

Wind Shift

Theewater Sports Club Sailing e-Newsletter

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Hi Folks,

Happy New Year to you all and best wishes for 2009. May this year be a great one for you. We are half way through our sailing season. The time seems to have passed so quickly. Soon we will be back at the dam celebrating the Easter Weekend. Next the Closing Cruise will be upon us. So let's enjoy the glorious summer and have fun in the remainder of the season. Hope to see you on the water.

New Year Eve Party at TSC

Many members and their guests looked forward to a new year's eve party at TSC. This year was no different. The "Crazy Hat theme" was enthusiastically adopted by members who wore an array of hats of all shapes and sizes. Many old faces came out of the woodwork and joined in. It is wonderful to see that with the various ways to bring in the new year many members still believed that TSC is the place to be. The controlled and safe environment that it offers is an ideal place for the whole family, an environment where all can safely let down their hair and party the night away.

The party started with a bang thanks to Tony Largier, who took over from Neville Norton as the Pyrotechnic expert launching a dazzling display of multi-coloured fire works which lit up the night sky. The crowds on the lawn watched the display and thereafter moved into the buzzing club house.

A special thanks to one of our members, Dean Wilson, who as the DJ for the evening, kept the vibe going into the early hours.

A few constructive suggestions were put forward by members to improve bar access and also to improve on the logistics around the utilization of space. These will be considered by this year's organizing committee.

We hope that you had a great evening.



Some of the happy hat faces on New Year's Eve.



WC Dinghy Association Points Regatta

The WCDA Pts Regatta was held early December with almost 100 entries received. Day 1 of the regatta was cut short after one heavy wind race as the rescue services were a little pushed and we had to get all boats back to shore.

On Sunday, we had the complete opposite. A few races were held in light north westerly before the race officer, Di Hutton-Squire sent the fleet to shore for lunch. A postponement kept the fleet on the shore in anticipation of the traditional wind switch to the south east. An attempt was made to set up a course for this wind direction but the usually reliable south-easter did not materialize. As there were sufficient races sailed for a regatta Di pulled the plug and sent the boats to shore for the prize giving. The number of TSC sailors in this event was disappointing but hopefully we can turn this around next year. Thanks to all the visiting sailors that made the trek to Villiersdorp for the event. We hope to see you all back in December 2009.



Almost 100 boats entered the recent WCDA points regatta

Spending the Festive Season at TSC

Members say that there are always lots of activities for all over the festive season. These vary annually from Boere-Sports, soccer, volley ball, bicycle rides and walks or hikes for the kids to daily sailing and picnics across in one of TSC's beautifully secluded bays. This year was no different. Below is a peak view into some of these activities:



Super fit canoeist battles the South Easter to the dam wall, only to enjoy a fly back to the Club

Daily Informal Sailing

There was daily sailing during the festive period. It was great as there were quite a number of boats on the water. The Easterly winds came through with vengeance most days. We kept an eye to ensure that all sailors were safely back in Jimmy's Bay. We even had super fit, Mr Canoe that took part and paddled against the Easterly all the way to the dam wall only to enjoy being blown back to the club. Well done.

Picnic Braai in Cozi Corner Bay

On one of the days, a picnic/braai was arranged in Cozi Corner Bay. There were more than 50 people that sailed or motored or swam across (just joking) to enjoy a beautiful relaxing summer's afternoon under the coolness of it's trees. Others were more energetic and swam or skied in the secluded bay and a great day was had by all.

Rally—Site seeing trip of the North West side of the dam

It was a beautiful morning. There was a skipper's briefing at 10h00 to decide on the plan of action for the day. Some wanted to do something different to the daily sailing, up, down and around the dam. So we set off on a sight seeing' trip to the bridge on the North West end of the dam. We sailed alongside the bridge to determine whether the masts would clear the bridge that separated the beautiful tranquil conservation area, only accessible by permit from the rest of dam. We sailed into Thabo Bay and then around into Queen Ann. Here we rafted up the boats and sat down to a welcoming ice cold beer, refreshments and tea. We enjoyed some good chatter over lunch. It was a scorching hot day, more so in the shelter of Queen Ann. After sometime of lazing around, we set sail into Pumphouse Bay and into Cozi Corner and thereafter, headed in a strong Easterly back to Jimmy's Bay.



Great afternoon picnic/braai spent in Cozi Corner.



A few boats rafted up in Queen Ann



Lunch after the sight seeing trip



Pursuit Start Racing at TSC

Following on last year's success with pursuit racing, we are continuing to hold a long distance race every Saturday afternoon of the formal sailing weekends. A pursuit start race is a handicap race whereby each boat is handicapped with a time penalty before the start of the race. Slow boats go off early and the fastest boat last. The first boat to cross the finish line wins the race. Quite a simple concept really, and a lot of fun.

