



www.windsurfbaba.org

21 Years of BABA

compiled by Chuck Schnee, with help from Hal Ashman

Editor's Note: When Coby Leyden asked me questions about BABA's history for a short piece he was writing about BABA for Windsurfing Magazine (In The Club with BABA - May 2008 p 22), I realized that much of what folks know about the early days of our club is from conversations on the beach. I decided to ask Chuck Schnee, one of the original BABA members who is still active in the club, to put together a BABA chronology that would become part of our written history. It's always enlightening to look back at where you've been, and realize that you've been part of the history of a new, evolving, sport.

In the chronology below, we've listed the "firsts" of the club. For details and stories, we invite you to peruse the newsletter archives (2001 - present on the website, and 1995 - 2000 in Chuck's paper files) which serve as a more complete narrative of our history. If you know any BABA firsts that we've missed, please let us know!

Acknowledgements: Thank you to Chuck Schnee for putting all this information together, and for helping make BABA what it is today - a club with a great group of volunteers and members who care a lot about windsurfing. I also offer our deepest gratitude to Hal Ashman of Ultimate Watersports, and Mark Bandy and Mark Saunders of East of Maui for their ongoing support of BABA. BABA was formed as a shop club by Hal Ashman and his partners, so they play an important role in BABA's history, which you'll read more about below. East of Maui Boardshop was founded in 1979 and has been an integral part of windsurfing in the Midatlantic for 28 years, longer than BABA has existed. They are important to our club and our sport, although their history and ours did not intersect in the same way as Strictly Sailing/Ultimate Watersports.

P.S. Turns out that 2008 is BABA's 21st anniversary as a windsurfing club! We've officially come of age. Now that we can legally buy the club a beer, please send me your ideas about what we should do to celebrate.

Daphne Lathouras, Editor

1985 Hal Ashman forms Strictly Sailboarding, Baltimore's first nationally certified windsurfing school – provides instruction at

Rocky Point golf course site.

1987 Strictly Sailboarding moves to the Gunpowder and secures a one-year contract for beach concession. First local shop, Wicks Ski & Sports, opened in White Marsh with limited sailboard equipment. Hal Ashman, Joe Holland, Steve Alpern & Donna Darmstead form BABA, the first windsurfing club on the Chesapeake Bay, and produce first club newsletter.

1988 Second one year contract now permits Strictly Sailboarding to drive school trailer to beach. Membership in BABA growing. First novice race held at Gunpowder.

1989 Hal Ashman opens retail shop in Timonium under Sailing, Etc. name after negotiation with Peck Miller of the Sailing, Etc. shop in Ocean City, MD.

1990 New name for the retail business is Baltimore Boardsailing Inc. Windsurfing school is renamed Baltimore Boardsailing Academy. Racing program becoming well established and BABA membership growing.

1991 Shop moves to new location on York Road in Timonium. Boardsailing retailers proliferate: Windsurfing Unlimited, Windsurfing Annapolis and ISP in Annapolis, Wicks in White Marsh, and E-Z Sailboards in Essex. Annual Aruba/Margarita/Costa Rica trips, Hatteras trips (8 houses) and local women's clinics are popular and well subscribed.

1994/95 Shop moves to 110 West Padonia Road in Cockeysville during the winter. BABA membership had declined to twenty-four sailors who maintained their club affiliation simply to support the sport. Business name changes to Ultimate Sports with addition of in-line skates, kayaks, wakeboards, snowboards and apparel. Business volume at new location makes running the club more difficult.

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Membership Renewal Time



Doesn't reading about BABA's 21 years really make you want to send your membership renewal right now? If you haven't already done it, do it! Membership form is at www.windsurfbaba.org - click on JOIN

BABA Mission Statement

The Baltimore Area Boardsailing Association (BABA) is a network of Northern Chesapeake Bay windsurfers. Our purpose is to promote the sport of windsurfing through seasonal racing, instructional clinics, social events and group travel to windsurfing destinations. The club is an advocate for windsurfer access to clean, safe launch sites. Our events focus on an enjoyable social experience while developing further windsurfing skills.

