

The object of the Sandusky Sailing Club shall be the promotion and encouragement of sailing and seamanship, and of a sportsmanlike attitude toward racing and competition. The Club is organized to encourage small boat sailing and racing among those who may not be able to afford large annual dues and assessments.



PO BOX 814
SANDUSKY, OHIO 44871-0814
www.sanduskysailingclub.com
Battery Park, Sandusky, Ohio 44871

March 2026 Cross Bearings

03/01 Sun	Membership payments due	
03/03 Tues	SJSI meeting.....	7:00pm
03/04 Wed	SJRT meeting.....	8:00am
03/06 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
03/09 Mon	Sadler Basin Committee mtg.....	7:00pm
03/10 Tues	SSC Board meeting	7:00pm
03/11 Wed	Cruising Fleet meeting	7:00pm
03/13 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
03/20 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
03/20 Fri	Singlehanded sailing presentation by world-renowned Russ Krock. SSC Singlehanded Spring meeting to follow	
03/27 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
03/28 Sat	Club rental - Kim Thomas.....	noon-6:00pm
04/01 Wed	SJRT meeting	8:00am
04/03 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
04/07 Tues	SJSI meeting.....	7:00pm
04/10 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
04/13 Mon	Sadler Basin Committee mtg.....	7:00pm
04/14 Tues	SSC Board meeting	7:00pm
04/17 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
04/24 Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm

For more info, go to www.sanduskysailingclub.com. Go to “community” then drop down to “event calendar.”

From the Helm Comm. Tim Willford

March always feels like the calm before the storm.

The boats are still on land, the docks are quiet, and summer feels just out of reach. But we all know what’s coming: launch days, full slips, Wednesday races, cruising plans, and a marina buzzing with life.

Before we get there, we need to take care of a few important things.

Dockage invoices are now past due, and membership payments are coming due. Paying on time is more than a formality. It allows the club to plan confidently and keeps unnecessary stress off the volunteers who manage our operations. When dues are handled promptly, our committees can focus on sailing, events, and improvements instead of administration.

If you haven’t already, please take a moment to square up your account. It truly makes a difference.

We also have new dock opportunities available in Sadler Basin this year. If you know someone looking for a slip, encourage them to reach out. A full marina strengthens the entire club.

Our club’s leadership - I’d like to take a moment to share a brief reflection on our club’s leadership — specifically the role of the Commodore.

I grew up at Port Clinton Yacht Club, where I can still see photos of my grandfather and uncles on the wall. In my family alone, six Commodores have served or are serving at various clubs. That has taught me is that the Commodore is more than a meeting chair or problem solver. The Commodore stands at the helm, helping guide the fleet forward.

It’s a role of stewardship, not authority. It should be something we aspire to, not something we avoid.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to every Past Commodore who has taken the helm before us. Their service built the foundation we stand on today.

And like that role, this club depends on members stepping forward. We’ve done an excellent job of being a people-powered club all these years. Let’s keep that momentum going.

Spring is coming. Let’s be ready for it.
— **Commodore “Toledo” Tim Willford**

First Mate Pippa’s Log

Da Month I Got My Commodore

Hi SSC fwens! Is me, Pippa. Girl Beagle. First Mate. Born Nov. 22, 2024. Very smol then. Very important now. March is BIG month. March 3rd is da day I met my Hooman... and your Commodore.

I was teeny. My ears too floppy. My paws kinda wobbly. I didn’t know boats. I didn’t know docks. I didn’t even know how stairs worked yet. But when I saw my hooman, my tail went WHOOP-WHOOP helicopter and my heart said, “Dat one. Dat my captain forever.”

And just like dat... I joined da crew.

At first I trained indoors. I practiced crate feelings (dramatic). I practiced potty learning (ongoing masterpiece). I practiced very important living room patrol. But then... I found da WATER!

