

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](http://www.sanduskysailingclub.com)  
Battery Park, Sandusky, Ohio 44871

## February 2026 Cross Bearings

02/03	Tues	SJSI meeting.....	7:00pm
02/04	Wed	SJRT meeting.....	8:00am
02/06	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
02/09	Mon	Sadler Basin Committee mtg.....	7:00pm
02/10	Tues	SSC Board meeting .....	7:00pm
02/13	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
02/20	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
02/27	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
03/01	Sun	<b>Membership payments due</b>	
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
03/13	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
03/20	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm
03/27	Fri	Fireside Friday.....	6:00pm

For more info, go to [www.sanduskysailingclub.com](http://www.sanduskysailingclub.com).  
Go to "community" then drop down to "event calendar."

## From the Helm ..... Comm. Tim Willford

**Holy moly, it's cold out there!** February always feels like the doldrums of winter—the wind is hiding, the boats are snoozing, and not even a single seagull is making a peep. It's the time of year when it feels impossible to imagine sunshine on the bay or burgers on the grill... but believe it or not, summer's out there, just over the horizon.

**High school sailing** - Even in this frosty lull, there's exciting news brewing. For the first time ever, SSC will host a High School Regatta this spring! And if that's not enough energy for you, we also found out that we'll be welcoming the c420 Class Great Lakes Championship to our waters this summer. It's shaping up to be a big season for youth sailing, and I couldn't be more thrilled.

**Speaking of young sailors** - I'm proud to share that after months of work with PC Mike Fishbaugh, we've launched a brand-new position at SJSI: New Initiatives Program Director. And we've filled it with an absolute rock star: Aubrey Phelps. Aubrey will lead efforts to rebuild the Junior Race Team, assist Donny Huntley and team in strengthening our High School Sailing programs, serve to bridge Learn-to-Sail graduates into ongoing opportunities, and open doors with area schools to grow awareness of the sport of sailing and of who we are as a club. This role is a bold step forward in reconnecting SSC to its roots as a hub for learning, mentorship, and community.

**Waterfront development** - Over the past few years, we've been putting in the work to make SSC a visible, vibrant part of the Sandusky waterfront—and with new developments

literally rising around us, it's never been more important to keep sailing at the center of that story. Our people are the reason this club has always felt like home, and our mission to share the joy of sailing with the next generation has never been more vital.

**Vera Richardson** - We are sad to report that Vera Richardson passed away on Dec. 16. Vera's calm demeanor will be greatly missed on both the Race Committee as well as socializing on SSC's porch. Condolences go out to her family.



### Last thing for this month:

If you haven't squared away your membership dues or dock payments, now's the time. Help us gear up for another unforgettable season. Get that admin out of the way, dust off your deck shoes, and start dreaming of summer. It's coming, and we've got a lot to be excited for.

— **Commodore "Toledo" Tim Willford**

## A note from Pippa, SSC First Mate

(Currently on Winter Leave)

Hi SSC fwens! It me, Pippa. I'm currently on watch next to da space heater, lickin' my toe beans and thinkin' BIG summer thoughts. Winter been very rude to my beans, and da lake is... hard right now so I've decided ice boating is NOT in my bravery budget. Even mighty beagle-saurous-rex has limits.

But don't worry—I'm busy dreamin' of warmer days, sparkly water, and gettin' back to my very important First Mate duties: dock patrol, morale wiggles, snack supervision, and sayin' hi to ALL my Sandusky Sailing Club fwens.

Can't wait to see you all when da water gets splashy again. Until then, stay warm, dream of summer sailin', and save me some dock scratches.

## Vice Commodore's Comments...VC Tim Ujvari

As I look out the window today with snow falling on top of over a foot of snow already and windchill temperatures well below zero, I'm wondering/hoping that with the spring thaw the lake levels will increase while benefiting our 2026 sailing season, which is now but a few short months away.

**While it is the winter season, there is activity at the club** with a few TLC maintenance and improvements being performed and other improvement plans underway.

**The Sadler Basin Committee is preparing to move forward with a number of activities:** Partial dredging of the basin, lengthening a few of the slips, repairs, and a new pump-out station are but a few.