**For Membership information contact
Ann Jackson at (410)315-8481 or
ajax.tmm@verizon.net,
or any member of the BABA Steering Committee.**

www.windsurfbaba.org



Fall Hatteras Trip October 11-18, 2008

More information will be coming in the next issue of BABA News.

Fred Thomas

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please mail renewals and new memberships directly to Ann Jackson. Her address is 124 Bay Park Way, Severna Park, MD 21146. Membership renewal for 2008 is due in March/April. A membership form can be found at www.windsurfbaba.org - click on JOIN.

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Racing.....Clinics.....Speed Quest

2008 BABA Clinics

by Janice Emerling, Clinic Coordinator

Learn to Windsurf: I'm trying to get a response for our annual learn to windsurf clinic. I put out a (if I say so myself) quite jazzy flyer by midwinter party and placed a piece in the last newsletter. Two emails followed. From past experience, I have learned that most people respond in the last week or two before the clinic. If you have any friends or coworkers who are the least bit interested, please encourage them to contact me ASAP to ensure a place in the clinic, and they can beat the last minute rush.

We have scheduled the Learn to Windsurf clinic two weeks later than in the past, so we have a decent shot at nice weather. The date is **Sunday June 15th**. Place is the **Hammerman Area of Gunpowder State Park**. Instruction courtesy of Hal Ashman's **Ultimate Watersports** staff, with on water instruction supplemented by BABA members. Cost is a mere \$35 for a great afternoon.

If you know anyone who is interested, please have them contact me by email janiceemerling@verizon.net or by phone 410-457-4001.

Petra Kanz Clinic: We still have a small window of opportunity to book Petra Kanz for a local windsurfing clinic. Petra is a professional windsurf instructor. She is a great teacher, as anyone who has ever attended a clinic or instruction with her will testify. She can teach us anything we are looking for: longboard, shortboard, sail handling, freestyle, whatever. The clinics last two days, Sat and Sun and take place at Hammerman Area, Gunpowder State Park. Petra's calendar is filling up fast, so please let me know if you are interested in learning to be a better windsurfer.



BABA Speed Quest Update

by Roger Fitzgerald

Here are the BABA Speed Quest Standings so far:

Roger Fitzgerald 3-30-08 27.534 knots (5x10 sec avg) 29.449 knots (2 sec) using a 5.3 KA Koyote 2008 sail, Cross 84 with 23.5 Surfweed fin - sailing in Avon, NC

Craig Heffner 4-15-08 25.487 knots (5 x10sec avg) 27.921 knots (2 sec) using a 4.0 sail, Fanatic Bee red board - sailing in Avon, NC

Sandy Rollins 5-11-08 24.747 knots (5x10sec avg) 28.220 knots (2 sec) - using a 4.0 sail, Mistral Screamer 268 - sailing in Rodanthe, NC

The rankings are based on the 5x10sec average, so Sandy is slightly behind Craig even though her top speed at 2 seconds is higher.

For more information about BABA Speed Quest go to www.windsurfbaba.org and click the links on the BABA Buzz or on the Racing page. When submitting speed data please include information about your board, sail, and fin for your speed runs along with the location.

The season is still young and the Speed Quest is wide-open. We should have lots of high wind sailing opportunities this season. Remember to sail safely, and carry your GPs.

BABA II and III Races and Campout at Gunpowder + Meet at the Beach June 7 & 8

Start getting your camping gear together - it's time for the annual BABA campout at Gunpowder. Camping at Gunpowder is a privilege that our club enjoys once a year. The racing and camaraderie are great. You don't have to cook dinner if you arrive early enough to place your dinner order with the racing registration crew (usually a selection of pasta dishes from Mustang Deli), and cooking breakfast on a camp stove under the trees on a crisp Gunpowder morning is a pleasure!



This is also an opportunity for an informal "Meet at the Beach" - if you're a new member and/or novice windsurfer, this is a great weekend to come out to the beach, meet the crew and share some meals and laughs. And, novice racers are always the most important participants at BABA events - if you're curious about racing come out and give it a try. Novices have a shorter course and get lots of help and encouragement from the race crew.

