

Princeton University Sailing Team

Newsletter Spring 2006

A Letter from the Commodore

-Nick Burroughs '08

The spring season has once again come to a close just as the weather starts getting nice. We started moving boats back from Raritan on a sunny day in the 70s with over 15 knots of sea breeze. While I and the rest of the team would prefer to keep on sailing, a lot of boat work needs to be done and I should probably stop avoiding my school work now that finals approach.

I began the spring season with many plans to improve the team. Behind the scenes we got the team better organized and visibly produced—thanks almost entirely to Ted Conbeer '08—an excellent website that we encourage all of you to visit. Most importantly, practice attendance, the number of regattas we attended, and the competitiveness of the team improved compared to last spring, resulting in a qualification for America's Trophy.

We concluded the spring season with a 16th place finish at America's Trophy, a two place improvement on our finish at War Memorial in the fall. Every team that beats us, except Cornell in 14th, had at least one coach at the regatta with them. While I felt we could have done better even without a coach, clearly only the teams with full time coaches can achieve top results in MAISA and have a chance of placing in the top four at America's Trophy to qualify for nationals. Realizing how important a coach can be we are currently looking to hire a full time coach who will among other things attend regattas with us.

The Princeton administration, like any other bureaucracy, has placed a fair share of obstacles in our path towards hiring a full time coach. I hope to navigate our way through rocks with the help of our dedicated Alumni Board

See **Commodore**, page 8



The team practicing in Raritan

Season in Review

- Whitney Davis '09

After having a fun bonding and intense practice session in Florida over intersession (see Sarah Langberg's article page 2) the team was rearing to go come March for the spring season.

The first regatta of the season was Admiral Moore at SUNY Maritime where the current balanced out the wind and boats floated from first to last and back again. We ended up finishing in 17th place but still foresaw a competitive season ahead of us.

The following week was Central #1 in Baltimore Harbor, our first chance to qualify for America's Trophy. With the wind ranging from less than 5 to over 15 knots and shifty puffs, the team didn't end up qualifying (we placed 8th overall). However our competitors enjoyed spending time with Sterge Papadakis '94 and Alison Papadakis '97 who provided housing for the event. Thanks! We young sailors love to pick the brains of veteran Princeton sailors.

The second weekend of our Spring break brought us up to Boston for the Owen Trophy at Harvard University. Sailing on the Charles River was no picnic with unfamiliar wind patterns, foreign Larks, and not having a coach with whom we could discuss it all. We finished in 15th place.

See **Season in Review**, page 6

Florida Really is Paradise

-Sarah Langberg '09

This past intersession the Sailing Team once again ventured south of the border (the NJ border, that is) to the lovely state of Florida. The weather below the Mason-Dixon Line was beyond incredible, not to mention the camaraderie and sailing.

The team started off with a pre-trip gathering at Princeton Tower Club thanks to Junior members Natalia Balko '07 and David Cobey '07.

We arrived in Florida on a warm and sunny Sunday, to be greeted by 70 degree air and an alum: we were honored to be coached for the week by team alum, Brandon Schwartz '97. We stayed on Treasure Island (near St. Petersburg) and had the privilege of sailing at the University of Central Florida's lovely site on the Tampa Bay, feeding into the Gulf of Mexico.

We were graced by mild wind and fair weather for the first four days of our sailing, with 2 days heavier than the others, providing a nice mix of practice experiences. We did everything from bunny drills to racing, and certainly improved our skills in the process. On Thursday afternoon, we raced against the University of Central Florida's team (who is notoriously good these days), and over half of our fleet beat their competitors – clearly a mark of our improving skill!

The time off of water was just as much time as that spent under the sails and the sun. The freshmen sailors all stayed together at a rental house, while the upperclassmen and Coach Brandon had a lovely condo-by-the-water. The



Sarah Langeberg crews for Ted Conbeer '08 in Florida

freshmen house was on a canal and came with a canoe, which we certainly utilized on a nightly basis – clearly we can't get enough of the waterfront!

Our team was so lucky to have Fleet Captain Joe Codega '09 on the trip with us – his culinary skills finally came out and were certainly unrivaled. Thanks to lessons from Grandmother Codega, the team was treated to a new, gourmet surprise each night.

On Friday, as our trip drew to a close, Tampa Bay was unfortunately visited by severe thunderstorms. We sat out the storm for a few hours in the boat-house and got a great "chalk talk" from Coach Brandon. But when the storms persisted, we realized that the whole day would be devoted to taking cover. We took a brief sailing hiatus and ventured to the amazing Salvador Dalí museum for some cultural enrichment. Though the

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Princeton takes on the Colgate 26

-Peter Jarow '08

For one weekend, we had the luck to get rid of hiking straps and dinghy boots and try our hand at Navy Keelboat Promotional Regatta. Though we had never sailed together on a keelboat before the regatta, we were hopeful that it would be a weekend of sunbathing on the Severn River with an occasional need to turn the winch while our skipper Nick Burroughs took on the brunt of the work.