**Check your profile on the SSC website** - While you're hunkered down during the frigid winter weather, take a few minutes to log into the SSC website, take a look at your profile and make any changes that may be necessary. Your current contact information is absolutely necessary if we are to effectively communicate with you.

**Let me know if you have comments or concerns** regarding the clubhouse and/or the grounds and we will attempt to address the matter. My contact information is email [tujvari@icloud.com](mailto:tujvari@icloud.com) or cell phone 330-696-3161.

### From the Rear .....RC Robbie Stone

Here we are in the middle of winter, and all I can think about is the return of warm weather and getting back out on the water. This time of year usually turns into my season for "bring-home boat projects," but when it's this cold, even heating the shop enough to get anything done is a challenge. The upside is that it gives me time to plan for the year ahead—and right at the top of that list is Fireside Fridays.

**Fireside Fridays are officially back, starting Feb. 6** with PC Matt Bedee and his famous pizzas. And yes, I really do mean famous. When Kitty and I first joined the club, Matt was making pizzas every Friday. Since we live four hours away, getting out of work, loading the kids and gear, and making it to SSC in time for pizza was never guaranteed. Once I got to know Matt, he'd let me call in my "last batch" pizzas when we were running late. To this day, when my now-adult kids come to the boat for the weekend, the first thing they ask is, "What time do I need to be there for pizza?" Matt's pizzas are genuinely excellent—if you haven't tried one, I encourage you to come see why I call them "Matt's Famous Pizzas."



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As you know, we no longer do pizza every Friday, but we still have some darn good food. I really love this SSC tradition of sharing meals with members and friends on Friday nights. If you don't attend regularly, I encourage you to give it a try. These evenings work because people volunteer to prepare the meal, and we need your help to keep the tradition going.

Here is the sign-up sheet. If there's a Friday you can help, please contact Kitty or me to sign up. The yellow dates are open.

Date	First Name	Last Name	Meal
02/06/26	Matt	Bedee	Pizza
02/13/26			
02/20/26	Tim	Willford	
02/27/26	Robbie	Stone	
03/06/26	Matt	Bedee	Pizza
03/13/26			
03/20/26	Robbie	Stone	
03/27/26			
04/03/26	Matt	Bedee	Pizza
04/10/26			
04/17/26			
04/24/26			
05/01/26			
05/08/26			
05/15/26			

**I have four guest speakers lined up for future Friday nights. February is proving difficult to fill, but we are working to schedule future dates. Look for an announcement coming soon!**

### Two Cents from the Treasury .... Dave & Bernie

**The 2026 Dues Statements were emailed out.** Your dues are the lifeblood of our club. Prompt payments by check, or on-line will be appreciated. When you get your email, please scroll down to the bottom to find your statement as a PDF. Payment is due by March 1, 2026. If you did not receive the email or need assistance, please check your spam and/or call Jackie Riedy at 419-357-5604.

### Sadler Sailing Basin .....

#### Chairman PC Bryan Huntley

Winter is certainly here. Our plans to dredge this fall have been delayed until spring for certain. But if it's going to be cold, let's enjoy the ice. The ramp is up and there will most likely be some winter sailing going on. Come on down. If you are an SSC member, you can join the Ice Boat fleet for only \$20 to help defray the cost of the ramp expenses. If someone you know wants to be involved in winter sports at SSC and is not a member, there is a winter membership available to them. See myself or Denny Butts.

#### As a reminder, our projects for 2026 are:

- New pump-out dock
- Re-configured 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.

As construction gets underway next door, we will continue our work with the city and try to obtain grant money to continue working on developing the basin.

## 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](http://www.learmington.ca/en/discover/Marina.aspx). [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](http://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](#) 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](#).
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](#), <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](mailto: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.



## **Dock Master Doug Klein**

***In-Water Winter Storage-*** We've had some boats sit in the mud during this last round of low water. The deicers are doing a good job of keeping the ice clear through it all.

