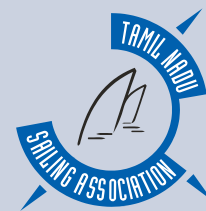


TN SAILS

The monthly newsletter of Tamil Nadu Sailing Association



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Save the Earth Rally at TNSA on World Environment Day



At the mark rounding on the water

All through May, even while going through two championships, we had been quietly working on an event with Vestas Wind Technology India Pvt. Ltd, the Danish wind energy company - The Save the Earth Rally. Wind is God to both, Sailing and Wind Energy. Hopefully this will be a relationship that will get stronger with the passage of time. For all of us at the TNSA it is a poorly kept secret that our Champion Optimist and Laser4.7 Girl Sailor, Shwetha Sadanand is already under the

Vestas fold. So celebrating World Environment day with the TNSA was just another day at the Office for Vestas. The whole event was coordinated by Ashwin and Sampath, two young executives who are taken up literally by the enthusiasm of the Sailing bunch at the TNSA. It is pertinent to remember that our Captain of Boats, Munna Jamal, who smiles when referred to as a tyrant - albeit a benign tyrant at that, carefully marshals this mad bunch and orchestrates the sailing frenzy.

Continued on page 2

Inland Laser National Championship 2007



Hussain Sagar Sailing Action

The Inland Laser National Sailing Championships 2007 are going to be held in the Hussain Sagar Lake Hyderabad from 4th to 12th of August. Six 4.7 and one Radial sailor from TNSA will be participating. There is the slightest bit of butterflies in the stomach remembering the fury of the winds spiced with even more furious

gusts, the wind pockets and shifts and the number of dips one took in the unappetizingly green water. But sailors are notoriously hungry for such punishment and TNSA is no exception. The TNSA team will leave on the 31st of July and once again TNSA will be fielding the largest number of sailors in the youth fleet.

...Save the Earth Rally at TNSA on World Environment Day

June 5th World Environment Day, a Tuesday suddenly wore Sunday best and sailors got a bonus day out at sea. Of course this was a different affair; no racing just rallying. Something like lining up for pretty poses for the camera. And sure enough the whole press bunch were there with their sophisticated cameras shooting from atop a tugboat – a bunch of shutterbugs who could do what they wanted without the fear of water giving them the jitters or the shakes. Shakes is a bad word if you are a photographer or a habitual partaker of C₂H₅OH, which chemical formula is widely known. So, if you want to take some good shots for the papers and the critical part is it is on the Bay of Bengal, the bigger the boat the easier the job. Thank you Capt Sadanand for your sudden and timely help. Several Lasers and Optis, an Enterprise and one of our 26 foot Maxi had been readied for participation in the rally. Mr. Joseph Chaly, Director Marketing, Vestas Wind Technology India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Ninan Thariyan, Editor, Times Group and Ashok Thakkar, our commodore were at the head table.



Mr. Joseph Chaly, Mr. Ninan Thariyan and Mr. Ashok Thakkar at the Vestas function

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Joseph Chaly said, “Sailing has many positive aspects, from the pure non-polluting pleasure of being propelled by the wind to team and character-building. This non-polluting sport, pits man’s skills not only against his own kind, but against nature too. Sailing is rapidly creating a niche for itself as an environment friendly sport and is very much in line with the ethos Vestas shares about the environment.” In a private chat with the Hon Sec Mr. Chaly admitted that the wind energy factor was under-exploited with only 3.5 percent of the power being provided from it. Whereas in Denmark, where Vestas were a leading company the wind energy powered 30 percent of energy needs in that country.

Mr. Ashok R. Thakkar, Commodore, Tamil Nadu Sailing Association commented, “Sailing is increasingly gaining popularity in India. Moreover Tamil Nadu Sailing Association has established a tradition of promoting not only excellence in this sport but also successfully attempted to broadbase the sport amongst the indigent sections of Tamil society. As proof of the former I would like to highlight the fact that the TNSA walked away with over 70 percent of the total medals in the recently concluded Optimist Nationals 2007. To validate our

social commitment I would like to point out that fisherfolk children from tsunami affected coastal habitations have been adopted and one of them has won the Championships in the Beginner’s event in Pune, Maharashtra.



The boats sailing in between marks

Wind is the power that drives the sailboat. Now this element of nature has been efficiently harnessed by engineers to provide green power to the people. As an environmentally friendly alternative wind energy ranks with solar energy and the Scandinavian countries have excelled in establishing supremacy in both these eco-friendly energy fields. The Dutch had already been here and it was with the help of the TNSA that their solar powered NUNA boat that they made their Asian Launch in the port of Chennai. We now meet the giants in the field of wind energy as Denmark is the leader in harnessing this source for production of energy. We are delighted that Vestas has extended their support by associating with this eco friendly sport.”

