



## From the Commodore – April 2009

Spring has sprung and you would not know it based on the weather forecast for this week: Snow flurries and freeze warnings... that's it! I am out of here into warmer climates...

The lake is not pristine this time of the year (icebergs and all) filled with lots of flotsam from the shoreline and the ever present 'yeller pollen' – oh well its Springtime in Atlanta after all.

The sailing has been good on and off around the lake with the usual fronts sweeping through with some gusto - be prepared to catch some of the wind – we will surely miss it come the bob and bake season. Besides the ice berg floating down the river, Saturday saw another unusual sight as George Manners - on a break from his world travels - took out 'Gershwin' to actually sail this beautiful boat again; He certainly hit the jack-pot with his top notch crew ( Jane Randall) and the great breeze for most of the day.

On a more serious note: The impact of the economic hard times can be felt everywhere: have you looked around the marina lately? A bit of a ghost town in some docks – don't you think? Dock 3 and 4 are still mostly occupied, but several former members had to sell their boats or could not afford renewal club membership this year just to make ends meet – I truly fee for those and I hope for everybody's sake that the turn-around is not too far off and people can return to their hobbies and passions. As a club we have the wonderful resource of people: club members, who are willing to lend a hand, help out or have an expertise you are in need of etc. just ask - either point blank, (this is not the time to be shy...) or drop a hint to whom you feel comfortable talking to and we see what can be done.

On a related note: when you use your boat less frequent – for whatever reasons- be sure to give it at least a check-up every once in a while: check your dock lines for chafe (especially when the fronts have come through), check the integrity of your sail-covers and furlers and most importantly add a fuel stabilizer like Sea Foam or Sta bil (Sta tron) to your fuel to keep the ethanol fuel from separation and water-intrusion. While these may not be

the exact technical terms for the fuel related outboard problems they sure will creep up on you and prevent you from either leaving the dock all together or make it very interesting when you come back in with a sputtering engine (talk to George Manners for more details...).

Several sailors went on adventures trips recently: some just left and no report is available yet: (Gary& Donna (O'Day 22), Robert (C-14) , Nils (C-22), Richard (newly purchased Sunfish) and a bunch of sea scouts went to Carrabelle for Spring Break; some left for good: Lary Davis and the precious SummerObsession left the marina for Pensacola and on to the Caribbean and Richard Deason together with Chris Hall helped our old friend and longtime member Fred Pope to sail his Catalina 27 from St. Petersburg to Carrabelle, Fl.

Rumor has it, **while all is well that ends well**, that this was an epic trip, which produced several 'Piddle Paddle' worthy performances. On the down side, a certain bridge tender and hundreds of commuters are not too fond of a certain sailing vessel that requested opening of the bridge only to have their engine stall for good and having to request to close the bridge again without passing it. On the up-side, the Coast Guard was glad that they only had to standby for a possible rescue in the middle of the night since the rudder post held together after all... We shall not mention in detail here: grounding, engine stalls, 10ft waves at night, sea –sickness, no reefing system and other minor details. For those interested in details, ask Richard Deason about the similarities between an outhaul and a pig tail...

**You would think what happens in the middle of the ocean would stay in the middle of the ocean – but noooo, the seagulls saw it all and they are singing...**

But you have to go out there and put yourself at the mercy of Mother Nature before you can become part of this kind of folklore; well done gentlemen and we are proud of you.

We finally have a dock box for our racing equipment; it is near the 'front-porch' of the marine shop and will have a number lock attached; we may 'expand' it to 2 such

containers so we don't have to deflate all the buoys all the time. Thanks again to Steve Adams for his donation in this regard.

On the water activities saw closely contested races last Saturday. Steve Adams brought out his new 'flag ship' the J 29, Steve Gully sailed his Hunter, Jordan Ball the Catalina 22 and I had the Apollo in the water. (the rest of the usual racing crowd was out of town..) . We had two long range races from the super dock down the lake past the point of the S-turns and back. For the first race the wind was great and it took only about an 75 min to complete the race, then the wind started to fade and the second race took considerably longer. Oh my, oh my can the J29 fly... she finished ahead and well ahead of the rest of us- but there are those equalizing rating numbers....

We are not sure yet on the winners and places as we did not have the correct numbers for the J29 present (there is a mast head and a fractional rig ...both are rated in the low 70's ) but on some preliminary computations, the difference in the corrected times was in the 'fractions of a second'.

I want to pass on what Steve Adams mentioned last weekend, that this is the time of the year to do the best sailing on our lake; He is interested in some ad-hoc races for those interested-so don't be surprised to get a call or an e-mail from him.

