



South Lake Macquarie Amateur Sailing Club Inc.

Ph: (02)4970 5118 (Club days only)

September 2015
Number 105

www.slmasc.org
enquiries@slmasc.org

Presidents Report

Welcome to the 2015-16 sailing season and SLMASC's 68th year of continuous sailing activities.

It's quite noticeable that the daylight hours are slowly extending and we've had some great days to be out on the water already, so it's time to start to prepare your boat and rally the crew so that you don't miss the starters gun for the season launch in just a couple of weeks.

The club's 68th year officially kicked off with the AGM held on Sunday 2nd August, and thank you to all who attended and provided input into the clubs plans for the year ahead. On behalf of all members I would again thank the outgoing club officers for their efforts over the last year, and I also thank and congratulate those who put up their hand to enable these positions to be filled for the coming season. A list of all committee members and club officials for the coming season is included later in this newsletter, and I would ask that you provide these members with your cooperation and support as they give their time freely, endeavouring to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the club for the benefit of all members.

The club sailing program was reviewed and finalised at the AGM and this will be posted on the club website shortly. The first day of the new season will be Sunday 20th September, and this year we are aiming to launch the season in style, with SLMASC being the host club on Lake Macquarie for the world's largest sailing event Bart's Bash 2015 (See below for details and be on the lookout for an email shortly). It would be great to see all club members at the club and on the water participating to both kick off the season in style and also to support this worthwhile charity event, so aim to get involved whether your boat is ready or not.

Although not as hectic a schedule as last season, we do have several major regatta's ahead this season, especially in January and March 2016. The hosting of dinghy regattas is by far the largest source of revenue for the club, enabling club facilities and resources to be continually improved while maintaining membership and racing fees at affordable levels. In addition to the annual Zhik Single Hander and the SLMASC annual regatta, we will be hosting the Heron State titles on the 21st and 22nd of November 2015, the A Class Catamaran Australian Championships from 2-8 January 2016, and the Optimist State Championships on the 19th and 20th of March 2016. It is expected that the A Class cats will include some of the very best on water with current America's cup sailors expected to compete, promising an exciting week of racing. The Optimist state titles are likely to be the largest event hosted by the club in the 'modern era' and will prove to be a positive challenge that we are already working on. We will be calling on all members to assist in

the organisation and conduct of these events so that we can ensure that they are a great success with the club and all members as well as the local community benefiting as a result.

The yacht sailing program promises another year of close competition with another full calendar of twilight and weekend races planned. Last season ended on a real high with excellent fleets in the Sunday winter series and it will be great to see that level of participation grow even further this season. Following the success of last years inaugural club cruise, the concept has been taken a step further with an extended cruise (with shorter day and overnight options also available) planned for the weekend leading up to the Australia Day public holiday. Details are yet to be finalised but the thinking is that there will be options to join in for a day, two days, or stay out for a full 4 day lake circumnavigation over the extended long weekend, so pencil it in your diary and enjoy some social cruising and relaxing with your friendly rivals. Check the program, mark these dates on your calendar and be on the lookout for further details. John Mason is again on the club committee and will again be the Yachting Coordinator. Any enquiries or suggestions regarding yacht racing can be raised directly with him on his mobile 0411 858 158 or by emailing racing@slmasc.org.

The club's Learn to Sail program continues to go from strength to strength with numbers continuing to grow year on year. The club recently purchased 10 second hand training Opti's to provide additional capacity for our ever growing junior learn to sail classes due to a constant waiting list of kids wanting to learn how to sail. It is extremely pleasing to see the success of this program which has only been possible with the commitment of all of the instructors, assistant instructors, and the members and parents who assist each week. If you would like to assist in helping to teach others how to sail then please let a committee member know as we can always do with more helpers, even if it is just on the occasional Sunday morning. Likewise if you are a yacht owner and have the ability to take adults for a sail to help introduce them to sailing, or perhaps are looking for a new experienced crew member, please let John Mason know so that we can look to match up available crew members with boat owners. Please don't let lack of crew prevent you from sailing, as we regularly have people asking how they can get out on the water to join in the fun.

The club will also be endeavouring to increase our profile in the local media during the coming season, both on an ongoing basis and also to feature the major sailing events to be hosted at the club. In addition there will be an even greater focus on pursuing Grants funding and Sponsorship opportunities, and Robyn Schmidt (Sandpiper) has taken on the role of Grants' Coordinator to help prepare grant applications for the club, a vital role that requires considerable work behind the scenes (thanks Robyn). If you are aware of any grant programs or sponsorship opportunities, then please advise a committee member, Robyn, or email committee@slmasc.org. Likewise if you've always wanted to try your hand at journalism or photography and can contribute an article or short story about a funny incident or event, or want to give some well earned recognition of achievement (big or small) by a club member, then please email all contributions to webmaster@slmasc.org or post them on our FaceBook page so that they can be shared with all members.

Club memberships are now due for renewal and details are included below. I would ask all yacht skippers to strongly encourage all of their regular crew members to join the club (technically it is a requirement under the sailing instructions but there's no reason to get

too technical about it if crews just do it). Our fees are amongst the lowest around, and what other sport can give you a season of fun, close competition, relaxation, excitement and a laugh a minute for such a low price. The club needs crews to show their support in this way, so in 2015–16, please just do it! While you are renewing your membership, please also subscribe for email updates via the club website if you haven't already done so. You do need to do this yourself as due to privacy constraints we can't just add you to our mailing list. It will only take you 30 seconds and please yell out if you need a hand as it will ensure you are kept informed throughout the entire season.