We quickly found out how wrong we were. Within our four-person crew, everyone spent much of the time trying to keep pace. Whitney Davis, taking charge of the spinnaker, would be set to work on the pole as soon as we were able to douse the chute. Matt Tilghman tended the main rather impressively for lacking gloves. I myself spent most of the races trying to get our rusted winch handle finally into the winch and then even more desperately trying to get it out before the next tack. Nick Burroughs took on a calm and cautious tone at the tiller that surprised most of us who are used to seeing a different side of him in the FJ.

The weekend certainly had its ups and downs as we learned where everything and everyone else was on the boat. Saturday began with a near capsize when we lost control of the spinnaker. Our mast and Whitney Davis, who dangled on the lifelines at the bow, came within feet of the water. Later in the day, our chute became tangled around the forestay forcing us to sail

downwind out into the Chesapeake Bay until three of us managed to pull it down. Sunday also had its rocky moments as we managed to run aground even though the boat right to windward of us managed to sail on.

While there were those moments when the uniformed midshipmen running race committee looked at us with a marked bewilderment, we did manage to steadily improve throughout the regatta. On Saturday, our finishes began to improve with each race though at the beginning there was no where to go but up. The 11th place finishes turned into 9th and 7th by the end of the morning session. With a little bit of luck and a heavily favored right-hand side of the course, we managed to pull out a 3rd and a 2nd place finish later on in the afternoon.

Sunday followed a similar pattern as Saturday. In the second race of the day, the wind died out and left us languishing in the middle of the fleet as we watched the top five boats glide across the finish line. After half an hour though, the wind filled in from the east, and we headed out to the mouth of the Severn to recommence racing. In the last two races, the wind steadily increased and we found ourselves out on the rail for the first time. Though a couple of shifts got the best of us on the windward legs, our quickly improving spinnaker skills helped us catch a couple of boats downwind, and we finished the regatta in 7th place – sneaking by a couple of teams that had competed on keelboats before.

Overall everyone left the regatta a lot more comfortable on the Colgate 26 than when it started, and we're looking forward to entering another keelboat regatta in the fall.

Ancient Mariners Become Ancient Mainers

-Tad LaFountain '76

It's been 35 years since we sailed in college, but last September, Gary Jobson (NYSMC '73), Bill Campbell (USNA '73), John Martin (USCGA '72) and I spent several days cruising Down East from Rockland on Whirlwind (Gary's Sabre 40). The weather was perfect, the company was great and the stories were outlandish. The boat was decidedly more comfortable than the Penguins we used to sail against each other on Barnegat Bay 40-something years ago (a picture of John crewing for Gary as 15-year-olds was included in the Soundings February cover story on Gary). Bill (middle in picture) has reconciled himself to being the second fastest in the family, as son Andrew (Georgetown '06) continues to excel. Gary (right) has regained much of his health and has resumed some of his hectic lecturing schedule. I



(on the left) paid homage to college during the trip (note top of Ballantine Ale can just visible behind the winch). John (the photographer), our chef on the trip, has reduced his sailing to occasional Sunfish trips around Nantucket harbor; rather than be a Viking, he'd prefer to cook on one.

The last time John, Gary and I had been together was two years ago at Gary's induction dinner into the America's Cup Hall of Fame (John and I were trying to figure out if we had the lowest net worth in the room full of Turners, Kochs, et al). Also in attendance was the entire Courageous crew, including Rich Boyd ('76), who has barely changed over the years.

I spoke a couple of weeks ago with Kathie Kojis, wife of Carl Arentzen ('72), who assured me that they had been spared any ill effects of the tornados that had ripped through Springfield recently. It was suggested that I could come out to Illinois this summer and crew for Carl on his Star. This would make sense, since it was 17 years ago that I

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ALUMNI PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

If you have photos, articles, or any other relevant PUST memorabilia that would be fun for all to see on the team website (www.princeton.edu/~sailing) and/or in future print team newsletters, please scan or toss in an envelope and pass along!



Please send your contributions to:

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Dillon, Room 3
Princeton, NJ 08544
or e-mail:
econbeer@princeton.edu



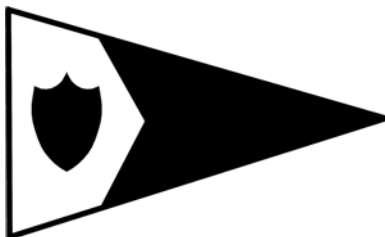
Princeton Sailing Gear

Show your PUST pride! The team has short-sleeved pique polo shirts with the orange and black Princeton burgee and the words "Princeton University Sailing Team" embroidered on the left breast. Shirts are available in white, youth sizes L-XL and adult sizes S - XL for \$35.00. Who knew supporting the team could be this fashionable?

