



# *Sabre Sailing Association of South Australia*

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Magazine

February 2009

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## **Welcome to the February Sabre Newsletter.**

As we get towards the end of another season the State Championships have been completed and congratulations are extended to all the winners. The Association thanks all those who competed and made them a success. Further details are included later in the newsletter.

The National Championships were held at Safety Beach on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria and six South Australians competed in what was a heavy series. A report on the National Championships is also included.

As reported in the last newsletter Bill Anschutz had been hospitalized and a recent report indicates he is pressurizing the doctors to get him right so that he can get back into the Sabre again. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Annual General Meeting of the SA Sabre Sailing Assoc has been booked for the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Brighton & Seacliff Yacht Club It will take the usual format of a lunch at approx 12.30 pm followed by the meeting and presentation of the trophies for the State Championships. Partners are also welcome to attend. Further information will be forwarded closer to the meeting. As the Crows play on Saturday 23rd and the Power is playing in Sydney on Sunday there is no excuse for not attending.

To assist the Association in keeping costs down if you currently receive the newsletter by post and you now have access to the internet could you please provide your e-mail address to the Secretary ([bill.tucker@bigpond.com](mailto:bill.tucker@bigpond.com) ).

## **South Australian Sabre Sailors in Van Diemens Land !**

No, penal transportation has not commenced again, they are just there to enjoy themselves.

Chris Juttner in his yacht "Wild Goose" left Adelaide on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> January on passage to Hobart (BSYC Sabres had to avoid him as he sailed through the fleet en route to Tasmania). In Hobart he joined up with another 40 yachts for an organized sailing circumnavigation of Tasmania.

Fellow Sabre sailor, Graeme McLeay crewed on the 1<sup>st</sup> leg of the cruise from Hobart up the east coast to the Tamar. Chris is currently on the second leg down the west coast to Strahan. Dean Francis is joining Chris for the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg down the west coast to Hobart.

Perhaps we can encourage Chris to provide a more detailed account of the voyage for the next newsletter.

## **Grange Sailing Club Inaugural Classic Timber Boat Regatta**

The Grange Sailing Club extends an invitation to all sailors to compete in this unique race. Open to all classes of sailing dingy, catamaran or off the beach yacht. All timber boats or composite construction are welcome to enter. Race commences at 2pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Prizes for fastest boats on yardstick and the "most elegant" timber boat.

\$20 boat registration. For Entry details contact Club President Ian Glasson on 8356 4869, Tim O'Shea 0406086841 or the Grange Sailing Club on 8235 9212.

Spectators and families welcome, Grange Bar open, catering and after race BBQ.

To enable the Club to cater for the event email Tim O'Shea ([toshea77@hotmail.com](mailto:toshea77@hotmail.com)) indicating the number of people and boats being involved on the day.

## Victor Harbor Fleet Race

A contingent of nine Sabre skippers traveled to Victor Harbor on the last weekend in January for the two Fleet Races organized by the SA Association and hosted by the Victor Harbor Yacht Club on Saturday 31 January. It was an excellent day for sailing, with a 10-12 knot SW sea breeze and the temperature a welcome 27 deg. relief from the hot weather in Adelaide. With seven local Sabres competing we had a good fleet of 16 boats.

Once the shore break was mastered with help from the local sailors the boats made their way to the starting area. Dean Francis felt that he had left something behind but could not work out what it was until he realized he had left his life jacket in the boot of his car so it was back to the shore and the dreaded shore break to be mastered alone.

Two back to back races were sailed over a somewhat different windward/leeward course which included two yellow windward marks and three red leeward marks...interesting but it worked out OK and made for some good racing.

Race 1: The fleet got away OK and Dean Francis worked the shifts well to lead at the first mark, with John Gratton and Francis Watson rounding next and close on his transom. At the first of the leeward marks Dean had a brain fade and shaped up to round the mark to starboard instead of port, nearly getting wiped out by a number of speedy local catamarans who were rounding the mark the *correct* way. He eventually got himself sorted out but ended up fifth over the line behind John Gratton, Francis Watson, Rob Wright and Bill Tucker. Ron Rickards enjoyed the conditions to get a well sailed sixth and Victor Harbor local Don Taylor came in at seventh to be the first of the locals.