Fair Winds to all  
Andy Kohler  
Commodore SWSC

**View from the hotel in Carrabelle – notice Gary's yellow O'day and Nils blue Catalina on the trailer**



**SOUTH WINDS SAILING CLUB – SAILSWSC.ORG**

The next Club sponsored activity is the St. Thomas Cruise on our Lake, the weekend after Easter; details are on the webpage and in the last newsletter; the short version: we start Friday night at the Red Top Mountain Lodge – which is accessible by water and by road for those who like to join us just for this evening. We will sail Saturday first towards the dam and then up river (hopefully with the wind...) towards Little River Restaurant and spend the night across from it in Sweetwater Campground waters; Sunday morning we will have breakfast on the docks of Cushings Park where Gary Holcombe keeps his flotilla of boats before we head back towards Harbor Town. (p.s. there are showers and bathrooms at Cushings, a prized commodity after 3 days on the boat).

Last, you may have already noticed from the entries onto the webpage, that we will gather for the remaining meetings of the year at Nik's place in Marietta. (Niksplace.com)

Hope to see you at the cruise - or maybe sooner on the lake as I will indeed head for warmer climates on St. Simons and will miss the meeting this month. You still will be in the good hands of Nik and Wanda and our Rear Commodore Steve Gully – so come on out.

Be careful with all the debris floating down stream currently.

## March Meeting Minutes

### **Thursday, March 12, 2009 Minutes of Monthly Meeting Held at Nix's Place in Marietta**

- Commodore Andy Kohler called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. and thanked Nick and Wanda for hosting our meeting this month.
- Reading of the February 12, 2009, minutes was dispensed with.

#### Reports

- Fleet Captain: Ruth Leber advised there have been two races since the last meeting.
  - . To qualify for a trophy you must do a race committee boat.
  - . Canceled races on Saturday will be made up on Sunday with a 1:00 p.m. skipper's meeting.
  - . Updates, results and standings are on the website.
- Membership: Joe Carter advised we added a new member, Harry McGowan.
  - . Reminded us to pay dues otherwise you will not be included on the call list.
  - . Five (5) open raft-up dates.
  - . Pay your dues--we're interesting people, come to our meetings, attend races.
  - . Joe receives many requests for sailing lessons. He advises AYC offers sailing instruction courses.
- Sea Scouts:
  - . Up to ten (10) scouts
  - . Helped with race committee.
  - . Gary Holcombe advised that the Boy Scouts of America will be offering a Yacht Master program, a three-part initiative on boating & sailing. When the materials are approved it will be offered to our club as a perc, and once passed will qualify one for a discount on boat liability insurance.

#### Old Business

- Motion was approved to change the officer name from Rear Vice Commodore to Fleet Captain.

#### New Business

- Scott Widmier announced the Florida 120 on Santa Rosa Sound registration was up to 38 boats.
- Steve Gully advised that the St. Thomas Cruise was 4/17-19
  - . Friday to Red Top area, even if no boat please participate.
  - . Saturday to Turtle Rock - lunch - then to Little River by 5:30; meet at Little River if no boat. Then motor to Sweetwater.

April 2009 – **SWSC NEWSLETTER**

- St. Patrick's Day picnic, Saturday, March 14, 5:00p.m. at the Point.. Club will provide ham.

Announcements

- Eric Johns is home now working on the TropiCal, will be heading back to Hilton Head.
- Honorary member Mike Hansell's wife found an air mattress on ebay for quite a bit less than retail. Mike has ALS and is so appreciative of a call or visit; information is on the membership list.
- Eric John's friend, Mike, of the sailboat Mandalay, sailing from Rhode Island is now in Panama City.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ardythe Ball, Yeoman