Ohhhh my goodness. Big boat. Dinghy boat. Wind in my ears. Sparkle lake. I stood in da cockpit like tiny officer and supervised everything. I did morale wiggles. I inspected docks. I greeted SSC fwens like celebrity. I sniffed very professionally.

I even sailed to Put-In-Bay. I am island beagle now. It’s official.

Winter came and tried to freeze my beans. Wind tried to steal my ears. Lake turned hard and scary. Ice boating was mentioned. I said, “Mmm no thank you. I brave, but I not THAT brave.”

So now I sit by da heater, dreamin’ of sunshine, soft splashy water, and seein’ all my SSC fwens again. I think about March and how dat’s when I found my hooman — and my whole sailing life started.

I may be smol...I may be wiggly...But I am loyal First Mate. And I can’t wait to get back on da docks with all of you.

Vice Commodore's Comments...VC Tim Ujvari
March has arrived and spring is but a few weeks away.

With plans for the sailing season coming well into focus we appreciate the involvement of our SSC volunteers. Let us know if you would like to be involved with galley duties, regattas, bar or in other areas of the club.

SSC Spring Workday will occur again in April and the date will be announced shortly after the March board meeting - details to follow. If you notice any items that need attention at our Club, let me know via call or text at 330-696-3161.

From the RearRC Robbie Stone
 March always tricks me into thinking it's time to launch the boat. One warm spring day and I'm convinced the yard should splash her immediately—then the weather snaps back and reminds me, not yet. Fortunately, we still have plenty to look forward to on shore, including Fireside Fridays and our first Friday night presentation of the season.

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 20, because we have a double feature planned. Steve Thomas will be preparing an Italian Feast for the evening meal, and right after dinner, Russ Krock will kick off our first presentation of the year with a deep dive into the SSC Singlehanded Fleet.

Established just last year, the Singlehanded Fleet offers opportunities for sailors who want to get serious about singlehanded—or simply sharpen their skills. Even if you normally sail doublehanded, developing strong singlehanded technique is essential; after all, you're only one unexpected moment away from sailing solo. Russ will also introduce the GLSS (Great Lakes Singlehanded Society) and share an overview of what they do.

03/06/26	Matt	Bedee, PC	Pizza
03/13/26			
03/20/26	Steve	Thomas	Italian Feast
03/27/26	Robbie	Stone, VC	
04/03/26	Matt	Bedee, PC	Pizza
04/10/26			
04/17/26			
04/24/26			

Following the presentation and Q&A, Russ will hold the official SSC Singlehanded Spring Meeting. We currently have seven SSC members in the fleet, and Russ will be joined by Rob Burger and Jake Thomas for the evening. It's shaping up to be a full and exciting night, and I hope to see you there.

As for the rest of March, here's the current meal plan.
 If you spot an open date, please reach out and volunteer to keep our Friday night tradition going.

Sadler Sailing Basin
Chairman - PC Bryan Huntley

As a reminder, our projects for 2026 are:

- New Pump-Out dock
- Re-configure docks on A and B to accommodate Doug's new layout.
- Finish the new transient docks to add water and power so they can be rented.

Once the new construction is well underway next door, we will continue our work with the city and to obtain grant money for developing the basin.

Recent work on the basin- We have hired a contractor to fix the holes in the sheet pile near B dock.

The Basin should be open soon and then we can proceed with the dredging we need to do to install the new pump-out.

Future plans: We met with city officials and discussed our plans for the future, 2027 and beyond. They are on board with our vision and have agreed to assist us.

From the Dock Master - Doug Klein

In-water winter storage- It's been a tough winter but doesn't seem to have bothered the in-water boats. Start thinking of where you want to store your boat for next winter. As we get more interest in winter storage we will start storing smaller boats on A dock again.