Mr. Ninan Thariyan commended the efforts of Vestas and TNSA in conducting this Green Rally and taking part in the efforts to bring attention to the pressing need of resolving the environmental issues.

In the meanwhile the sailboats had already been flagged off, the sailors had to reach the rally area depending on only wind while the visiting Vestas team and press were ferried to the venue in Coast Guard workboats and Port Trust Tug Boats with some of the dignitaries in our Maxi and rescue launches. The Wind God seemed to have taken the afternoon off for a siesta, with heavy current pushing us and no wind power to counter, the sailors had to bring up the best of their skills to not drift apart and offer the largest possible collection of sails together for the Press Photographers. We did indeed present a pretty picture like lovely white lilies floating on the water or perhaps beautiful white butterflies flying close to the water. Sailing is a great way of getting close to nature and it was just the perfect way to celebrate the World Environment Day.

Thank you Vestas, for choosing TNSA to be part of your celebrations!

Coaching Camp for the IODA Asians

Through the month of June the IODA team of 5 TNSA sailors and 2 CSC Mumbai Sailors trained hard for the Asian Championship and National Coach Ninad Mayekar was back in Chennai working with them.

Fillip to Sailing Action

Sailing in most of the developed world is like rains – seasonal and only in summer. The poor blokes there have to dress up for winter and like rigging a boat this could be an elaborate and time consuming affair. Expensive too! Using the rain metaphor further you will agree that it rains heaviest in Cherrapunjee though with global warming, Mumbai is vying for those honors. There are regular photos in the Press with large swathes of water bodies right in the middle of tenements where one could gleefully jump into one's boat and hoist sail. Enough of that... For those of you who thought that the two Championships at the TNSA were like seasonal rains with clear weather after that, well be my guest – think again! TNSA covets at becoming the Cherrapunjee of Indian Sailing. Sailing action is getting a boost with the newcomers at the Summer Sailing Camp coming back for more action. Soon, the Clubhouse was overflowing with little feet not to forget their pitter-patter. As enthusiasm and excitement lit their little faces, TNSA's Captain of Boats licked his lips lasciviously in anticipation. A new bunch is always good news to this man, who rejoices at taking them in his hands quite literally and after ensuring that their life jackets will hold, flings them into the deep aqua. No sniffles are permitted and outcasts are encouraged to explore their new environment as they get over their primordial fear of water. However, this exercise is a double edged sword, considering that before long the committee boat with a whole bunch of kids resembles a nest with a lot of chicks crooning for attention and asking if it was okay for them to start jumping. Those who waited out in the committee boat for their turn at the helm preferred to be in the water rather than in the noisy old motorized launch. Oh, it is a good time to be a kid and out on a boat, I tell you.



Summer Sailing Campers are back

The new comers were soon put through the hoops, their strengths tested and directions given as to what they were to do rest of the week to improve their fitness. The coal dust environment and the true sailor's obliviousness to it was incomprehensible to some of the new parents, but they soon saw the vibrancy and joy that it was imbued with. The first month it is still difficult to say how many will continue as the attendance is a little erratic and bonds are yet to form. But it is quite evident that many of the children are

committed and we can see the seeds of future champions in what we call the C Team now. Some of the notable possibilities are young Abella, Alfin, Sriram, Surya, Aditya, Pratik, Shashank, the list is fifteen names long. In a future issue we will have them all lined up for a photo up for sure. Look out for them...



Bhopal Team member Afrithi takes C team newcomer Zabiya out in her boat

There are also our B team sailors who had been waiting out the Coastal Nationals, back in full strength, eager to pick up where they left off. B Team is now preparing to participate in the Inland Nationals to be held in Bhopal. Displaying amazing originality, we have named them, hold your breaths, the Bhopal Team! Some of the young sailors are convinced that they are 'Gopal Team', confounding their parents with the inexplicable title and leaving them with perhaps serious concern about our sanity. Makes one recall the "deep freezing" sessions after sailing on Sunday, that used to hold up Hussain Bhavnagarvala's return from the Association, much to his parents' consternation. From the mouth of babes. And I do not mean the Baywatch type. So it goes...

