



# SUNFUN TELL TAIL

GREATER DETROIT SUNFISH CLUB  
(GDSC)

SUNFISH FLEET NO. 50 – EST. 1963

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## Starting our 46<sup>th</sup> year of Sunfish Fun!

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### Fleet Captain's Log

I believe this is my third time around as Fleet Captain and I am again glad to serve. Greater Detroit Sunfish Club Racing and having Fun have always seemed to go together. A goal this year is to get more participation in every way. No more boats on the shore (or in the garage) during races. No more sun tanning on the beach during races – the sun is brighter out on the water anyway! No excuse for missing a party or get together! All ages, genders, abilities, maturity levels, etc. Even though it is still officially winter, the Spring Fling is right around the corner.

The Spring Fling is a time for all of us to visit and enjoy each other's company. It is also a good time to bring in a few prospective members. If any of you have friends or colleagues who might be interested in joining the club, please invite them. This is a great time for them to get to know folks in the GDSC. It makes coming out to that first sailing event a little easier for them if they have met us before. (Details of the spring fling are listed later in this newsletter.)

We have a great year ahead of us with plenty of gatherings and plenty of sailing. Many of us have already booked out campsites at Lakeport for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Camp Westminster's has again accepted our reservation for Labor Day on beautiful Higgins Lake. If you want to go to Lakeport and do not have a reservation, please let one of the officers know since we have booked extra sites in anticipation of more participants. We'll work together to make sure everyone who wants to go to Lakeport gets a spot on a site.

Once again, recruiting new members will be a priority for the club. Not only is our club full of friendly people but sailing is environmentally friendly and easy on the budget in these challenging economic times. Our club-mentoring program from the last couple of years must continue. The basis of mentoring is a club member contacting the new or prospective member to answer questions and make them feel welcome. Most of us have known each other a very long time and are very good friends. This is what makes our club special – but it can be a little intimidating for new members. By reaching out to them, we can eliminate any intimidation and help build a wonderful new friendship at the same time.

And now for the good part, our reason for being – racing. We all need to keep our boats in good shape and improve our skills. There is only one piece of equipment that everyone should have to create an opportunity for a fast boat and, in my opinion, that is a racing daggerboard. As for racing skills, the key improver is to get out and race. I will insist on it. In addition, although we try hard, we need more sharing of knowledge. If we all knew what everyone else knew we would all be better racers. Talking, helping, sharing, showing are actually trademarks of the Sunfish Class. There are new Racing Rules of Sailing this year with changes that we should all learn. You can get a free copy of the RRS 2009-2012 by joining U. S. Sailing [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org). While you are at it, join the United States Sunfish Class Association (USSCA) [www.sunfishclass.org](http://www.sunfishclass.org).

That's all for now. I'll see you in a few weeks at the Spring Fling!

Fleet Captain Stu

## **Spring Fling**

It's that time again!

Time to meet and greet and kick off our 2009 season by having fun with friends!  
Fun for the whole family with Bowling and Pizza on March 29 at Century Bowl at 2 pm – see the attached brochure for more information.....

## **Free Seminar**

The Portage Lake Yacht Club is offering  
Free instructional seminars to better understand the rules of racing!

March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 28 & 30 Race Rules Seminar  
Informative and interactive classes providing in depth discussion to refresh or advance your current knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing. Free event to both PYC and non-PYC sailors.  
Registration required

Go to the Portage Lake Yacht Club web site for more information and to register:

[http://www.ms-pyc.com/sailing/special\\_events.htm](http://www.ms-pyc.com/sailing/special_events.htm)

## All the news that's fit to ..... Print?

Participation and involvement in GDSC depends, in part, on getting all the information to all current and thinking-about-it members in a timely way. And there are soooo many ways to communicate these days. Our newsletters have been – and continue to be – our primary means of communication. We also have a web site on Yahoo Groups with great pictures, schedules, and accessible core information. This site also provides a forum for quick messages and responses. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gdsc\\_sailing](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gdsc_sailing) We will continue to send some hard copy mailings but will try to send most information by email – this conserves costs for the club and reduces paper use. You can help make sure “the mail goes through”!

- If you have received this newsletter in hard copy and have access to – and use – email, please contact me at [joanne.talarek@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.talarek@gmail.com) with your email address.
- I have been updating our mailing, phone and email lists. If you have any changes, please send them to me. If you know anyone who might be interested send their contact information too.
- Join the Greater Detroit Sunfish Club Yahoo Group at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gdsc\\_sailing](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gdsc_sailing)

## Many Hands Make Less Work

There is plenty to do to make our sail club run smoothly. Many of the duties are managed by our **Executive Board:**

- **Fleet Captain**.....Stu Pettitt
- **Executive Officer**.....Mike Scriver
- **Purser**.....Joyce Harner
- **Log Keeper**.....Joanne Talarek
- **Race Committee Chair**.....Gwen Scott

We also have members serving on the

- **Race Committee**.....Bruce Hubel  
Edith Tanniru  
Glenn Gorman

And we recognize some of the other, ongoing, responsibilities:

- **Historian/Scrap Books**.....Marge Scriver
- **Web Master**.....Kirk Beadle

And there are plenty of other jobs that everyone can help with, including:

- **Flags**
- **Committee Boat**