Race registration including Saturday and Sunday lunch plus Saturday dinner is \$40 per person. Non-racers may make meal arrangements if they arrive early - price TBD.





Marc Rosen and the Windbulance

Wave Jumping at the Gunpowder???

by Chuck Schnee



Aix Sponsa

Well, not exactly! But for the last five or six years BABA's own "Ezzy Rep", **Marc Rosen**, has been single handedly putting on this "season opening event". And if you don't mind the chill of early April, who could resist at least visiting an event that Marc calls the "Burnt Weeny Sandwich and Baked Bean Boogie!"

After reading Marc's invitation to the event I was left puzzled by some of the references as perhaps some of our readers were, so here's an interpretation of things:

The "Mothers of Invention" is an old Frank Zappa group. Kristen from the Emperor's Club is a reference to NY Governor Elliott Spitzers's accommodating friend. Aix sponsa is the Genus and Species (that's something I remember

Farrah Hall



from my High School biology course) of a Wood Duck, an especially beautifully colored wild duck, that Marc has as a pet (lives inside) along with his other 24 ducks and several Canadian geese. Marc personally enlightened this old turkey (that's me) on these issues and now I feel positively up to date and grooving!!!!

Thirteen windsurfers couldn't resist a gorgeous spring "not quite April Fool's because it wasn't on the weekend this year" day, even if the water temperature wasn't terribly inviting. Seven sailors made it out on the water and a northwest breeze made for some pretty good big sail action off the shore a bit before it tapered off in mid-afternoon. Among the seven was **Farrah Hall**, long time friend of BABA, and a contender for America's berth on the women's Olympic windsurfing team. We're routing for you Farrah.

I would like to extend thanks from me - and on behalf of BABA - to our friend and colleague, Marc Rosen, for all he has done and continues to do for BABA, notwithstanding some real back pain. But the pain is OK when he is windsurfing - and Marc - what else matters? And thanks, Marc, for a fun day at the annual Burnt Weenie Sandwich and Baked Bean Boogie April Fools Day Wave Jumping Contest - 2008. You are the Man.



clockwise from L - Rick Ayella and friend, Marc Rosen. Farrah Hall, James Douglas, Paul Cudone, Fran Conway and Darsie Remeikis chow down on burnt weenies and baked beans

Update on our International BABA Windsurfer, Farrah Hall

by Helen Van Gelder

Farrah's a local girl (Annapolis, MD) who's been sailing with BABA members since she was a sophomore at St. Mary's College. I remember racing against her in the novice class in the BABA 2001 MAS regatta (She took 1st place).

As many of you know, Farrah won first place in the U.S. Olympic trials (Women's RSX class) in Long Beach, CA last October, but lost it to Nancy Rios in a redress hearing. US Sailing decided that Nancy sailed at a disadvantage in the last race due to a small tear in her sail caused by a collision at the start, and awarded her enough points to knock Farrah out of first. In April, US Sailing revisited that decision with some further evidence and testimony, but upheld their original decision. Farrah is hoping for better results in an arbitration hearing by the US Olympic Committee in May or June. She still has hopes of participating in the Olympics in China in August.

Farrah now has John Bertrand (silver medalist, 1984 Olympics) helping her out with management advice, and a new sponsor: Compass Marketing, Inc., a consumer product marketing company whose name is proudly displayed on Farrah's new 8.5 competition sail. Farrah showed off her new sail in a short spin on Spa Creek in Annapolis in early April, after a formal presentation by Compass Marketing CEO John White.

Globe-trotting Farrah (who often trains in Poland) recently sailed in the French Olympic week competition in Hyeres, France. She raced against 60 other women from all over the world, and with a respectable finish showed herself to be the best American woman windsurfer (finishing 14 places ahead of Nancy Rios). Her next international race is June 21-29 in Kiel, Germany.

Check out Farrah's web-site www.FarahHall.com for the latest news. And if you want to help support Farrah's Olympic campaign, consider a tax-deductible donation (see her website for details). I know Farrah needs all the help she can get

Ed Note: I have to admit I was a little confused by the huge photo of Nancy Rios and the coverage of the redress hearings in the June issues of Windsurfing Mag (p 24). Doesn't Farrah deserve the same coverage?