Young Nicholas, Ursita, Ahad and Varsha all only nine, Afrithi, Pravin Prabhakar and Tanmay from last year's summer camp form this team. Training under the hawk-eyed tutelage of our Chief Coach Munna Jamal – he with the gun throat, the team, for most of whom it is their very first appearance in a National, is expected to put up a decent show at Bhopal, The Inland Nationals will find TNSA fielding the largest contingent in the country with reserves left. With 16 national level Opti sailors in our fold, 7 Bhopal Team and the 10 to 15 in C team, not to leave mention of the 8 Laser 4.7 sailors and some of the senior Optis already getting ready for the Lasers and doubling up as both Optis and Lasers, we can see work cut out for us. Many will have to forego their own pleasure in sailing in order to focus on the training of the youth. But in these shining young faces, it is not difficult to see our visions and dreams for making sailing a prime sport in this country, materializing in the very near future. The end of the tunnel does not seem far, the light there is looking bright and TNSA is in the forefront of a movement to revolutionize this sport.

Wanna be a Coach at TNSA?

Young accomplished sailors please note that the post of the Junior Coach of the TNSA is wide open once again and those of you who are interested can speak to the Captain of Boats Mr. Munna Jamal at 98400 21234 for details. Deepak Rex has stepped down to better attend to his scholastic pursuits. Doing his Bachelors in Visual Communication at the Loyola College, Deepak had taken up the post of Junior Coach with serious application. Much of the achievement of our young Optimist sailors can be traced to his inputs, as he has been training them on a regular basis since their return from the National Inland Optimist Championships in Pune.



Deepak Rex who was Junior Coach at TNSA

For those of you who are unaware of his sailing achievements, Deepak Rex teamed up with Siddharth Manohar to take the Junior National Championships in the 420 Class in 2003 and went on to sail the Asian Sailing Championships at Mumbai in 2004 where this duo came in fourth. Moving over to Karnataka for a short stint, Deepak was back at Chennai and tacking off from the catering which he had completed moved to Loyola to do his new course. Deepak has been a fine and innovative sailor who has sailed the Optimist, the Cadet, 420 and the Laser with distinction.

Thank you, Deepak. Here's wishing you the Best of Luck in all your pursuits. Scholastic, career, marriage...

Simply put Fair Winds, young buddy!

New Sailing Arrangements at TNSA

Members please note that sailing has been further streamlined with dedicated coaches and boatmen for each class of boat. Team 'A' and 'B' sailors who sail the IODA 95 hulls and Laser 4.7 can interact directly with the Captain of Boats, Mr. Munna Jamal at 98400 21234 for all queries on schedules and boats. Team 'C' is the bunch of greenhorns who are new to the sport can contact the Hon Sec Dr. Mushtaqh Ali at 98842 41920 for schedules and engagements. Members who wish to take up Enterprise Sailing can get in touch with Capt Ravikumar Manian at 98410 52863 for all your sailing requirements.

At TNSA you should now be able to sail on. And on...

New Catering Arrangements

Those who are hungry about sailing get even hungrier after sailing. For more sailing and for a good bite. Making note of your needs the TNSA has made arrangements with the distinguished caterer of *Hot Kitchen* fame from the Palms Golf course to cater to the needs of sailors, young and old after an afternoon of serious, muscle-straining fun. For starters the repertoire is likely to be very limited, but with the response from members, we can graduate to a bigger menu with a wider choice.

So, come on over! Grab a piece of the action and a quick bite too! Payment will be by cash only.

Bonne Bouche



Holy Shot!

One Sunday morning, a priest wakes up and decides to go golfing. He calls his boss and says that he feels very sick, and won't be able to go to work.

Way up in heaven, Saint Peter sees all this and asks God, "Are you really going to let him get away with this?"

"No, I guess not," says God.

The priest drives about five to six hours away, so he doesn't bump into anyone he knows. The golf course is empty when he gets there. So he takes his first swing, drives the ball 495 yards away and gets a hole in one.

Saint Peter watches in disbelief and asks, "Why did you let him do that?"

To this God says, "Who's he going to tell?"

Husband knows best

A man consulted his priest about getting a divorce. The priest was surprised. "Why on earth would you want to divorce such a lovely wife? She is soft and gentle and, if I may say so, she is also quite beautiful and nicely proportioned. I really can't see what you have to complain about."

The man took off his shoe. "See this shoe," he said, showing it to the priest, "The leather is soft and gentle. It is a beautiful piece of work and nicely proportioned."

"Ah," said the priest, "a parable."

"In a way, Father," replied the man. "I'm the only one who knows it pinches."

Can't outwit Dad

A young boy had just gotten his driver's permit and inquired of his father, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

Well, the boy thought about that for a moment, and settled for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks they went in to the study, where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud. You've brought your grades up, and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, and participating a lot more in the Bible study groups. But, I'm real disappointed, since you haven't gotten your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment, and then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair also."

To this his father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"