

Captain's Log Book

May, 2010

Its almost summer...thought it would never come, after my rough winter!!! I found myself at the Marina yesterday, walked the dock to slip B44-46 and climbing aboard Tranquillity II for the first time this year. She had a rough winter, too, after our record snow fall and the extremely cold weather. After sitting at the helm daydreaming for about 15 minutes, enjoying the pleasant sunny weather, my mind filled with thoughts about how lucky I was to discover my heart problem when I did. How fortunate I was to have had the good care that made it possible for me to come back for another year of boating on the Ohio!!! While sitting there wondering when I would take her out for a cruise on the River, I was very cognizant of the prayers of my associates in the Alumni Office and on the NDSA Board. I am well aware that Prayer played a major roll in my recovery, and I thank you again.

Our Region 9 AA Board Member and longtime friend, Paul Dillenburger, had just written a very complementary column in the Cincinnati Club's Current News Letter about me and all that NDSA does for our Senior Alumni and Notre Dame. I passed the article on to the NDSA Executive Committee and Alumni Association. I received a very interesting response from Katie Zakas, who added to her message a comment: "I think this would be a FABULOUS way to spread the word of NDSA to all the clubs who have a newsletter". Katie went on to comment that the clubs are always looking for articles and material to complete their news letters, and **a regular** NDSA column would be well received! Katie further indicated, if I agreed, she would consult with Mike Brown who currently has the ND Clubs as his responsibility.

In following separate conversations with Mike Brown and Katie, all agreed we might want to move forward with the idea...“why didn't I, or we, the members of the NDSA Board, think of this?”

So here is a plan that may work in your Region: Participation is strictly voluntary, and it's your decision as Regional Directors to initiate the program in your Region if you feel it will benefit NDSA and the overall Senior activities sponsored by the Clubs.

- If you believe this program has merit, determine which of the Clubs in your Region, having news letters, would be interested in including an NDSA submission in their publications. Having completed this first step, confirm the size, and format, the Club will expect, as well as their anticipated printing dates. Be sure the Club understands that they can count on your consistent contribution to their News Letters so that they reserve the space going forward. Your articles would feature any NDSA information or projects you feel would benefit the Club, and if you wish, your submission would be a “By-Line Article” adding to NDSA's presence, and your overall communication with the Clubs. **Please be sure to involve the Club's SAC in this process.**
- You may want to share some of your articles with the other Regional Directors if they highlight a special Club Event or Project that you believe would be of interest to other Clubs.
- We may not be alone in this undertaking, as the Alumni Association could expand this idea to include the AA Board Regional Directors, inviting them to write a column following our lead.

You will want to consult with the Club's SAC for his/her input and contribution to the club's articles. This will also serve to be a subtle reminder to the SAC's of the importance of their involvement and their responsibility to initiate and design Senior related activities in their clubs on an ongoing basis.

Another thought!!! In talking to the Alumni Office, a suggestion was made that we might also want to send similar Articles to each of the NDSA Board Member's Class Secretaries for publication in the their Class Newsletter.

Lots to think about. I hope you are as excited as I am about this voluntary opportunity to showcase NDSA, and you will move forward with the idea in your Region! If time permits at the Fall meeting, I will ask our future Chairman, Mike Squyres, to include this undertaking on the agenda, so we can iron out any details and incorporate your suggestions. Thanks again Katie for your much appreciated suggestion!!! Now back to the boat...she surely needs a thorough cleaning after the hard winter...so I had better get to work next week...the joys of boating!

Thanks again for your prayers and all that you do for NDSA and Notre Dame!

Jim Gibbons
NDSA Chairman