



# Jibs and Jibes

Official Newsletter of the Webster Sailing Association

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## Notices To Mariners

### First race of the season

Racing season starts on Sunday, June 3 at 2 pm. The docks will be busy that day.

### Bucket of wind

Our weather station is now operating, and can be seen just inside the door. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH ANY OF THE BUTTONS ON IT.

### Bucket of worms

A new worm box, soon to be teeming with nightcrawlers, is located at the far end of the wall. Happy fishing!

### Bucket of light

A new solar light now illuminates the sign at the gate.

### Bucket and mop

A new dark blue rug was professionally installed this week, and looks tremendous. Let's all try to keep it clean.

## Membership

### New Members

We have six members who have joined WSA in the past year. *Jibs and Jibes* would like to welcome:

Kristopher Daly	Worcester, MA
Grant Cary	Shrewsbury, MA
Bob and Leslie Vigneau	Millbury, MA
Russ Garre	Auburn, MA
Steve Teasdale	Worcester, MA
Brian Woodward	Holden, MA

## Articles

### Sailing by Super Moonlight

Sailors have always delighted in sailing by the guidance of moonlight and stars. WSA schedules four full-moon sailing nights—to coincide with the full moons of June through September. I've never been available for any of these sailing nights but I imagine they must be beautiful.

On Saturday May 5 our world was treated to a special event when the moon in its orbit passed about 25,000 miles closer to the earth than when it is at its farthest. It appeared larger and brighter. The term "supermoon" was coined by Richard Nolle, an astrologer, in 1979. Its especially large appearance occurs when the moment of perigee--when the moon is closest to the Earth in its monthly revolution--coincides with the appearance of a full moon. The May

supermoon is the brightest of the year. Perhaps some of our members had the opportunity for a night sail on Saturday and experienced this spectacular moon.

## Editor's Perspective

### Sailing—what's in a Word?

Merriam-Webster defines the noun “sailing” with two initial phrases: 1) The technical skill of managing a ship in the sense of navigation; and 2) The method of determining the course to be followed to reach a given point. WSA members are always in tune with this second definition because reading the wind becomes important in course determination to reach a specific destination.

The first definition came to mind very recently when I saw the magnificent Broadway show "Titanic" at the Cocoa Village Playhouse here in Florida. The word “sailing” was mentioned over and over again in discussions on the bridge and at the helm although no sails were involved. It almost seemed unreal that one of the deadliest peacetime maritime disasters in history—with more than 1500 passengers, crew, and staff dying—could be put into a musical complete with incredibly beautiful costumes and scenery and, of course, wonderful voices. There were political agendas and prestige involved concerning the time it would take the Titanic to cross that great ocean to our east. Speed, icebergs, mechanical problems, and obstacles of weather were the potential perils to be faced. However, the belief that this incredibly modern and well-equipped vessel could manage any obstacle was its very undoing and led to its tragic fate.

Errors in judgment are the shortcomings we all face when we bravely deny our vulnerability. There are lessons to be learned. Whether sailing in boats/ships with sails or without sails the prudent skipper should always be aware of the dangers involved and take the needed precautions to avoid the worst possible outcomes. As has been said before, so often only a narrow thread lies between the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat".

A happy 2012 sailing season to all.

## Photos



courtesy of Susan Colby



courtesy of Susan Colby



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