New BABA T's, Hoodies and Caps

by Maureen Pritchard

Take a look at the new BABA gear that **Ann Jackson** is modeling at the East of Maui Swap Meet!

Hooded sweatshirts - black with the BABA logo on the front over the handwarming pocket - are available in sizes S,

M, L and XL for \$25.

T's - Men's tees are in dark green and steel grey with BABA logos on both the front and the back in sizes M, L, and XL are \$15. Women's style tees are in red and sky blue with BABA logos on both the front and the back in sizes S, M, and L are \$15.

Caps in deep red

with black trim with an embroidered BABA logo on the front. These have NO BUTTON on the top, have great ventilation, an adjustable velcro closure and an attached string and clip so you don't lose it while windsurfing. The caps are \$20.

We'll do our best to have some of each size and style available at all BABA events in 2008. Our friend and BABA member **Doug Kon** was a great help in finding good quality merchandise and professional preparation for us. Thanks Doug!



Early April in Avon



by Roger Fitzgerald

Seven sailors, very little sun, lots of wind! That's what we had for our early April (March 29- April 5th) trip to Island Gust in Avon. **Fred Hylla and Tom Hollowell** could not wait for the weekend, they went down on the 27th of March to catch two warm, sunny days of SW wind before our week even started. So Fred and Tom were waiting at the Island Creek house when I arrived at 11:30 on Saturday, driving down with little traffic since I started at 4:20 am from Hampstead.

Saturday was blowing 25-32 from the NNE, we sailed everything from 4.0 to 4.7, and Tom and I used our Cross 84 boards along with Dave, so we had sort of a one-design racing going on - quite nice until I led the pack into a sandbar! Tom and Dave also crashed, although not quite as hard, and Fred had time to stop easily. Sunday was more of the same, although the wind was slightly lighter in the morning so I rigged a 5.3 and Tom used his 5.0. Then once we were on the water the wind was right back to the 25-32 mph range from the NE.

By Saturday evening the full complement of sailors had arrived, with **Mark Weinman, Paul Albers, and Joe Wingard** sailing on Saturday and Sunday, while **Bob Catzen** decided to wait until the conditions were a little more favorable. We never saw the sun more than an hour or so for the first two days, and by Monday morning there was very little water left in our part of the sound. Monday was a lighter wind day, still sailable at 10-15 but most of us rested. Tuesday brought 15-20 mph SW winds so we had more water and warmer temperatures. Sails in the 6.4 to 6.6 range got us planing nicely, while Joe and Fred did some kiting.

Wednesday April 2nd was our windiest day, the front came through at about 8:30 in the morning and the wind went from 5 mph to 30+ in about 10 minutes- quite spectacular to see the whitecaps from the soundfront house. Tom was kind enough to be the wind dummy, and once he was blown off his 5.0, then took off like a scared rabbit on his 4.2, Fred and I put away our 4.7 sails and rigged 4.2s. Wind readings were 29 to 35 mph from about 9-1pm, then "only" 25-30 until dark- quite a day of classic Hatteras sound sailing. Fred sailed to the reef early, then came back so that Tom and I could join him. We had to walk about 200 yards to get past the shallow section before the reef, but it was worth it as the waves on the reef were waist to neck high and lots of fun to ride. By about 11:30 we were getting a little tired, so headed in. Mark Weinman had a different reef experience, he describes it in the next article. The lesson we learned is that we should all talk before heading to the reef, and travel in a group.

Thursday morning was still ENE 15-22, but by the time we got rigged to sail at Isabel's in the Ocean, the wind died. So we had a rest day although Joe got some good kiting in on the sound side at Isabel's. (Isabel's is between Frisco and Hatteras Village, there is a dune crossing and sound side parking lot in the area that filled in the cut that Hurricane Isabel made several years ago.)