Race 2: With the breeze now favouring the left side of the course the Committee Boat end of the start line was the place to be. Francis Watson was quick off the line and played the shifts well to lead the pack around the first mark. Rob Wright made a telling move on the next upwind leg and by working the shore side of the course (he must have sailed at Victor before!) was able to hit the front by the next weather mark with a handy break. The lead changed again on the penultimate downwind leg and John Gratton was able to get the gun with Rob Wright second, Francis Watson third, Dean Francis fourth and Bill Tucker getting fifth place. First local was again Don Taylor in ninth, with fellow Victor club member (and Sabre Class legend) Ian Rowan in his trusty 25 year old boat Seahorse coming in tenth.

All in all it was a most enjoyable afternoon of sailing and the visiting Sabres certainly appreciated the chance to get away from the heat wave conditions in Adelaide as well as the opportunity to sail on the scenic waters of Encounter Bay. Many thanks to the local Sabre guys and the VHYC who made everyone feel very welcome and also put on some excellent racing. A number of the visiting skippers and their partners stayed on after the racing for a beer or two and to enjoy the generous hospitality extended by the host club. Hopefully the Fleet Race event at Victor can become a regular fixture on the Sabre calendar.

## **A Day at Normanville Sailing Club** by Bill Tucker

Following the sailing day at Victor Harbor on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009, Stephen Rogers from the Normanville Sailing Club (also sails at Victor Harbor) invited anyone who wished to sail on the Sunday on the way home to Adelaide to sail at Normanville. Ron Rickards, John Cobb and Bill Tucker and their wives accepted the invitation despite 25 to 30 knot SE winds being forecast. So we asked where we would find the sailing club? The reply, "the blue beach shelter at the end of the boat ramp". Ok. We should be able to find that.

The three of us arrived at about 12.30pm and sure enough there was the "club house" duly erected on the beach so we drove down onto the beach and parked next to the "Clubhouse" and were made welcome by those present. By about 1pm there were two local sabres, us and about a dozen various types of catamarans assembled around the "Club". It was obvious that it was a very friendly and relaxed Club with everyone assisting each other to get their boats off trailers and putting the rescue/start boat in the water. After rigging the boats we visited the Normanville Bakery for lunch while the wives went off doing what ever wives do when we are sailing.

Around 1.30pm the wind had set in from the SE at about 10 to 15 knots and Stephen called a briefing. The course for the day would be two laps of a square, "the same as we tried last week" and the course was drawn in the sand with a stick. The windward mark was set about 80 metres from the beach in front of the "Club" with a finish in a southerly direction between the "Club" and a finishing buoy, about 50 metres off the beach. The race time would be about 40minutes. As visitors we were advised the marks of the course are the faded yellow flags on the small white buoys. The second race would start as soon as the boats had reassembled at the start area. Bill Tucker suggested that due to the forecast of the winds increasing to 25 to 30 knots we may only sail one race but was told "No, we always sail two races" so that was the end of that argument. What about start times? "When I'm ready" was the reply. Where do we get changed? "Between your car doors" was the reply. I told you it was relaxed !!!!

By the time the races started the wind had picked up to 15 to 18 knots and luckily held that speed all afternoon. According to the locals the SE wind is the prevailing wind. John Cobb had a good lead in the first race at the windward mark but then lead me astray by heading for a moored boat in the distance and overlaid the mark allowing Ron to gain the lead. John was heard muttering something about faded yellow flags and small white buoys. It was a typical SE wind with stronger gusts coming through every now and again to keep you on your toes and flat water which made for exciting reaches and runs. Bill Tucker had one swim and

John Cobb almost had one as well. One of the local boats was reasonably competitive and the other was a new skipper still learning the ropes and did not finish either race. As far as results go, Ron Rickards won the first race by a boat length from Bill Tucker. The tables were turned with the same winning margin for the second race with John only a few boat lengths further back each race. After the races a shower under the beach showers in the car park washed off the salt before changing between the car doors again for the trip home.

All in all it was a very relaxed and enjoyable days sailing and it was a chance to promote the class at Normanville and give some tips to the local skippers on setting up their boats. Thanks to the club for giving us the invitation to sail, it was certainly a unique but enjoyable days sailing. It shows you don't need to have a big flash club house and associated infrastructure to enjoy a day on the water. If you are ever looking for something different to do on a Sunday go down to Normanville with your boat and have a sail. Just look for the blue beach shelter and friendly locals at the end of the boat ramp.



BSYC Sabres alongside the Normanville Sailing Club

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 80 fleet regatta started with the Invitation Race on Saturday 27 December and concluded on Saturday 3 January, with a lay-day on New Years Day. The Series was run in the preferred Victorian format of race sessions rather than set Heats and Resails. There were six race sessions scheduled for a total of nine heats, with a mixture of long (triangle/loop/triangle) races and back-to-back short races (triangle/loop), all sailed over a six day period. No resails were required and all races were sailed in the afternoon with the warning signal at 1400hrs. No gate starts either...!