The team is also selling burgees (\$20) and stickers (\$2). Support the team through purchase of one of these great accessories!

For more information, or to order, contact Whitney Davis (wdavis@princeton.edu) with your size.

>> JOIN THE TIGERNET PRINCETON SAILING EMAIL LIST - "PRINCETON-SAILING"! <<



THE FRIENDS OF PRINCETON SAILING

The Friends of Princeton Sailing continues to receive wonderful support from many of our alumni sailors, friends, and team parents. Thanks to all who made contributions to the team since this past fall 2005, as reflected below. The team thrives on the generosity of funds, advice, and time donated to them over the years, and, as such, every contribution at any level is always welcome. Thanks again, therefore, to our alumni, friends, parents, and others for your continuous support – the team depends on you for its successes.

As we experience delays in receiving notice from the University of each gift or pledge made to the Friends of Sailing, you may not see your name listed below. We will endeavor to list you in the Fall 2006 newsletter. Please let Emily Kalkstein '98, President, or Jason Balich '00, Treasurer, know if you have not received a tax acknowledgement from the University.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE (\$1000+)

Peter Fortenbaugh '89 S90 · Dick Rose '60

MAINSTAY (\$250+)

Nelle Alexander '76 · Jason Balich '00 · Henry Barkhorn III '71 · Ted Burdick '92 · Gary Cameron '63 · Tim and Susan Davis P'09 · Rod Johnstone '58 · Bob Stern '48 P83 · Tony Widmann '49

BACKSTAY (\$100+)

Bob Adams '57 · Ellen and Charles Azzaretti P06 · Dorothy Bedford '78 · Richard Boyd, Jr. '76 · Alice and Stephen Brown P99 · Bonney Crater '84 · Greg Davis '00 · Lisa Flannery '95 · Bill Floyd Jr. '69 · Jon Foot '84 · Ted Foot '57 · Ben Fuller '67 · Bob Johnstone '56 · Jose Lopez-Cepero Jr. '83 · Doug Mallach '91 · Dan Miller Esq. '55 · Barbara Moore '81 · Amanda North '93 · Chris Powers '97 · Andy Schoettle '55 · Susan Silberstein P'08 · Jim Sinclair '59 · Jennifer Stern '83 · Derek Storn '63

FRIENDS

Chet Apy '54 · Chris Buja '84 · Hilary Burt '03 · Mandy Carver '82 · Frank Doyle III '85 · Todd Field '76 · Juliana Gamble '99 · Jay Helme '54 · Jim Johnson, Jr. '69 · Spen Kellogg III '62 · Flix Kloman II '55 · Jim Ward '03 · George Whittle '48

>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT <<

Some things so look for on the Princeton Sailing website...

- Complete Fall Schedule
- Additional pictures from practice and regattas
- Continuously updated information about season progress and team events
- An updated alumni section
- Regatta reports

<http://www.princeton.edu/~sailing/>

This same weekend was also the Princeton Women's regatta hosted at home at Raritan Yacht Club. Only four teams attended and we placed 4th, but we received many compliments on a smoothly run and enjoyable regatta.

Our last chance to qualify for America's Trophy came the following weekend at Central #2 at OCC. We competed in both Tech Dinghies and 420s. There was a strong breeze on the first day until we had to take a brief break to let a thunderstorm pass through which ate our wind and made us sail the last two sets in a light breeze. After the first day we were one point behind the team we had to beat to qualify. The second day we put our game faces on and pulled through into a comfortable lead over Loyola (17 points) to finish in 4th place and qualify for America's Trophy!

Four of our sailors had also headed to Kings Point for the North Spring #1 regatta. Even though we were down an A fleet boat the second day, we still managed to beat a team in the regatta.

The next weekend we went to U. Maryland for a 2v2 team race regatta. It was our first team race regatta and it was a great learning experience. Though there were many mistakes and miscommunications, we ended up placing 6th.

The following weekend we attended a Small Keelboat Invitational at Navy. This was an exciting and new experience as well (see Peter Jarow's article, page 3). We finished in 7th.

The next weekend we doubled up, sending four freshmen to MAISA Open



Practicing on on the Raritan River

at St. Mary's and four other sailors to the Greater NY Area Dinghy Regatta at SUNY (moved from Fordham due to weather forecast). The freshmen regatta had shifty conditions and they were only able to get 3 rotations in. We finished 11th. At SUNY sailing was postponed on the first day at noon due to current and technical problems. The second day it was blowing 20 knots with lots of seas and racing was canceled. There was great clam chowder though! We placed 3rd.

