



READY ABOUT SAILING

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Ahoy Mates,

Just like that, another season begins. The first Robins have been spotted, the first Canadian Geese are heading north, day-light-savings-time has sprung forward, and the first boat seen in the melted ice off Celoron Park. Forget the calendar - Spring is in the air!

Before giving the usual news about what the season holds for us, I'd like to first address the state of the world economy and what it means to sailors. With the Dow having dropped to less than 50% of its former value, one may ask: "Is this economy half-full or half-empty." The answer to that question, for me, is simple. It is whatever you think it is. Or more accurately, whatever you make it out to be. Sorry, but I'm just a bit tired of the nightly news encouraging us to all fall deeper into a depression, financial or mental. Contributing to a self-fulfilling prophecy is just *not on* with me and Ready About Sailing. And, I suspect that it is not on with most sailors. Why else would the first boat that our children learn to sail be called "The Optimist." Why else would a clear thinking sailor hoist canvass and head out onto the lake on a day when the weatherman is calling for 50% chance of rain, or even worse, winds light and variable? A quote for us all to think about as this new season begins: "The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist simply adjusts the sails and moves forward"

We will not be hanging back to see who might lead us into clear air this year. We intend to be the first across the starting line with sails full, heeling nicely, and relishing the wind in our faces. Anyone who would like to join us in the race to wellness is heartily invited onboard. If you are among those who would sit on the beach, and are looking for a sign before you venture out - well then, here it is:



OK, now I'll step out of the pulpit.

SPLASHES: This year, we know of a couple of new boats to the lake that will beautify the scenery for all who venture there. The first is a new series Pearson Ensign, now being produced by Ensign Spars in Dunedin, Florida. This is a classic beauty but with all the modern conveniences. Look for her deep blue hull and skipper with a perpetual grin off the shores of Bemus Point.



The second is a spanking new Colgate 26. You will need to be able to recognize this one from the stern - as there will not be many boats that she won't over-take on this lake.



We will also see a new Laser Performance Club 420 sailing from the Chautauqua Lake Yacht Club. Could this be the beginning of our newest fleet??



What's new for Ready About Sailing? We are in the final stages of selecting a new sailboat line. However, are not quite ready for a grand announcement just yet. Stay tuned.

We will also be adding a line of canoes which will be rented from our facilities at Long Point. Joe Keyser, head chef at Long Point, comes from a long lineage of avid canoeists. He will be more than happy to give you a lesson or rent you a boat - talk to him nicely and he may throw in a cheeseburger.

We are pleased to announce that this year, if you can't stand the thought of being away from the Internet while you are enjoying your boat at the marina, Ready About Sailing will be bringing it to your companionway- *for free!* That's right Wi-Fi is now available for all Ready About Sailing customers- check with us for details.

New to our staff this year is Shawn Proctor. Shawn will be working with Denny Newhouse, our Service Manager in Celoron, bringing all of his rigging and sailing know-how along with him.

Many of you already know Leah Porsley - she has been supporting Ready About Sailing part-time on the accounting side of the business for more than five years. She is now a full-time employee and will be happy to collect your money any time of any day! She's also the live voice behind the marina phone number (716 664-3883) - give her a call, and make her day!

So, it is with this note of sincere optimism, that we are happy to announce the Spring re-opening of Ready About Sailing with our usual, irregular hours starting today! Irregular means someone will be at the store for a portion of every day, but nobody know who or when. We will begin regular hours (10 AM to 6 PM Every Day) this year on April 20th. So, don't let the season get started without you. Stop by and say Hi - and bring us a SMILE!

*Happy Sailing,
Greg*