To all SLMASC sailors I wish you a fun, friendly, competitive and most importantly, a very safe season ahead with fair winds and smooth seas (we hope). Enjoy the close and tough racing but please remember why we all do it for fun (just in case you weren't sure). Please follow the rules (hint they're in the blue book!), stay calm and if you make a mistake then just take your penalties when you should and get on with enjoying the racing. I encourage you to get out on the lake for a sail at every available opportunity this season to enjoy both the best sport and recreational activity on earth and also the most magnificent boating waterway anywhere. Enjoy yourself and take care.

Smooth Sailing

Phil Evans
President SLMASC

Barts Bash at SLMASC – Sunday 20th September

This is a charity event coordinated by the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation in memory of Olympic Gold Medalist Sailor Andrew 'Bart' Simpson who was tragically killed in an accident while training on board Artemis for the 2013 America's Cup in San Francisco. Clubs from all around the world have registered to conduct races on Sunday 20th September for what is billed as the Largest Sailing Event in the World.

Funds raised from the event go to the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation that is driven by the belief that all young people have the ability to excel if they are inspired and given the chance to grow and achieve. Their objective is simply to 'inspire the next generation' using sailing to transform the lives of young people around the world. Last year the event was entered in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest sailing event ever held with 30,734 sailors racing in over 60 countries, and this year could well eclipse that number.

There are loose guidelines as to the format of races, and all class results, course details and conditions will be submitted to the UK event organisers to allow international results to be calculated (highly scientifically we're sure, but who knows, you could actually become a world champion in a day! ;-). The real aim of course will be to kick off the season with maximum participation while raising some valuable funds for a very good cause in memory of Bart who was a world class sailor with strong local connections through both WASC and SLMASC as members from both clubs sailed with and against Bart in the Americas Cup events in San Francisco.

Further information on 'Barts Sunshine Bash' will be posted over the coming week or so, but you can register for the event (nominating SLMASC as your club) now at

<http://my.bartsbash.com/registration>. Whether you are ready to kick off the season or not, please keep the date clear in your diary and plan to join in the racing fun, potentially be part of a new World Sailing Record, and also visit the club on the day to help support this charity event.

Yacht Safety Checks Are Now Due

With the start of the sailing season being just a few weeks away on Sunday 20th September, it's time to scrape off the barnacles (from both your yacht and the crew), remove the seagull nests, and start to get seriously organised ready for the start of the new sailing season. It is important to remember that ALL yachts racing at SLMASC are required to have passed a Category 7 Safety Check before racing, and if you have not had your audit done yet you need to get it organised quickly. Only boats that have a valid Category 7 Safety Certificate (or higher category) will accrue points in club point score races and it is the owner/skippers responsibility to contact the club safety auditor to arrange a time for an inspection well in advance of your intended first race. You should not assume that the auditor will be available to inspect your boat at the last minute, so don't wait until the week before the first race to book a safety inspection. Doug Wilson will be coordinating the safety inspections again this year and he can be contacted on 0411 372 105 or via email at doug2904@gmail.com

On behalf of all yacht sailors, a big thank you must go to the Safety Auditors, especially Doug who coordinates the process, for giving up their time to undertake this important task to help keep our yacht sailors safe. Please give them your full cooperation and respect their time by being punctual and having your boat ready for inspection with all relevant safety gear laid out and the Category 7 Inspection form printed off and completed. These forms are available from both the club and Yachting NSW websites.

2015-16 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE & CLUB OFFICIALS

President	Phil Evans	Vice President	Doug Blackstock
Secretary	John Boyd	Treasurer	Diana Charlton
Committee	Garry Wilson, John Mason, David Gates		

CLUB OFFICIALS

Club Captain	Sean Singleton Turner		
Judges	Yachts - Mark Scharfenberg	Dinghy - Michael Brown	
Starter	Roster		
Assistant Starter	Roster		
Handicappers	Dinghies	Diana Charlton, Bob Stephens	
	Yachts	Geoff Cowper, Gary Macleay, Mark Burrows John Mason, Peter Charlton	
Class Captains			
Yacht	John Mason	Opti/Sabot	Adam Beashel
125's	Blake Gates	Impulse	Bob Stephens
Laser	Al Booth		
Learn To Sail/Race	Coordinators	Lanee and Adam Beashel	
Equipment Auditor	Doug Wilson, Phil Evans, Phil Martin		
Social Committee	No Nominations		
Canteen Organiser	Roster		
Publicity Officer	John Boyd	Newsletter Editor	John Boyd

If you know of any businesses that may be interested in discussing opportunities to support local junior sport or sponsor club activities and events, please contact a member of the club committee, email committee@slmasc.org, or contact Robyn Schmidt at robyschmidt@yahoo.com.au



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Club Email Addresses:

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| enquiries@slmasc.org | Public email address for general enquiries (monitored by club secretary) |
| racing@slmasc.org | Used for all racing correspondence (monitored by Dinghy Race Secretary and Yachting Coordinator) |
| discoversailing@slmasc.org | Used for Learn To Sail activities (monitored by LTS Instructors) |
| committee@slmasc.org | Used for correspondence to/from committee (monitored by President) |
| webmaster@slmasc.org | Used to contribute content for website and other media or for other matters regarding the club website (monitored by the club's webmaster). |

NOTE: By submitting content to the webmaster email address, the contributor is deemed to have declared that they have copyright over the submitted content and that they grant SLMASC unlimited rights to use this content in perpetuity without compensation

Stay up to date throughout the coming season

Don't forget to join the club email list to receive important updates and notices regarding club events and activities. You can subscribe to the club email list via the home page of the club website at:

www.slmasc.org