Commodore's Letter
— Tracey Harrop '07

As the spring season usually does, this season went by in a whirlwind, coming to end just as it seemed to start. When I joined the team the beginning of my freshmen year, I never would have guessed that a year and a half later, I would be elected commodore. As I considered running for the commodore position, I realized how in such a short time at Princeton, I had fallen completely in love with dinghy racing and with the team.

Who else can say they can get off campus a couple of times a week to play in the wind and waves? While practice always leaves me physically tired (especially on heavy-wind days), I also always feel rejuvenated when coming back to campus. I am grateful for having to opportunity to serve the team this season, and am enthusiastic about next fall. I would like to personally thank all of our sailors, whose constant dedication and hard work make up the heart and soul of the team. I would also like to thank all of the parents and alumni for their unfailing generosity and hospitality, without which we could not exist. Here's to a great fall season!

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Varsity Round-Up
— Natalia Balko '07

The opening of the spring sailing season brought a change to the Princeton team – MAISA had redistricted, and the team was now a member of the Central division. This change, while allowing Princeton sailors to attend closer regattas, meant that qualifying regattas became more competitive. Nevertheless, we had a great season with some fun regattas and a lot of good sailing.

The season started off with two regattas over spring break, the Admiral Moore Regatta at New York Maritime Academy, and the UMBC Spring Open (Central #1) in Baltimore. The team did fairly well at both of these regattas, narrowly missing qualifying for America's Trophy at Cen-
Sailing Abroad: PUST in Scotland
— Alistair Boettiger ’07

You certainly appreciate a drysuit sailing in the North Sea in early February. The occasional snow fall didn’t trouble us too much—except when it was falling so thick that one couldn’t see the shore from less than a hundred yards out and we had to abort practice. The water on the other hand is pretty icy, here at the University of St. Andrews in North East Scotland, where I’m studying this semester. Nonetheless, it’s great to practice in the estuary of the great Fifth of Tay, with the scared walls of Broughty Castle guarding the mouth of the fifth to the east and the majestic Highland mountains framing the fifth to the west, between which we can watch the sun set over the water at the end of practice.

Collegiate racing over here is all team racing, which is a very exciting though rather more complicated format. Each team fields three boats that race against three boats from the opposing team for the best combined score. This adds a completely new set of tactics designed to slow down opposing boats and let your team mates catch up or pass. It also forces you to shore up on the rules and know when someone has the right to obstruct your course and when they don’t. Consequently, a considerable number of the drills we do at practice aim at learning to break pins, such as lee-bowing a windward boat that’s preventing you from tacking, and other such measures, both defensive and aggressive. Unfortunately, the fragile larks get rather banged up in this type of aggressive sailing that keeps the fleet close together, so they’re constantly under repair.

The program is nominally much larger than the Princeton club, registering some 160 members though the undergraduate body is only slightly larger than Princeton. Most of these are just beginning and recreational sailors, a few of which show up to the recreational practices each week. Others may go to the yacht racing practices and competitions but stay out of the dinghies. The racing team is closer to 30 able to send an A, B, and a Ladies team (18 sailors) to competitions that involve all three leagues. This makes races much more of a team bonding experience as we have a much more sizable contingent (frequent-
Learning the Rules... Again
— Nicholas Burroughs ’08

On a cold Saturday morning this past February a faithful contingent of Princeton sailors, myself included, went to see Dave Perry give a rules talk at the Raritan Yacht Club. While most of us would have still been in bed at eight in the morning, the fact Dave Perry has written Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing and Winning in One-Designs as well as sitting on the US Sailing Appeals Committee inspired us to give up our beauty rest. Perry also attended Yale, which reminds us everyone makes mistakes.

Perry began the rules talk by going through a number of situations in order to describe his method for determining right and wrong in protests. Perry guided us through a number of at first seemingly simple and then complex rules situations.

In the afternoon Perry went over all the changes to the rules that went into effect the first of this year. Two in particular should have some affect in college dinghy racing. The first involves a port boat attempting to cross in front of a starboard boat upwind. Rule 16.2, part of the changing course rule has been weakened, and now says, “when after the starting signal a port-tack boat is keeping clear by to pass sailing astern of a starboard-tack boat, the starboard-tack boat shall not change course if as a result the port-tack boat would immediately need to change course to continue keeping clear.” Previously this rule applied whenever a port and starboard boat came together on the upwind leg. Now when a port boat tries to cross in front of a starboard boat, the starboard boat may hunt them (i.e. change their course so they will hit the port boat) as long as they give the port boat “room to keep clear.”