Next slip payment is due March 1 - On the contract we had a deadline of Feb. 1 but the *Cross Bearings* said March last month. If we don't receive the dock payment, signed contract, and proof of insurance by March 1, we will assume you are not returning to dock your boat at SSC and will make your slip available for new boaters and any member that wants to move their slip. **GET YOUR PAYMENTS IN!**

Again, please note! Since this is the first year we are requiring signed contracts and proof of insurance, this bears repeating: Contract and insurance forms required for winter and spring dockage- Many members are dead last when it comes to sending their filled out contracts and proof of insurance forms. This year, we require those forms to be received by the Sadler Board prior to bringing your boat into the marina. There will be a penalty for not complying. This helps protect the club from difficult situations and gives contact information for emergencies. The requirements and penalties will be outlined in the contract form.

Dock availability - We currently have all sizes of slips available for rent in 2026 except for 45'. Spread the word about how great SSC is to help fill those empty docks. The waiting list has been fulfilled for this season so it's now first come, first served. If you want to change the slip you're in, contact me!

Please send emails to Doug at: firefotdk@gmail.com

ANNUAL LEAMINGTON SAIL AWAY 2026

Ahoy SSC Sailors and Friends,

Despite the snow and cold, it's time to start making plans for summer cruising!
We hope you'll join us!

WHEN: Friday, June 12 - Sunday, June 14

Shove-off Friday, June 12, following a 9AM skippers meeting. We have 15 slips reserved for the SSC 2026 Leamington Sail Away. Slips are \$2.35 CA/ft. plus tax. Departure from Leamington back to US is on Sunday morning, June 14, on your own or as a group. For more information on Leamington Municipal Marina and other useful information on Leamington and border crossings, see [Marina - Municipality of Leamington. www.learmington.ca/en/discover/Marina.aspx](http://www.learmington.ca/en/discover/Marina.aspx).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

There will be a BYOW (wine) and shared appetizers dock party upon arrival of the fleet on Friday. Plan for Saturday morning mimosas. You're welcome to bring a shareable, handheld breakfast item for the table.

The remainder of the day is free to explore by foot, taxi, kayak or bicycle. We have reservations for dinner at Thirteen at the Inn www.13attheinn.com. It's walking distance from the Marina, and they will provide individual checks. We enjoyed last year's dinner and they are excited to have us return. I will send the menu options and reservation time to those that register for Leamington Sail Away.

Information for Entry into Canada:

1. See: [Border Crossing - Municipality of Leamington](http://www.learmington.ca/en/discover/Marina.aspx) on the Leamington Municipal Marina website or [Reporting requirements for private boat operators, www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/pb-pp-eng.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/pb-pp-eng.html). This site is also helpful [Entering Canada by Boat | Pat's Boating in Canada](http://www.patboating.com).
2. You will need valid passports for all crew and your OH Registration Number when we arrive in Leamington. Only one person is permitted to go ashore to contact Canadian Customs at the phones provided at the Marina Office or call the Telephone Reporting Centre (TRC): 1-888-226-7277 from your boat.
3. If you're bringing a pet to Canada see requirements at [Bringing animals to Canada: Importing and travelling with pets - inspection.canada.ca](http://inspection.canada.ca/en/importing-and-travelling-with-pets), <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/importing-food-plants-animals/pets>

Information for Re-entry to US:

1. Register in advance for CBP ROAM™ free mobile app: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/pleasure-boats/pleasure-boat-overview/roam>.
2. Private Vessel Decal: If your boat is 30' or more, you will be required to have a Private Vessel Decal to enter the States. <https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov/main/#%20>.

The deadline for Leamington Municipal Marina dock reservations is May 18, 2026.
Please email Sheryl Hoffman at slhoffman33@gmail.com to reserve a slip.

Include the following information:

1. First and Last Name / Name(s) of Crew
2. Boat Name
3. LOA
4. Beam
5. Street Address, City, State, Zip
6. Contact Information: Phone and Email
7. Number of people for dinner on Saturday - I'll send the menu options when I receive them.