***2026 dock contracts*** were emailed out on Oct. 17. We had some incorrect invoices go out early and I have sent notices of short payments to those that paid on them. I'm maintaining the 5% discount for those short payments. Email me if you have any questions.

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 are outlined in the contract form.

***Your boat plans-*** If you are not going to need an SSC dock this year, please let us know right away. If you are considering purchasing a new boat or selling your old one, let us know so we can anticipate your dockage requirements for 2026. Just like on the starting line, we can't anticipate everyone's actions so giving us a heads-up would be appreciated.

***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: [firfotodk@gmail.com](mailto:firfotodk@gmail.com)

## **Cruising Fleet..... RC Robbie Stone**

Before sharing some of the great ideas that came out of our Cruising Fleet brainstorming session, I want to take a moment to explain why I believe this fleet is so important. At my core, I believe that more people sailing is good for SSC and good for the sport as a whole. According to a 2023 US Sailing survey, more than 90% of avid racers began as cruisers or day sailors. In the 1970s, 37% of sailors actively raced; today, that number is under 15%.

Sandusky Sailing Club's heritage is deeply rooted in racing, but the Cruising Fleet can play a vital role in supporting that tradition. It helps grow future racers while also attracting and retaining the 85% of sailors who prefer cruising and day sailing. Strengthening this side of the club strengthens the entire club.

I recently stumbled across an article I wrote after my first year of racing. Before that, I proudly called myself a cruiser. The key idea still holds true: Racing is really just cruising around some marks—and when you look at it that way, it becomes a lot more fun. I'll share more thoughts on the synergy between cruising and racing as we continue building momentum.

Despite a few technical hiccups and some incorrect dates, we successfully held our brainstorming session to relaunch the Cruising Fleet. The ideas were fantastic, and I'm excited to share the developing vision, the plan, and next year's calendar once everything is finalized. For now, here's a preview of what's being considered.

## ***Vision***

- Incorporate sailing training for new sailors into our events.
- Build a network of experienced sailors to support new members.
- Collaborate with the Racing Fleet to create opportunities for new sailors to learn about racing.
- Offer "how to" sessions on a variety of sailing topics.

## ***Scheduled Event Ideas***

- Late summer or early fall sail to Cleveland for a Cleveland Guardians game.
- July 11: Middle Bass Island Music Festival.
- Pelee Island trip.
- Erie, PA Yacht Club trip.

## ***Impromptu Event Ideas***

- Family sail and swim outings.
- Anchor outs.
- Heavier wind sailing sessions for those looking to build confidence.

## ***Scheduled Events***

- Lighthouse Inspection – TBD.
- Leamington – June 12-14.

We will continue holding monthly online meetings. Everyone is welcome, and there is no formal membership at this time. Join us to share your ideas or simply listen in.

RC Robbie Stone - Temporary Cruising Fleet Captain

## **Sandusky Junior Sailors, Inc..... Suzanne Hartley and Michelle Gilboy**

***Happy February from all of us at SJSI!*** We hope everyone is staying warm. We are one month closer to spring and our High School Sailing team starting spring 2026 practice.

## ***Our 2026 Youth Learn to Sail registration is open.***

Several sessions already have sailors registered and we are close to a waiting list for Session 5 Full Day slots. Register early to ensure you have your choice of weeks for your sailors.

## **Yearbook .....Kathy Knox**

We want to thank everyone who is supporting the 2026 edition now with ads or patrons; we are still accepting them until the end of February. If you have a business or know someone who does and is interested in advertising in SSC's 2026 yearbook, contact Kathy Knox [kknox44@gmail.com](mailto:kknox44@gmail.com) for rates. Or if you would like to be a patron, check the patron box on your membership application and add \$5 to your dues.

# Weather Sayings of the old Sailors



DEW INDICATES A GOOD DAY AHEAD: A DRY MORNING IS SIGN OF SHOWERS.