Friday brought a good forecast but moderate wind, **Steve Cohen** joined us and we sailed our 7.0 to 7.5 sails with the SW 15-20 breeze. Many of the sailors had headed home, so Joe, Steve, and

Roger Fitzgerald and Tom Hollowell on 4.2's

I went for an earlier dinner at the Pickled Steamer (good wraps). When we got back to the house at 6:30, the sound was full of planing sailors. I called over to Mike Burns to check the sail sizes. Mike is an excellent freestyle sailor from Long Island who was shooting some video two houses over. When he told me they were on 5.9s, that's what I rigged up, and got an hour of maxed out sailing in on the KA 5.9 Koyote and my 86 liter ProTech. Joe decided to let his dinner digest, and Steve joined me, somehow sailing his 7.0 Sailworks Retro in the 24-29 mph SW winds. Steve definitely earned the right to display his license plate slogan, "Real Men Rig Big"! Great end to a nice week, I sailed six sails and four boards, five out of seven days, all planing. Total sun time was about six hours for the



Fred Hylla



Avon Misadventure

by Mark Weinman

The early spring BABA group had some great sailing conditions; although we had good sailing every day, it was fairly cold with typical daily temps in the mid-50's. I was sharing a house at Island Creek with **Bob Catzen, Fred Hylla, Paul Albers, Joe Wingard, Tom Hollowell and Roger Fitzgerald**. On Wednesday morning we were greeted with 4.2 conditions. A group from the house got an early start and had reached the reef by 10:00. I got a late start and rigged a 4.4. After a few runs in close to warm up I headed out on a north-bound tack to meet the crew at the reef. I was perfectly balanced on my 4.4 with lots of power. The wind was NE so I knew I had to be wary of the shoal about 2 miles off the beach due to an out going tide. Just as I pulled my foot from the back strap, I hit bottom and augered in at full planning speed. When I stood up I realized that my sail was torn completely in half from the back of the luff sleeve through the leach. Amazingly there was no damage to the board.

After walking about 50 yards to deeper (knee deep) water, I tried to waterstart. With the sail torn above the boom

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week, and temperatures ranged from 50 degrees on the North wind days to 75 when it blew from the Southwest. Early April in Avon was a great week for sailing!***



Joe "Vintage" Wingard

batten, it proved to be useless. This was not good. I was easily 2 miles off shore, the air and water temperatures were in the low 50's and it was blowing a steady 28 knots, sideshore, and I was alone. After several more feeble attempts to sail, I resigned myself to start walking. At first the water was only knee deep but eventually it was up to my chin. I was beginning to realize this might be a serious situation. I spotted another BABA member, Joe Wingard, heading out to the reef. Joe was a good 75 yards up wind of my position, but luckily he saw my distress signal and came by to lend a hand. My board was only 82 liters so the prospect of Joe dragging me 2 miles to the shore seemed unlikely. I asked Joe to keep sailing and check back on my progress. When he came back, I had been in the water for over half an hour and my progress to the shore was minimal. At that point I did not think walking back was an option so I asked Joe to head back to the house and see if he could get a jet ski from **Ocean Air** (aka-Windsurfiing Hatteras). I continued walking to the shore in order to keep warm and to continue progress in the off chance that a rescue may not arrive. I encountered additional shoulder high water so I broke down my rig and decided to keep the rigging and ditch the torn sail. Progress was much better without the drag of the full rig. After walking for another half hour I was beginning to worry.

On the horizon I could barely see the rooster tail of the jetski heading my way. After what seemed like an eternity of waiting I was greeted by Frank's friendly smile and outstretched hand. He quickly assisted me and my equipment on to the jetski. Within a few minutes we were back on dry land.

I am very grateful to my friends and the Ocean Air staff for helping me in what could have been a life-threatening situation. Before heading out, I had decided not to wear a drysuit that morning and opted for a 3/2 wetsuit. At the last minute I had decided to add a 1/2 mil neoprene shirt over my sleeveless wetsuit. I was also wearing a fleece lined beanie hat. I had been in 53-degree water for over an hour and a half and the initial signs of hypothermia had started to set in. I was very lucky Joe saw me and had been able to render assistance. I con-



Mark Weinman

sider my self an experienced sailor, but if your gear fails on a cold day, it can quickly become a life or death situation.

I would like to share some of the lessons learned from this experience.