The last regatta of the season was America's Trophy at Old Dominion. It was blowing at least 20 knots on both days giving the sailors a tough workout. With no substitutions or coach like most of the other teams we ended up placing 16th out of 18.

The season all in all was a success. The freshmen became more veteran sailors and more accustomed to dealing with multiple weekly practices and being away from Princeton on the weekends for regattas. We all became better friends and had fun learning from the upperclassmen both on and off the water. A big thanks to our senior sailors Lawrence Azzaretti, Powel Fraser, Claire Meyer, Hilary Minot, and Brandon Perry for being great sailing role models. Good luck next year! I hope you all come back and sail with us one day!

Davis Has the Winning Background to Lead the Princeton Sailing Team

-Francie Ward '09

Winning races – and regattas – demands a certain poise and confidence. Freshman skipper Whitney Davis has not only the lineage and resume but the mindset of a true winner. Brandon Racusin '09 remarks, “You can feel Whit’s intensity and passion the second she steps in a boat.” Gritty and determined on the water, she does, however, accomplish the difficult task of simultaneously being one of the most fun sailors on the water as anyone crewing for Whitney will confirm.

Sailing success is certainly nothing new in Whitney’s family. Recently, her grandmother, four-time U.S. Women’s Sailing Champion Frances McElwain Wakeman was inducted into the New England Women’s Sports Hall of Fame. Whether a result of genetics or not, Whitney brings an unbelievable record to Princeton. Dominating the Boston area junior sailing scene as a teen, Whitney beat an extremely competitive 89 boat fleet to win the 2003 USA Junior Olympic Festival at Hull yacht Club near Boston.

Though a concussion early this year sidelined her for much of the fall season, Whitney started off the spring season with renewed determination. The team realized just how much it had been missing as soon as Whitney was back on the water. Her promising performance on the sailing team’s training trip to Florida invigorated everyone. A lethal tactician, “Whitney is always very

good at reading the course and always manages to come out in front off the line,” notes her crew Peter Jarow '08. Whitney has boosted the performance of every skipper on the team with her presence and talent.

Skilled not only at the helm but in the front of the boat, Whitney has proved invaluable with her versatility as well. Alternating between the two positions in the stacked Central Spring #2 Regatta, Whitney helped the team qualify for the prestigious America’s Trophy by frequently finishing among the top three in her division both as skipper and crew.

The future holds much promise for Miss Davis. As the only female skipper racing for the team and one of five freshman team officers, she has proven she can not only beat the boys but effectively lead them too.



Sailing Team Officers

Commodore: Nick Burroughs '08
Regatta Captain: Sarah Langberg '09
Practice Captain: Brandon Racusin '09
Treasurer: Ted Conbeer '08
Secretary: Whitney Davis '09
Fleet Captains: Peter Jarow '08
Joe Codega '09

Commodore, from page 1

headed by Emily Kalkstein '97 and at some point next year hire a full time coach with the support of all of the alumni.

Next fall we have more regattas scheduled than any season I've been at Princeton. With all our current members, plus a class of freshmen that will hopefully be as numerous and talented as this year's, we plan to continue to improve our regatta results. We'll conclude next season with the Rose Bowl regatta in California, which has both college and high school fleets and acts as a recruiting tool for college teams. Hopefully, the exposure gained at Rose Bowl will encourage many talented sailors from the west coast to apply to Princeton.

The Princeton Sailing Team continues looking for ways to improve on past results and become more competitive. Yet we could not have gotten to where we are today without the generous support of all the alumni, parents, and other Friends of Princeton Sailing, who contribute to the team by housing us at many away regattas, sharing their knowledge of college sailing with us, offering us summer jobs as sailing instructors, showing up to cheer us on and even offer a little coaching at regattas, and, of course, donating money to cover our expenses. With everyone's support the Princeton Sailing Team looks forward to a great fall season.

Florida, from page 2

exhibits were breath-taking, we were all so worn out from sailing that we could barely stand – a testament to our dedication and intensity on the water from previous days, indeed!

Overall, the trip was an amazing bonding and learning experience for the team. We raced together, ate together, lived together, and learned together. Intersession was such a precious and valuable time for the team annual trip, with not a single assignment or looming reading hanging over our heads! I was thrilled to be able to go as a freshman, and look forward to three more exiting trips to come! The sailing was incredible, the team camaraderie flourished, and a well needed academic break and hardcore week of sailing was amazing! Viva la Florida!

Ancient Mariners, from page 4

went out to Wisconsin and sailed with Carl for the first time in 17 years since graduation, so we'd be like some sort of sailing cicadas. Unlikely that we'd repeat the 1989 experience, when we won a race in the Star districts over a fleet that included the alternate to the '88 Olympic team, a former bronze medalist, and a winner of a daily race in the previous year's World's. Highly unlikely.

The older we get, the faster we used to be.

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