 3.5 hp outboard motor. Contact Roger Livingston days (978)287-6256, evenings (508)852-3363 or email me at rlivingston@tccsecure.com. **\$3200.00**

