



President's Letter



I'm *Diana Smith*, your president. Thought I would tell you a bit about me, so you can put a face with one of the officers of NWSA. We hope to share some interesting facts about other officers and board members in the future.

I grew up in central Indiana, and yes, there is water there. As a child, my family vacationed at Lake Wawasee in the northern part of the state where my father taught us all the fine points of boat handling and safety. I have to confess we were power boaters. My interest in sailing came about as a young adult when we acquired a Sunfish at our lake cottage. We taught ourselves all we could, but after my children left the nest, I decided to go to a real sailing school and find out what I didn't know. I took land-based classes in Indianapolis on a variety of subjects. One of the best parts of these classes were

Continued on p. 2

Take the Helm®

Official Newsletter of the National Women's Sailing Association

Air Fare Discounts For NWSA Members!

Caribbean Travel Service has offered a discount to National Women's Sailing Association members for travel to the Caribbean and Florida. Caribbean Travel Service specializes in travel plans to sunny places. Just call toll-free 800-327-5540 and ask for Judy Shapiro. Mention the women's sailing group and you're on your way! We also have access to air fare discounts from **The Moorings** for our members who plan to go to the BVI flotilla. Call 888-703-3178, ext. 3308, and ask for Barbara. The Moorings offers 25% off their negotiated rates. Be sure to mention you are sailing with NWSA.

Thanks!

In our last President's letter we put out a call for resources to find a new computer. Thanks to NWSA members *Kirsten Medley* and *Janet Baxter* for letting us know about great resources. We're still investigating all sources, but hope to find

what we need very soon. If you know of any resources for non-profit funding or computer donations, please call Anne.

What Do You Want?

Your board of directors has been very busy working on plans for new events in the coming year. We'd like to hear from you. What do you want to learn? Where would you like to cruise? What are your special interests? Send an e-mail to Anne at wsf@womensailing.com and tell her your ideas for fun and educational sailing activities. We look forward to hearing from you.

What Do You Read?

In an effort to reach as many women sailors as possible, we are beefing up our press list. We'd like to know the names and addresses of the local and regional sailing and boating publications you read in your area. Please e-mail Anne with the name of any such magazine in your area. We appreciate your help!



The plans for the second annual NWSA British Virgin Islands flotilla are all set. You won't want to miss your chance to take part in this exciting week-long cruising adventure. We've chartered beautiful Moorings 505 yachts this year. A deposit of just \$500 will hold your spot.

The package includes either single or double occupancy berth and hotel room (first and last night), provisioning, a welcome rum punch party, a gala last-night dinner with fun prize drawings, BVI cruising guide, and a week of unmatched cruising, snorkeling, fun, and adventures. If you want to stay an additional night and fly home on Sunday, tell Anne when you call. We'll make the arrangements. Obviously, space is limited, so call Anne right away at 866-631-6972 to make your reservation. We can't wait for you to go cruising with us and you'll love the British Virgin Islands

the labs. We chartered boats and sailed Rhode Island Sound for coastal navigation, the Bahamas for celestial navigation, and the Great Lakes for oceanography and seamanship.

The only problem for me was that, as a cruising sailor who didn't own a boat, I didn't get to go sailing very often. So, at the invitation of some friends from Cleveland, I drove to Louisville for my first experience as racing crew and met a couple from Indianapolis who needed crew on their boat. I sailed with them for the next 5 years.

When my job started taking me often to the Detroit area, I was invited to crew on a C&C 35 at Bayview Yacht Club, and my big-boat fun had begun. For five years, I drove to Detroit every Friday night in season to sail on Saturday, but after transferring to the city, I just have to drive across town. I've sailed in nine Port Huron-to-Mackinac races, one year as skipper. My sailing friends helped to make my transition to another city much easier.

I am the very proud mother of two grown sons and seven grandchildren. My oldest grandson has taken to sailing and spends as much time as possible on the Sunfish when we're at the lake house or on the big boat when he visits me in Detroit.

As a founding board member of what became National Women's Sailing Association in 1990, I was honored and pleased to be

Continued on page 3

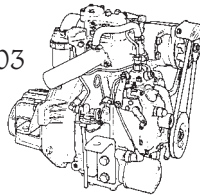
Other Upcoming Events

◆ Diesel Engine Workshops with Mack Boring

- Wilmington, NC
February 8 & 9, 2003

- Buffalo Grove, IL
March 1 & 2, 2003

- Middleborough, MA
March 22 & 23, 2003



◆ You Can Sail! Escape® with Offshore Sailing School

- Captiva Island, FL
April 27-May 2, 2003

- Hawk's Cay, FL
July 13-20, 2003

◆ NWSA Women's Conference

Corinthian Yacht Club
Marblehead, MA
June 7, 2003

◆ Navigation Weekend on the Mystic Whaler

June 20-22, 2003



And, some surprises! So stay tuned for details of other exciting NWSA events in 2003

Anne Chapin



We've hired a new Coordinator, *Anne Chapin*, who has come on board to run the office and take care of all your program and membership needs. We are very lucky to have

Anne, who is savvy in business and marketing, and highly organized, as well as being a great sailor. (See the press release at www.womensailing.org)

*** FLASH ***

This publication is a reintroduction of NWSA's "Take the Helm®" Newsletter. Our "President's Letter" will be incorporated into the publication via her special column, as seen here.