The other rule change involves the redefinition of sculling. Now sculling consists of any “repeated movement of the helm that is either forceful or that propels the boat forward or prevents her from moving astern.” Additionally, a boat above close-hauled “may scull to turn to a close-hauled course.” Under the new rules if one attempts to only turn, not propel, their boat with repeated “forceful” movement of the helm, one has sculled and violated the propulsion rule. Under the old rules only repeated movements not necessary for steering were outlawed.

Perry concluded the talk by telling a particularly amusing story about a similar talk he gave to the Japanese sailing team. As the story loses much of its humorous character without Dave Parry’s rendition of Japanese sailors hesitant and heavily accented English I will give it in summarized form. I am willingly to perform a full rendition of the story for anyone who comes to visit the team at Princeton. In the story the Japanese sailor

See Perry, p. 4

Princeton Wins Princeton Women’s
— Julia Peppiat ’08

Every season, the Princeton team hosts its own regatta in Perth Amboy, Princeton Women’s. In the fall, the regatta was held the second weekend of fall break. Much of the team came back to Princeton to sail and help run the regatta. Julie Bert ’05 and Adriana Willse ’07 sailed in A division, while Liz Gough ’07 and Julia Peppiatt ’08 sailed in B division. Saturday gave us a good day of sailing, though racing was cancelled on Sunday due to high winds. The team made a strong showing and was happy to win the regatta. We also had many compliments on running the regatta, including one that the race results were posted faster than the Ocean County College coach had ever seen. The regatta was a great experience for all who attended.

New Acquisitions
— Tracey Harrop ’07

In the past year, the Princeton Sailing Team has been lucky to make several new acquisitions. The team’s largest purchase was a set of new sails that we got to inaugurate at Princeton Women’s. Our second acquisition is a Laser, the generous gift of Richard F. Ober ’65. Many large intersectional regattas have Laser classes, and though we are able to send one of our several sailors who have experience sailing Lasers, they have not had the opportunity to practice in Lasers at Princeton. With our new Laser, we should be able to get some of our skippers practicing and ready to compete at some of these intersectionals. The new boat will be a great asset both to our team as a whole, and to our members, who will have experience sailing another class of boats.
describes a spectacular incident in which 505 he skippers approaches the reach mark. Just before rounding the mark the boat heels to windward, resulting in his body hitting a wave and getting pulled from the dinghy. The boat then travels with only the crew aboard around the mark and capsizes. The Japanese sailor then asks, “Mr. Perry, when skipper swim to boat, must skipper round mark. And if skipper hit mark, must skipper re-round mark,” the appropriate penalty at the time.

Dave Perry said he could not remember how he answered the question for the Japanese sailor, nor can he decide what answer would be appropriate. He decided if you’ve capsized, it remains very unlikely anyone will care what you do. Nonetheless, his conclusion added an appropriate bit of amusement to the excellent education in the rules new and old.

Memorable regattas throughout the season included the Maryland Spring Open at the University of Maryland and the Delaware Spring Open. The team also had the opportunity to sail against teams outside of the Central division in our former district at North #2 at New York Maritime. The team did quite well at all of these regattas. While the team was unable to qualify for America’s Trophy at Central #2, again narrowly missing qualifying by one position, the team proceeded to perform well at the Leroy Grant regatta at Cornell on April 30th and May 1st, finishing the season with a second place finish at this regatta. The Princeton team at Leroy Grant was headed by Nick Burroughs ’08 and Tracey Harrop ’07, who finished first in A division and Ted Conbeer ’08 and Peter Jarow ’08 in B division.

At the end of the season, Burroughs, Conbeer, and Jarow all received awards for their talent and devotion. The team also honored graduating members Laura Jones ’05 and Adam Abelson ’05 who have been guiding lights to the team, its leaders, and its youngest members throughout their tenure. We wish them the best of luck as they begin the rest of their lives on land. With strong prospects and motivated leaders, the team is excited and ready for the fall season.