Cruising Fleet..... RC Robbie Stone

March online meeting and 2026 Planning-

March may still have us high and dry waiting on spring launches to start, but the Cruising Fleet is already looking ahead to a full and exciting 2026 season. Our next online Cruising Fleet meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00pm. Members can find the meeting link and details on the SSC Club Calendar.

This month's meeting is important as we begin shaping the upcoming season. We'll be placing 2026 cruising events on the calendar, reviewing ideas from earlier brainstorming sessions, and identifying which trips, rendezvous, and training opportunities we want to prioritize. Whether you're a seasoned cruiser or new to the fleet, your input helps us build a schedule that reflects the interests and energy of our members.

We'll also be discussing Cruising Fleet awards for the 2026 season. These recognitions are meant to celebrate participation, seamanship, creativity, and the spirit of cruising at SSC. We'll talk through potential categories, criteria, and how to make the awards both meaningful and fun.

In addition to scheduling and awards, we'll cover other activities planned for 2026, including educational sessions, collaborative events with other fleets, and opportunities to support new sailors who want to gain confidence on the water.

The Cruising Fleet continues to grow in both enthusiasm and purpose, and these early-season meetings help set the tone for a great year ahead. If you're interested in cruising, community, or simply spending more time on the water, we'd love to have you join the conversation.

Looking forward to seeing everyone online on March 11 at 7:00pm.



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Why should every business leader learn to race a sailboat?
What does a winning skipper and crew know that business executives don't?
Can sailing strategies and tactics help a business increase sales and profits?

Read the recently released book,
Puzzle Pieces® by Dave Caracci
NOW available on Amazon.com
BTW, it's a fun read and will be a COOL PRESENT!



Sandusky Junior Sailors, Inc.....

Suzanne Hartley and Michelle Gilboy

SJSI is actively preparing for the 2026 season. We have new personnel coming on board as well as returning staff.

We will be present at Erie Metro Parks for April Earth Day promoting our programs.

The Sandusky High School sailing program is currently practicing for their first regatta, April 4. Good luck to the team!

See you on the water or at the club!

For the Good of the Order

Ship's Store - Hello, SSC family! Be on the lookout for the opening of our online store! T-shirts, quarter zip sweatshirt, hoodie, caps and more. Coming soon!! Thank you! Carolyn Zettler

DN North American Championship and US Nationals at Green Lake, WI

A Look Through a Newbie's (foggy) Goggles

By Ryan Kyle US-5675

Racing sailboats is an activity that has become a large part of my life. In the summers growing up, my family and sailing team traveled to every regatta in our region, testing our growing skills against peers from sailing clubs all over the Great Lakes. Looking back, I realize I was fortunate to have been exposed to this lifestyle and decided to continue in the sport through college sailing and finally adult sailing in the way of one-design racing, offshore racing, and cruising (in my downtime).

Racing iceboats is something I always dreamed of, but never had the opportunity to fulfill until this year. I had owned an older DN, handed down to me by a close friend, for a handful of years and took every opportunity, that we had ice, to go sailing on Sandusky Bay. Although I enjoyed every moment of gliding across our frozen bay, I knew that if I wanted to race I needed to upgrade my equipment to compete. Being in my late 20's and owning a set of tools, I decided to build a hull as it was the most economical option to end up with the caliber of gear I knew I wanted.

After spending a winter building the boat, then another winter finishing the boat, I ended up with a beautiful hull that was nothing but a showpiece without a mast, sail, plank and runners. After scouring the FLIYC classified page and putting out many feelers for good used gear, I finally came across a deal that was right for me. I purchased a Gold Cup-ready program and combined the gear to come up with the boat I have today. In the 2024/2025 season, I finally put my program on the ice for the first time and got to experience the exhilarating feeling of sailing a DN, in control, with a racing mast and fast runners. WOW, I was hooked and knew I was ready to take my program on the road.