1) Never sail alone if you can avoid it, especially in offshore conditions or sailing on a large body of water. If you are compelled to sail alone, make sure someone knows your plan and when you plan to return.

2) Always dress for the conditions and be sure you can survive in the water for an extended period if there is a mechanical breakdown. A fleece lined hat made for sailing is a great insurance factor in cold weather. 70% of your body heat escapes from the head and neck.

3) Carry a spare piece of 5-foot downhaul line with you at all times. This extra line can be useful as a towline, lashing the rig to the board or binding two broken boom halves. As I later learned, it is possible to salvage a torn sail leach by tying a line between two batten ends. This may allow you to control the upper part of the sail and limp back to shore.

4) Consider carrying a small whistle for signaling. Several companies make compact, plastic waterproof whistles for backpackers. Shouting in high winds is almost useless and it can be very hard to spot a sailor down in the water. Three of my buddies sailed right past me coming back from the reef and never saw me in the water.

Apparently I missed an epic day on the reef, but at least I made it back to shore in one piece.

Chincoteague Bay is Empty! (of windsurfers, that is)

by Hans Van Den Bosch

Help, I'm all alone out here!

Public Landing, Maryland is on the Chincoteague Bay, just outside Snow Hill on Maryland's eastern shore. It is 6 miles across a shallow bay to Assateague Island and 25 miles south of O.C. We have a large county parking lot with a long pier and pavilion and a grassy field along a small sandy beach 2 blocks north of it. The parking lot is getting renovated with new rip-rap and a small boardwalk to stay more eco-friendly than the current bulk heading.

The bottom in our area is sandy and fairly clear of growth and debris remaining shoulder depth or less for almost a quarter mile. The wind is best from the north or south, east makes for bump and jump and west forces me to go far out towards the channel to get out of the wind shadow. The Wallops island iWindsurf site has conditions that usually are identical to here, for checking ahead.

The sandy bottom here is probably why this was THE beach before Ocean City. Elsewhere is Marsh mud. There were boardwalks, amusements and hotels before a hurricane blew everything away in the 30's except for the Mansion House, which is now a nice Bed and Breakfast with a large grassy bayside lawn.

You would not know about this village's past by looking around, we only have 60 people living here, many just in the summer. The developers have been putting there greedy little hands on nearby farms, so things may change in the future against our wishes. One just had the audacity to clear off a half mile of Critical area along Paw-Paw Creek! We raised quite a bit of hell, and that developer is going to pay for a lot of remediation, but still got what he wanted, a cleared creek bank. Our



water is very clean, and we want it to stay that way. We do not get jellyfish here which was a surprise after the Chesapeake and Assawoman Bays. The summer heat does increase the brown algae, but in cooler seasons you can often see the bottom 8 ft down.

The problem is that it is so quiet here, I usually have to sail alone (wife unit does not sail) and I rather not go to far away because there are also very few boats if any around most days. I would like to keep rebuilding my skills after a hiatus due to construction and knee work, but as you all know it is faster to learn with others and more fun.

So come on down when you see the wind perking up! No lines, no fees, no jellies!

Hans

hans@hansvandenbosch.us

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=public+landing,+md&ie=UTF8&ll=38.15015,-75.284629&spn=0.006716,0.010042&t=h&z=17>

New BABA Member!

We're very happy to welcome **Aliyah Sarah Boekholt** to BABA. She was born on May 1st at 4:39 pm, and parents **Carsten and Amaresh** instantly fell in love with her. She arrived 17 days early, weighed 6 pounds 4 ounces, was 19.5 inches long and most importantly, very healthy.

**Congratulations
Carsten & Amaresh!**



JB Babcock becomes racing coordinator but time constraints for JB has Chuck Schnee assuming responsibility for racing program. Mid 1995 Hal agrees to club becoming independent of the shop and finances creation of the club's first banner using logo designed by JB. Chuck takes on newsletter creation, publication and distribution as well as clinics, membership, treasury, and sponsorship responsibilities (in addition to the racing program). BABA memberships increase to thirty-one at year-end.