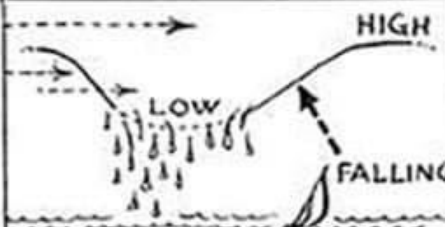
DISTANT SHORES LOOM UP "NEARER" BEFORE RAIN BECAUSE OF THINNING OF THE AIR.



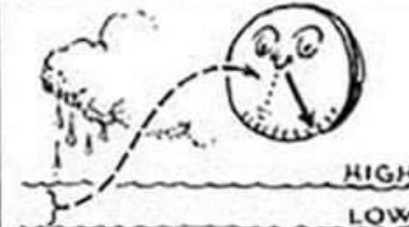
LARGE HALO AROUND THE MOON INDICATES CIRRUS CLOUDFORM & WARM FRONT RAIN.



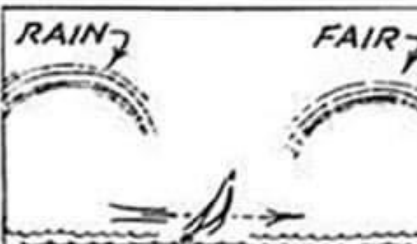
A VEERING WIND IS SIGN OF FAIR WEATHER: BACKING WIND MEANS RAIN.



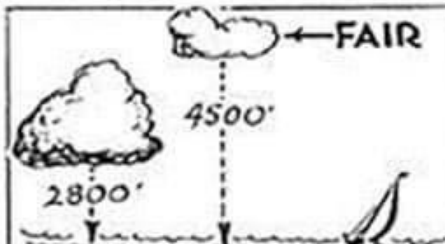
FALLING BAROMETER INDICATES NEARING "LOW" AREA, WITH WINDS AND RAIN.



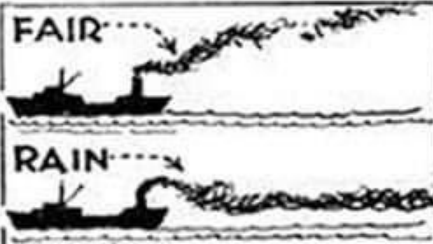
RAIN IS MOST FREQUENT AT THE TURN OF THE TIDE (IF AIR IS HUMID)



RAINBOW TO WINDWARD, RAIN AHEAD. RAINBOW TO LEEWARD, RAIN END.



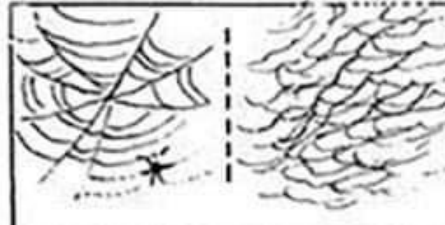
HIGHER THE CLOUDS, FINER THE WEATHER. LOWERING CEILINGS FORETELL A RAIN.



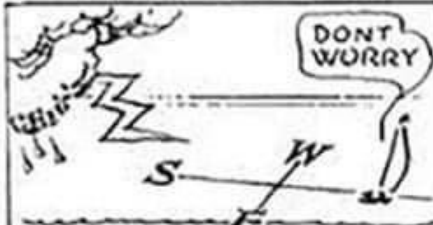
SMOKE THAT CURLS DOWNWARD AND LINGERS, MEANS A NEARING STORM.



THINNING AIR IS HARDER TO FLY IN. BIRDS "SIT IT OUT" BEFORE A STORM



SKY FULL OF WEBBY CIRRUS FORETELLS DISTURBANCE AND RAINS ON ITS WAY



LIGHTNING FROM THE W. OR N.W. WILL REACH YOU; FROM S. OR S.E. WILL PASS

## 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.

**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 Furling 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](mailto:geoff@nikegeoff.com)

**Paddle boards and inflatable docks** for sale. Contact Larry Knauer at [ldknauer@gmail.com](mailto:ldknauer@gmail.com) for more info.

**Harken MK IV unit 1 furler** for sale. Brand new. Priced to sell! Brad Balmert at [bradb1384@yahoo.com](mailto:bradb1384@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](mailto: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](mailto:R.Ramjet@gmail.com)

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### 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