



UNIVERSITY  
OF VIRGINIA  
SAILING  
ASSOCIATION

BOX 506 NEWCOMB HALL  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22903

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Greetings sailors and survivors of the Bahamas Cruise and welcome to Spring 1988. For those of you who missed the trip it went very well. Thirteen boats filled with 105 tan Wahoos frolicked for seven days in the Bahamian sun. It should be safe to say that everyone had a great time.

Closer to home, the ice has melted in the hills of Palmyra and the Sailing Association is gearing itself up for another season. Although a number of members have already tested the water, the first official day at the lake will be Friday, April 1 (2:00 Mem Gym as usual). Tuesday and Friday outings will continue from there.

It's time to get psyched up for Springtime Sailing! Here's the latest notes from the Fleet Captain's desk.

We have recently added a second laser to our "Armada." We got a great deal from a guy in Alexandria, Va. The latest acquisition has the light blue hull with the laser insignia. It is one of the first series manufactured. It is an old boat, so please be careful in handling it. Some important points to remember are: to pull up the centerboard and rudder well before you hit the shore; and to board the boat when it is completely in the water (thereby reducing stress on the aging fiberglass). Remembering these simple points will optimize the boat's useful life.

The future is looking great for those of us who will be here next year. We plan to buy at least one new laser, a windsurfer, and a motor for our Jon boat. Again, we are looking forward to phasing out the Coronados and bringing in a more practical and functional fleet.

In addition to conventional lake activity, the Sailing Association at the University of Virginia, in keeping with Virginia tradition, will have its own spot at Foxfield this year. So if you enjoyed the pre-season/pre-cruise party, look for us at the races!

Speaking of races, we are now nearing the end of the racing season. The only races left are: "Area C Dinghy Elim" on FJ's at ODU, 0900 April 2-3, and "MAISA Windsurfing" at the USNA, 0900 April 9-10. Good Luck to Jeremy Waters in the Windsurfing Regatta! Anyone interested in competing in either of these events should contact Julie Cane immediately.

The Fall 1988 schedule is going to be even more busy than last fall's was. We have been invited to nine different regattas (in the fall alone) to race lasers, Bermuda windsurfers, and 420's. The host schools will include the Naval Academy, Old Dominion University, and Georgetown University. By next fall, our laser and windsurfer fleet should be large enough to organize effective practices and informal competitions. Steve O'Hearn has volunteered to share his expert racing knowledge with us in evening classroom sessions again next semester. We are all looking forward to an even more competitive and fun racing

season for fall 1988.

The finances for the Sailing Association are now in great shape thanks to the generous allocations from Student Council. We have received \$1,584 in order to purchase additional windsurfers and lasers during the 1988-1989 school year. Currently the Association is receiving this years allocated funds in order to buy a new engine for the Jon boat and be ready for the Spring racing season. So with the Club in great shape be sure to take advantage of all we have to offer on and off the Lake.

**P.S. - Yes, the rumours have been substantiated. Dennis Conner, skipper of the famous Stars and Stripes, will defend the America's Cup against New Zealand in an unprecedented challenge of the cup. Apparently, any yacht club can challenge the cup in any year. So far, this is the setup : Conner will be skippering a multihull vessel and the New Zealand boat is a very radical sloop design. The rules do not specify any particular class of boat ; only that the defender complies to very vague length and beam measurements determined by the challenging yacht club. In return, the defending club, in this case, the San Diego Yacht Club, gets to pick the location of the race. The chosen site of the race is Hawaii. So be looking for one of the most exciting America's Cup Challenge sometime in September as Dennis Conner takes on New Zealand in a virtually unrestricted race! Let's yank the cup back once again!**