Happy Holidays from your Board of Directors!

We wish all of you the safest and most joyful of holidays in the upcoming season. Please remember those less fortunate than you in your Christmas giving. Thanks for all your wonderful support and participation throughout 2002, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2003.

Diana Smith, President

Val Cook

Sue Corl

Elaine Dickinson

Susan Epstein

Gail Hine

Nancy Parrillo

Becky Squires

Joan Thayer

Welcome New Members!

Many of our new members have joined as a result of attending an NWSA event. They've found the fun, learning, and great new friends are something they want to continue to enjoy. Bring a friend on aboard! You won't regret it.

Illinois

Linda Williams –
Geneva

New York

Barbara Stetson –
New York City

Rhode Island

Nell Roberts
Newport



in on the beginning of a great organization for women sailors. Not only have I learned a great deal, both about sailing and business, but I've made wonderful friends in my fellow board members and all the women I've met along the way.

I'm employed by Delphi Corporation as a Market Intelligence Officer, keeping up with what's going on in the auto industry worldwide, and reporting to executives, the sales team, and engineers. It's exciting and rewarding and I enjoy it immensely.

The sport has brought me many new friends, and experiences I never would have enjoyed without it. I've traveled to many new places, and I've been tested in many ways. Looking back on those experiences makes me feel good about what I've learned and been able to accomplish. I plan to keep on sailing forever!

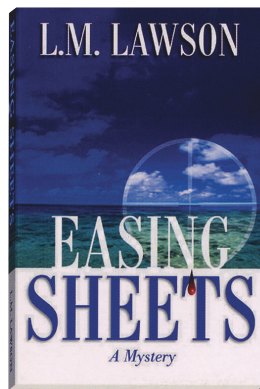
*Fair winds. . .
until next time!*
Diana Smith



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www.womensailing.org
wsf@womensailing.org

Book Shelf

Laurie Lawson does it again! From the author of the highly acclaimed *Green Flash*, her newest book, *Easing Sheets*, is another suspense-filled mystery that will not only entertain, it will also enthrall the reader with its descriptions of the intriguing world of small boat cruising.



Seeking adventure, Jessie Powers and Neal Fox buy a 32-ft sailboat in which to explore the wonders of the seven seas. Right from the start, while still in their Californian home waters, they become involved in challenges of a darker nature. Tension builds as they continue their voyage along Mexico's Baja Peninsula, their fate inexorably entangled in the web of three dangerous men in a stolen boat, until finally with the unfailing help of fellow cruisers and officials ashore the plot explodes in a grand finale.

Available from Paradise Cay Publications for \$14.95: 800-736-4509; info@paracay.com or www.paracay.com.

Calling All Southerners

The 17th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day in Louisiana is being coordinated by Dr. Cay Evans, state coordinator, of Shreveport. The event is sponsored by the Women's Sports Foundation and celebrated throughout the country, honoring women athletes and promoting girls' and women's efforts and accomplishments in sport. Dr. Evans would love for the sport of sailing to be included in her state's event on Feb. 2, 2003. If you are interested in taking part in this celebration and awards program, contact Dr. Evans at cevens217@aol.com.

You can read more about the 2002 events at www.womensportfoundation.org.

NOTE: Dawn Riley, sailor extraordinaire, is currently President of the Women's Sports Foundation.

Chapwoman's Boating Wit & Wisdom

by Anne Lorimer Sirna

- Removing and rebedding a stanchion strains the most loving relationship.
- Teak does not age gracefully; it ages immediately.
- Never go anywhere on a boat until you figure out how to get back on shore.
- Keep a cruising log. It keeps you in touch with experiences you are sure you will never forget – but do.
- Heel may be defined as the boat rolling over and playing dead.
- Yachting is actually living in extravagant squalor.
- *Clothing Tip:* If you can't roll it, don't bring it.
- Your state of mind, the weather, and the point of sail determine how you feel at sea.



*Once afloat,
you can travel from self actualization
to basic survival in five minutes.*