This winter I decided to adjust my southern sailing schedule a bit to allow the opportunity to attend at least one DN regatta. I had my sights set on attending the Western Challenge as it seemed like a great way to step into the class. I was not able to make that one happen, so I moved on to the prospect of attending a regional championship; maybe the Westerns, maybe the Centrals, and I was also eyeing the Northwest regatta as a possibility. Those regattas were being postponed because of bad/no ice conditions and I began to grow anxious, and thought to myself "maybe this just isn't the year." Then, as the scheduled date for the North Americans was approaching I was looking

at the regional forecast and it became clear that this regatta was going to happen, one way or another. I really did not want to make the NAC my first go at DN racing but it seemed that I was “up to bat” and needed to make the trip happen.

At first, the regatta was called for Lake Wawasee in Syracuse, IN, a convenient 3 hour drive from my hailing port of Sandusky, OH. Then winter storm Fern wiped out the area’s ice with widespread 4-10” of snow. All the while, the 237’ deep Green Lake in Green Lake, WI was freezing rapidly and finally delivered a beautiful sheet of snow-free ice to sail on. It was clear to me that the regatta was going to move, and my sweetheart 3-hour drive turned into an 8-hour drive with an unwelcomed snow squall. Oh well, I guess that’s iceboating!

Finally, I had my sights set on my first iceboating excursion. I packed all of my gear in my van, made arrangements for dog-care, and booked a hotel room. I was officially attending the DN North American Championship as my first DN regatta!

I was a nervous wreck. After attending hundreds of regattas in my life, I still get butterflies about getting my boat to the starting line, and this was no different. There were many unknowns for me including but not limited to, “what gloves and how many pairs do I bring?”, “What do I pack for staging in the pits?”, “How do I keep my water bottle from freezing?”, “Where is my bobstay post?” Heck, I didn’t even know how to physically put my boat on the starting line even once I got there. Fortunately, there are people in the class that are willing to answer these questions and share information. What a relief.

After a long drive North, through whiteout conditions in South Bend and missing Chicago rush hour by the skin of my teeth, I arrived in Green Lake at the Heidel House hotel. I arrived with some daylight left, so I decided to quickly set my boat up on the ice before checking in with the race committee. After checking in, I milled around the hotel lobby, quickly meeting people in the class that were willing to answer my newbie questions. A special thanks goes out to Tim Bellard, David Frost, and Cooper Frost for answering my questions and offering to lend me some gear even before the event started. Also, it was great to meet another newbie, Isaiah Skaug, to compare notes with about our experience getting to the regatta. I joined the group for the opening ceremony and stayed for the very helpful rules discussion.



The first day of racing was cancelled due to extreme cold and too much wind. I was thankful for this decision as my heart was beating out of my chest thinking about sailing in those conditions for my first lap around the course. I took this as an opportunity to hone-in on my preparation for the first race. I went to the local fleet store and purchased two more sets of mittens and extra-thick long johns; a good move that I thanked myself for each day of racing.

The fleet was greeted on the second day with champagne sailing conditions on clean ice and I felt like I was finally ready to race. I sailed out on my plate runners, set up a pit area and switched over to my racing insert runners. All the while I was rushing and extremely nervous for my first start for the bronze qualifier race. After the start and hopping into my boat for the first beat, my goggles fogged up immediately and I could only see out of the very bottom corner of my lens. I quickly pulled my facemask down to minimize the warm air traveling into my goggles and made the best out of my first race, despite barely being able to see. So, my first adjustment of the series was to rearrange my wardrobe to keep my goggles clear. I qualified for the silver fleet and had to quickly prepare for the silver qualifier race to follow. I sailed well in both races and earned a position in the silver fleet. My first goal was met for the week, by qualifying for the silver fleet AND completing all of the races thus far. A win in my book.

The racing series to follow was an excellent week of sailing to say the least. I feel as though I improved each race and used information shared by my competitors to help propel my boat faster around the course each time. We saw conditions varying from medium breeze “full-on” racing to light air, requiring some pushing around the course.