1996 Racing program is strong with 39 regular participants. BABA's first race of the season is named Gerry Brown Memorial Race in memory of Gerry who was an early BABA member who contributed significantly to the growth of our racing program. Ultimate Sports continues to run very popular Aruba and Hatteras trips (7 houses in Hatteras Colony). This major rebuilding year ends with 65 registered BABA members and 19 sponsors generating significant merchandise prizes for our regular raffles.

1997 BABA's first Mid-Winter Party is hosted by John and Kathy Holmes at their place in Baldwin, MD. 35 racers turn out for the first event of the season. Linda Grande takes charge of organizing the women's clinic. Tony Litwak, our Travel Coordinator, organizes a Margarita trip. It is a big growth year for BABA with 57 racers at end of season and 102 paid memberships representing 124 sailors at year-end.

1998 BABA forms a Steering Committee to develop a mission statement for the club and provide a consensus on the direction BABA should take and what activities it might sponsor. Committee members are Mark Weinman (acting chair), Tracy Bueche, Stuart Gray, Tony Litwak, Mike McCormick (now the Racing Coordinator), Chuck Schnee and Fred Thomas. A BABA web site is created by Mark Raginsky to disseminate racing scores.

1999 Mark Weinman creates a unanimously approved mission statement for the club, becomes committee chair and Clinic Director. Daphne Lathouras and husband Steve Melnick assume responsibility for the newsletter, Fred Thomas becomes treasurer, and Mark Raginsky is webmaster. The year ends with 122 BABA memberships comprising 150 sailors.

2000 Mark Raginsky takes over as Racing Coordinator, Ann Jackson assumes Membership responsibility. BABA I - Gerry Brown Memorial Race becomes a fundraising race for cancer research at Johns Hopkins. BABA's newsletter first becomes available to download from the Internet (March/April issue). {The current web site has newsletters archived to July/August 2001.} The Southern Maryland Windsurfing Association (Alan Bernau) organize the USWA Open Nationals at Drum Point.

2001 The "Pat Pugh Memorial Service Award" was established to honor a long time member whose contributions to the club were legion. Winners through 2007 have been Fred Thomas, Mark Weinman, Marc Rosen, Chuck Schnee, Daphne Lathouras/Steve Melnick, Tom Sargent, and Bill Anderson/Helen Van Gelder. Maureen and Albert Pritchard take on Sponsorship duties. Fred Thomas

adds Hatteras Coordination to his Treasurer responsibility as Hal Ashman agrees to transfer Hatteras trip management to BABA. Tony Litwak is now Winter Trip Coordinator (to exotic foreign destinations). Chuck Schnee does the Clinic Director job again and Mark Weinman becomes Lead Instructor for BABA clinics while remaining Steering Committee Chair. "Family Fun Day" at the Gunpowder is initiated as an annual event. Year-end membership reaches 131 (157 sailors).

2002 Daphne and Steve add Webmaster to their newsletter responsibility. BABA member Tara Collis professionally designs the club's web site. A Women's 7.5 Limited Class is added to the racing fleet. First year of the East Coast Formula Championships organized by windsurfers in Southern Maryland (began as the Drum Point Championship in 2001).

2003 Mark Weinman takes on Sponsorship. Janice Emerling becomes Clinic Director. Bill Anderson and Helen Van Gelder join the Steering Committee as Members at Large. Marc Rosen is elected Steering Committee Chair. Tom Sargent becomes Racing Coordinator.

2004 Mark Raginsky adds his name to the Members at Large group. Chuck Schnee returns to Sponsorship. First overnight camp-out at the Gunpowder for a two-day race event. Helen Van Gelder and Bill Anderson step in to help out with Hatteras trip coordination.

2005 The East Coast Formula Championship regatta – part of the US Windsurfing National Race Tour – becomes part of the BABA series under the direction of Racing Coordinator Tom Sargent. Helen Van Gelder becomes BABA Treasurer. First Mayo Beach camp-out for the East Coast Formula Championship.

2006 BABA incorporates. Maureen Pritchard is the new BABA Steering Committee Chair. Colin Pitts is Vice Chair, Mike McCormick is Secretary, Marc Rosen moves to the Members at Large seat, then to Sponsorship. Fan Pat becomes a Member at Large and Bill Anderson assists Fred Thomas in Hatteras Trip management.