You can see all the time during the race where you are on handicap – its your current position. If you manage to overtake someone then you are ahead of them on handicap. The only problem is that the boats starting behind you are faster than you - so the glory may be short lived. If the handicapping works out perfectly all boats should finish at the same time – usually about 5pm.

The way handicaps are calculated may interest the more technically minded. This is done by a comprehensive aero-hydrodynamic assessment of the boat sail plan, hull shape and keel configuration. This data is run through my own VPP** to estimate theoretical boat speeds in various winds and angles of sail. The results are compared to a secret reference boat and a suitable handicap assigned

For the not so technical, the way this actually works is, I take a quick look at your boat and guess. If you ever manage to win a race, your handicap will be immediately adjusted to stamp out that sort of thing once and for all. On the other hand, if I beat you by miles I may feel guilty and give you a better handicap next time. Your handicap will tend to improve with the number of beers that you buy me. There is also a special penalty applied to the Commodore to make sure he never wins (Please don't tell him about this).

Why don't you come along and join in. Everyone will have a chance of winning (except Craig of course). The next race will be on Saturday 24/25 January 2009. We hope to see you there. If you didn't sail last season and don't have a handicap please give me the details of your boat beforehand so I can dream one up for you. (neville@exergy.co.za)

Neville
(** Very Personal Prediction)



"Admiral of the Fleet" Charles Volkwyn on "Bluebottle" with an upwind VMG of 23 knots presents a serious challenge to the handicap committee.

Want to go sailing?

The keelboat sailors invite you to come and join us on the water on the Saturday's of Club Sailing weekends where we have a fun pursuit race. The next weekend is 14 February 2009 so diarise this date.

Whether you have never sailed before, or enjoy the world of power boating, or simply come down to TSC to relax and enjoy it's unspoilt beauty, but somewhere inside, feel like the experience of sailing, then come and join us. All you need to do is to be at our Skipper's briefing on the Saturday at 13h00 and let us know and we will get you onto a boat.

Look forward to seeing you there.

New Challengers to the TSC Fleet

Vivacity 20

Welcome to Tony Kempen who has just joined TSC. He has just bought a Vivacity 20 from Bruce Kelly. Tony will be calling her "Joyride". Tony says that he has always wanted to build his own boat but feels but this is just very expensive.



He came across this Vivacity which he is busy refurbishing and he hopes to have her on the water by March. Tony also has some exciting adventures planned for his Vivacity. He plans to trail her to Langebaan and to Santos Beach in Mosselbay. Tony says; "I am not a sailor but I am looking forward to learning" He has been out getting some basic lessons on the helm of Saudade with Jose Ferreira to learn the ropes.

He further says, "In the short time that I have spent here at TSC, I have found the environment to be a really great one. TSC has a really nice bunch of people".

Hobie 14

Steve, Erica Searle and their young son from Fish Hoek Beach Sailing Club recently joined the club after enjoying a great hobie inter-club challenge at TSC. Steve participated in the daily sailing over the festive season. The winds were a little hairy at times and Steve, who is obviously, a very competent sailor, demonstrated some rather interesting



Wind Shift

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Forthcoming Events

TSC Club Points Series No. 3

24 and 25 January: The next club points will take place on this weekend. Let's try and get a record number of boats on the water. If you do not have a handicap, do email Neville at neville@exergy.co.za for one. Remember, Skippers briefing for pursuit racing on Saturday at 13h00 and around the bouys on Sunday morning at 10h00, so be there to get your start time for the pursuit racing and the course for around the bouys racing.

TSC Youth Sailing Training No. 3

7 and 8 February: Watch this space. More information will be placed on the notice boards and website. An email communication will also be sent out shortly.

14th and 15th February

This is going to be a busy weekend.

Starting with **TSC Club Points Series No 4** and also a **TSC Hobie 9 hour challenge** on the Saturday. Saturday night we will celebrate Valentines Day with a great **Valentine's Day Party**. There will be great music in the bar. Don't forget to pack in something red and white to wear. More information will be sent to you shortly.

TSC informal Sailing Weekend

28 February and 1 March: Another great weekend to be at the dam. See you there.

Sail Away ...

A number of our members are currently participating in offshore events. Spilly and Erika are involved with the race organization of the Governor's Cup race. They are currently in St. Helena as Race Officer and Race Secretary recording the boats across the finishing line.



Heineken
Cape to Bahia
2009

In the cruising fleet of the Heineken, Cape to Bahia race, we have Dave Gough on Alleycat, Charles Volkwyn on Avanti (currently leading the cruising class).

In the racing fleet almost the entire crew of Hi Fidelity are TSC members (Gary Sindler, Mark, Trevor, Gee and Rench de Villiers). James Largier is sailing on Overproof, an 'open 30' and are hoping to do well on handicap.

We wish them and any other members we may have missed all good luck and fair winds.

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