After wrapping up the North Americans, we started the National Championship and ended the week with the last two races for the nationals. I still had one goal to meet, and I was prepared to go home leaving that box un-checked. We started the last race for the series and I had a great start, allowing me to take a commanding position early-on in the race. When I rounded the weather mark of the first beat in 1st place, all I could hear in my head from my TIYC friends was “when you get it hooked up, lean on the gas and stay in it.” I pressed a little harder, hit a couple shifts and didn’t look back until I saw the checkered flag. I had just won my first race in the DN! All of the hours spent building, researching, asking questions, and traveling had finally paid off. What a rewarding way to finish out a series.

Many thanks go out to PRO Pat Heppert for putting us on the best ice available on Green Lake and his team of volunteers for their seamless efforts in running a fantastic regatta. A special thanks goes to Deb Whitehorse for her EXCELLENT communications leading up to the regatta. This helped me make my decision to attend the regatta, as a newbie, with confidence and clarity. Finally, thanks to my competitors for helping make my first experience in the DN fleet unforgettable. I’ll certainly be back for more!

Sailing stuff for sale

Two Opti's for sale. Bought them from the club a decade ago when the old boats were being cleared out of the SSC boat barn to make room for new ones. They're old boats but in sail-ready condition. All new running rigging. Contact Jon Muzilla at 216-650-7148.

26 foot Grampian sailboat: Good starter boat! 3 sails, roller furling, spinnaker, 9.8 Evinrude outboard motor, radio, Porta Potty, fully equipped, cradle. Good shape. Asking \$4,000/negotiable. Contact: Douglas F. Foss 440-292-5070 text: Grampian sailboat.

Paddle boards and inflatable docks for sale. Contact Larry Knauer at ldknauer@gmail.com for more info.

1989 Capital Yachts "Neptune 24" Sloop Rig Cruiser with Trailer. Well maintained, with high quality rigging, and reconditioned sails. Shallow draft (2ft.) Ballasted shoal keel with retractable wing keel (3.5 ft. down). Three Sails - Mainsail, 130% Jib sail, and Roller Furled 185% Genoa sail. Digital Depth Finder, Digital Knot Meter, VHF Radio, and Garmin GPS. 8 HP, Johnson Sail Master. Outboard Motor - 6 gallon fuel tank. Asking \$7,900, currently located on Catawba Island. CONTACT: Geoff Mendenhall at 419-341-5699, Email: geoff@nikegeoff.com

Harken MK IV unit 1 furler for sale. Brand new. Priced to sell! Brad Balmert at bradbl384@yahoo.com or 440-670-5065

Interlake with trailer - Two sets of sails. For info contact Richard Byrd at 216-533-6209 or alphabyrd@gmail.com

Ariel - 1972 CAL 2-29 Sailboat for sale. Great day sailor. Has been out in 35-40mph blows. Solid boat. 2-29 was an upgrade for the cruiser racer set. Wheel steering. New rudder. Converted to all electric motor. It's great for instant reverse and instant power forward. Proven over the last 8 years. Batteries replaced last year. Four-year-old Bimini, replaced the plastic material with umbrella. New Main. Older Genoa 155 on new Harken roller furling. Self Tailing winches. All lines run to the cockpit. Good for single handed sailing. Asking \$5,000. Call Randy Ramhoff @ 419-656-1908, R.Ramjet@gmail.com

2026 SSC BRIDGE

Commodore: Tim Willford
Vice Commodore: Tim Ujvari
Rear Commodore: Robbie Stone
Immediate Past Commodore:
John Giordano

2026 SSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bryan Burgess, Bob Durkin,
Mark Hutchinson, Kathy Knox,
Dave Kocias, Will Petersilge

SADLER BASIN COMMITTEE

PC Bryan Huntley - President,
PC Dean Riedy, PC Bruce Roberts,
Dave Caracci, PC Bill Semans
VC Tim Ujvari - SSC rep.
Dockage: Doug Klein