**St George Island Lighthouse**



## Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
Club Meeting	04/09/09 Thu 7pm	Niks Place, Marietta <a href="http://niksplace.com/id2.html">http://niksplace.com/id2.html</a>	7pm for dinner, 8pm for the club meeting
St Thomas Allatoona Cruise	04/18-19/09	On the Lake	St Thomas Allatoona weekend cruise on the lake
SOTY 5	05/02/09 Sat 11am	On the Lake	Skipper of the Year Race #5
Small Boat Race 1	05/09/09 Sat 11am	On the Lake	Small Boat Race #1
Florida 120	05/14-17/09	Pensacola, Florida	Florida 120 -- May 14 thru May 17
Club Meeting	05/14/09 Thu 7:00pm	Niks Place, Marietta <a href="http://niksplace.com/id2.html">http://niksplace.com/id2.html</a>	7pm for dinner, 8pm for the club meeting
Raft Up 1	05/16/09 Sat 7:00pm	AYC Cove	
Catalina Nationals - Ft Walton Bch, Florida	05/23-28/09	Fort Walton Beach, Florida	The Ft Walton Beach Yacht Club is sponsoring the Catalina 2009 Nationals <a href="http://www.catalina22.org/PDFfiles/2009-National-NOR.pdf">http://www.catalina22.org/PDFfiles/2009-National-NOR.pdf</a>
Ladies Regatta 1	05/30/09 Sat 11am		
Memorial Day Regatta	05/31/09 Sun 1pm		
Beer Cruise	06/06-10/09	Pensacola, Florida	

## Race Results

Results as of 03/07/09

### A Fleet

Skipper	Total Points
Scott Widmier	9.301
Robert Forrester	8.214
Andy Kohler	7.933
Steve Adams	6.885
Steve Gully	5.931

### B Fleet

Skipper	Total Points
Jordan Ball	7.617
Sea Scouts	5.000
Bob Ross	4.660
Nils Thompson	1.612
Andy Mils	1.354

### Catalina points

Skipper	Boat	Fleet	Total Points
Robert Forrester	Catalina 22	A	9.627
Jordan Ball	Catalina 22	B	6.980
Bob Ross	Catalina 28	B	4.275
Andy Kohler	Catalina 22	A	2.860
Nils Thompson	Catalina 22	B	1.483

## Carrabelle Trip with the Scouts

### **By Robert Forrester**

Carrabelle trip – We drove down Saturday morning to Carrabelle, FL. I missed the group by about 10 minutes and caught up to them on the south end of 285. Nils' trailer had popped off the hitch and the safety chains did their job. We hit traffic below Atlanta, then again below Macon, so our 6-7hr trip took nearly 10 hours. We splashed Gary's O'day Saturday afternoon. Nils had some shroud upgrades to perform, so we didn't splash his boat until Sunday morning.

**Sunday morning** - From the hotel, there is over 1 mile to motor down the river out into the Gulf. Gary had 3 scouts on his O'Day 22, while Nils and I had 2 scouts on the Catalina 22. We had motor problems as we neared the gulf, so we dropped anchor and worked on the motor. Earlier, I could see Dog Island, as we dropped anchor the weather had moved in we lost sight of the island. We lost sight of the outer markers, then lost sight of Gary.

After 30 minutes, the engine had time to cool off, it finally ran without a problem. We decided it was best to head back to the marina. We got word from Gary that he was heading back in. He admitted later, he missed the channel markers on the way back in and had to double-back. On his return attempt, he missed the channel by 20 feet and found shallow water with his fixed keel. He

flagged down a powerboat for a short tow and made it back in.

**Sunday afternoon** - We spent that afternoon at the beach with the scouts and the two small boats, my Capri 14.2 and Richard's Sunfish. Richard had a couple of the scouts out practicing capsizing and recovering, then were off for some sailing. I took one scout out on my boat. The scouts lost interest in sailing. They did enjoy wrestling, skim-boarding(I brought my two skim-boards), and even a little volleyball with some teenage girls. Richard and I played chase in our boats.

**Monday** - The weather was still unsuitable for sailing, so we went sight-seeing. We found the local Carrabelle Lighthouse, then drove to St George Island for lunch and more sight-seeing. After lunch, Gary was packed and left for Atlanta a day early. He and Donna decided to leave their boat at the marina so they could come back for a weekend stay and more sailing. Nils pulled his boat out and got it ready for a Tuesday departure. The scouts headed back to the beach for more playtime. Zack and I also left a day early for Ft Walton Beach to finish out spring break with family and hopefully do some sailing in the Choctawhatchee Bay in the Capri 14.2.

**View from the St George lighthouse**



## South Winds Sailing Club Membership Application Form

Complete this application and mail it along with your \$45.00 Annual fee (new members joining after July 1st, \$25.00) to:

### **South Winds Sailing Club**

104 Springwater Trace  
Woodstock, Georgia 30188

Member(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member(s) Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Boat: \_\_\_\_\_  
Length: \_\_\_\_\_  
BoatName: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Marina: \_\_\_\_\_

What knowledge or skills can you share or teach other club members:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Boating Interests:  Social events  Racing  
 Crewing  Raft Up Events  
 Cruising

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: Robert Forrester