The Safety Beach venue was great and the Mornington Peninsula is certainly a top place to go for a sailing holiday. The Safety Beach Sailing Club clubhouse was an almost brand new building with excellent facilities and a nice (green) grassed and secure boat park while the sailing waters off Safety Beach were seemingly typical for Port Phillip bay, with a peculiar short chop always running and shifting winds that varied frequently up and down the wind strength range in any given race.

As for the racing it could be summarized as follows...*big fleet, big winds, big shifts*. Unlike the previous series in Adelaide the Safety Beach Nationals saw most races sailed in W-SW winds ranging from 15-17 knots and up to 22-27 knots, with only a couple of heats held in light winds that got below 10-12 knots. The back-to-back Fourth and Fifth heats were particularly testing with the breeze up around 25+ knots at times and a long wait in the interval between races. It was also at times bloody cold out on the water (which, after all, is what you would expect in Melbourne in summer anyway).

Victorian Alex Newman in 1769 Enough Rope is the new National Champion, finishing one point clear of Callum Burns, with Wayne Bates getting third place. Going into the last heat any one of five skippers had the chance to win to take out the title and the result was not decided until the last beat of the final heat, which Alex Newman won. See the Australian Sabre website [www.sabre.org.au](http://www.sabre.org.au) and log into [www.safetybeachsailingclub.com/2008/10/news-of-the-week/](http://www.safetybeachsailingclub.com/2008/10/news-of-the-week/) for the regatta results.

The SBSC race management was generally OK, however a number of races had delayed start times as the PRO finessed the start line length and bearing, and almost every line was heavily biased to the pin end, causing multiple general recalls and inevitable black flags for just about every race.

For the record this is how the SA Sabres finished:

8th John Gratton  
10th Dean Francis  
32nd Chris Juttner  
42nd Rob Gale  
43rd Graeme McLeay  
78th Colin Wilson.

## **South Australian Wooden Boat and Music Festival Riverport of Goolwa.**

The 2009 Wooden Boat and Music Festival will be held on the long weekend Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> commencing at 10am each day. If anyone is interested in participating and promoting the class, the sailing programme has the Sabre class listed as sailing at 10am each day so you would need to be ready by then.

For further information contact 85557240, fax 85553810 or [info@woodenboatfestival.com.au](mailto:info@woodenboatfestival.com.au)

Other attractions include Paddle Steamer "OSCAR W", the Steamranger Cockle train, Restricted 21's Sailing Race, Kool 4 Kids Concert, Bremerton wine and food gourmet tent, Puppet Palace Marquee, Ngarrindjeri Cultural tent, Wooden boat solar challenge and fireworks.

Tickets	Day	3Days
Adults	\$15	\$25
Child/Conc	\$10	\$20
Family	\$35	\$55
Admission Family (2A & 2C) Child 5-15 years – under 5 free		

## **FOR SALE**

Sabre 1601 Timber Hull in excellent condition  
3 Binks sails (1last season) A class certificate  
No trailer or Dolly  
\$3200 Telephone Laura Averay 0401096625

Sabre 1294 Fibre Glass Hull very good condition on trailer  
2 owners from new with very little use.  
2 sails  
\$2300 Contact Andrew Todd 86332777

1 Yachtcraft Centre Board good condition. Price \$150.00 Negotiable  
Contact Greg Pratt, Somerton Park on 8352 7144 or 0417881988

## Safety Issue

Sabre Skipper Bob Wright supplied the following information after two recent instances of Sabre capsizes where the skippers were able to right, but not get back into their boat.

“By chance I came across this device in a Davis Instruments catalogue, and thought that the information may be of interest.

[http://www.davisnet.com/marine/products/marine\\_product.asp?pnum=01466](http://www.davisnet.com/marine/products/marine_product.asp?pnum=01466)

I am told that Chris Juttner has devised a similar idea on his boat.”

Swim StirrupR

The Safe Solution to a Slippery Situation

The Swim StirrupR has been carefully engineered to provide safe, easy access to small boats for swimmers or water skiers. Durable, reliable design attaches to gunwales or transoms. Easy to install, easy to use-it even floats!

Perfect for rowboats, ski boats, dinghies, sailboats  
Adjustable length to fit your boat  
Complete hardware and instructions included.

**Editors Note:** Thanks Bob, this may be of interest and worthy of following up for anyone who has had difficulty in getting back into their boat.

## State Championships

Results of the State Championships are attached or can be viewed on the SA Sabre web site.