2007 BABA becomes a 501(c)(3) – that's a non-profit organization. Coby Leyden joins Steering Committee to manage 2008 Spring Hatteras trip. Fred Thomas continues duties with coordinating 2008 Fall trip. Bill Anderson returns to Member at Large role. A "Meet at the Beach" program is created to help new sailors progress in the sport.

2008 Roger Fitzgerald sets up a BABA Speed Quest program utilizing Global Positioning System (GPS) trackers. Carsten Boekholt joins the Steering Committee as a Member at Large.

updated 5/20/08



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SUMMER SWAP MEET

Sunday, June 15

Classifieds.....

FOR SALE:

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Mistral Devil Formula Board. L: 268 cm W: 100 cm
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2007 Chinook Triple Clamp Giant Slalom Aluminum Boom 167-229 cm \$100 contact aaron.vieira@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

Boards: AHD 310 Good C. \$350; Starboard Fish G.C. \$275; Prices are Firm!
Sails: 12.5 Gaastra Nitro 4 Good Condition. \$250; 12.2 NP Race fair. \$150; 12.0 Gaastra Nitro 5 like new \$400; 11.5 G. Nitro 5 Good \$375; 10.5 G Nitro 5 Good \$350. Prices are not firm... Please Contact Alan Bernau 1-800-281-4515 or abus111@crosslink.net



2008 BABA CALENDAR

June 7 and 8
 BABA 2 and BABA 3
 & Campout
 Gunpowder Park

June 15
 BABA Learn To Windsurf
 Clinic
 with Ultimate Watersports
 Gunpowder Park
 (see p 4 for more info)

June 15
 East of Maui Summer Swap

June 22
 BABA 4
 Mayo Beach Park

July 13
 BABA 5
 Gunpowder Park

September 7
 BABA 6
 Hot Chili Pepper Regatta
 Gunpowder Park

September 27, 28
 BABA 7 and BABA 8
 East Coast Championships
 part of the US Windsurfing
 National Race Tour
 Mayo Beach Park

October 11 - 18
 Fall Hatteras Trip

October 18 - 19
 WET Hampton Roads
 Classic Regatta
 Norfolk, VA

October 31
 Last Day for 2008 Speed
 Quest

November 1
 2009 Speed Quest Begins!

TBA
 BABA Annual Meeting
 and Awards

Need more information?

BABA RACING: contact Tom Sargent: 301/854-6442 or TomUS919@worldnet.att.net

WET Events: go to www.sailwet.com for updates & contact info

BABA Clinics: contact Janice Emerling: 410/457-4001 or janiceemerling@verizon.net.

Hatteras Trips: Coby Leyden 703/969-1027 or coby.leyden@jacobs.com

Fred Thomas 410/692-5409 or fthomas@cms.hhs.gov

Speed Quest - Roger Fitzgerald fitz@qis.net or Craig Heffner heffnha@verizon.net

Directions, updates & more information on BABA events - go to www.windsurfbaba.org

Farewell to BABA

It is with heavy heart and blistered hand that I bid farewell to the finest Mid-Atlantic windsurfing club ever formed (I think I just WET myself...). In a couple of weeks, I will be selling all my belongings and heading west to live, work and play in that "other" bay area. While the windsurfing club in that region boasts 1200+ members and strong political influence, I'm certain that I'll find that BABA still reigns supreme in grit, guile, moxy and all the other "je ne sais quoi" factors one could imagine. I would specifically like to thank Daphne, Helen and Marc Rosen for always making me feel welcome at various events, the Marks' at East of Maui for living the dream as starving windsurfers so we can get that downhaul line and replaced extension when we are in a pinch, and Coby, for putting together an amazing spring trip (to Hatteras) and finding a way for me to partake in this year's event.

For updates on my trials and tribulations of changing from from an east to west coast windsurfer or if you ever find yourself in such a deep swamp of boredom that crying no longer cures, you may want to check out my windsurfing blog at <http://humancatapult.blogspot.com> I assure you, you will be disappointed.

Aaron Viera



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