



From the Commodore – April 2010

Rumors of my demise have been greatly exaggerated but I have been out of touch more than I would prefer the last two months due to both work (a new position as director of a new doctoral program at KSU) and an intestinal malady that doesn't bear thinking about. So, please accept this halfway in the middle of nowhere newsletter as a form of apology and catching up.

Since my last letter we have had two SOTY races and a small boat race. I was race committee for the SOTY in March where we had very fluky winds ranging from none at all to nice gusts with common 180 degree wind shifts. I must say, it was a good day to relax, sit back, and laugh as boat after boat got confused, back winded, knocked over, or sat with slack sails. Just looked like a little too much work for me. As race committee I got ringside seats to some beautiful boats on the water and a chance to clean out the cobwebs on my boat. I highly recommend it for our racer and non-racers alike!

The April race was a bit more lively with light winds for the first race building in the second until the third when we really got to scrub the sides of our boat. As Nick pointed out he needed bottom paint on the side of his boat for the day not the bottom. Steve Gully acted as fleet committee even though this is his second race day to do it. Please get out and volunteer. Steve Adams dominated the first two races with yours truly pulling out a victory by a few seconds in adjusted time in the third race.

Fortunately, I picked up one of our new members of Puddle Duck fame, David, who helped in managing the jib sheets and adding his weight to the rail.

The small boat race in April was poorly attended I believe though I was in Milwaukee at a conference so unable to attend. I believe Steve G and Andy Kohler did sail around for a bit in their Puddle Ducks. Look for more of these intrepid little boats on the lake as the scouts mass hatch approaches completion. We now have a schedule of puddle duck races on Sundays which is listed on our webpage though I think the April one might be sparsely attended due to weather and lack of finished boats. The Allatoona Fleet of puddle duck racers is now officially and duely registered and I am hoping it might be both a good recruiting tool and a way to encourage younger folks to discover sailing.

The weather is warming up and the lake is starting to look real attractive. People can tell me when sailing season is upon us by the far away look I get in my eye, the distraction inherent in my responses, and my hands which are covered by paint and glue as I rush to finish all of the last minute boat projects. Last month I launched and sailed my 2nd puddle duck racer on a windy gusty day in company with Steve as an exclamation point to the end of the first day of the mass incubator of puddle ducks.

It was a gusty day but Steve and I were in water protected from the main lake by the

Kellogg Creek Bridge. Both of us were amazed by the stability and the speed of these little boats even though I had sailed one before. Steve enjoyed feeling for the first time the joy that is launching of a boat you made with your own two hands. The fact that his Mystery2 sailed really well was just icing on the cake. Hard to describe but I hope all of you get to feel that thrill one day. Warning, it is addictive as you can see from Steve's reaction which is to continue to make Mystery 2 into a little yacht complete with lights and a bimini. He is so enamored with his little boat that when it started to rain after the last SOTY race he carefully sealed up his big boat and went to shelter in his Puddle Duck to calculate the race results! Go to:

<http://s300.photobucket.com/albums/nn17/swidm/puddle%20duck/> to see some pictures of us sailing along with the boy scout build.

One more puddle duck story. Saturday March 27th saw three puddle duckers (David, Steve G, and I) dunking our little boats at the launch ramp at Harbor Town despite 25 mph winds. We were really determined to test out the stability of these boats especially since none of us had a way to reef our large rigs. We launched and proceeded to try to sail out of Harbor Town. Unfortunately, rig tuning and homemade parts continually let us down as we kept getting caught in irons and tiller and rudders broke. We did learn how to sail backwards well! I did just manage to exit Harbor Town and had a very challenging and overpowered sail to windward to our normal beach party beach where I waited to see if any other boats emerged.

Steve did come out briefly but under electric motor power. It is credit to this design that even overpowered I wasn't close to going over. Something about parking my 200+ pounds on

the rail of a 4 foot by 8 foot boat I am sure. Sailing back to Harbor Town was a downwind run again overpowered. It was during this run that I learned the definition of "going submarine" as the broad bow dug in and water came pouring into the cockpit. I managed to get back in time and the bow slowly came out of the water. I let go the mainsheet and drifted back with the sail pointing over the bow with about 3" of water sloshing around my feet. David also learned what going submarine in a puddle duck means when his boat dug in near the docks. In this instance, however, he did end up going over board and all and was ignobly dragged out of the too-cold water. Lessons learned and fun had. Since then I have changed the rake of the mast for a better balance of the boat so bring on the wind again!

We have a couple of events coming up before the next meeting that I want to draw your attention to. First, the annual St. Thomas Allatoona Cruise is coming up April 30th to May 2nd. Lets hope it is a little warmer than last years cruise! Steve G provided details at the March meeting I was unable to attend due to work. I am sure he will provide more in this newsletter. I will unfortunately not be there as I am wanting to take my newest boat creating, Queequeg's Coffin, to the Cedar Keys messabout in Florida to test it out on coastal waters before committing myself to the Florida 120.

The other upcoming event May 13th to the 16th is the Florida 120 which is a 120 mile four day cruise along beautiful intercoastal waterways of Alabama and Florida from Josephine Alabama to Navarre Florida. Last year we had 20 boats and this year we have around 30 unique boats signed up. Talk to me if you are interested in more details. This does mean that I will be missing our next meeting unfortunately.

Scott Widmier
SWSC Commodore

Sea Scout Update

By Robert Forrester

We had a wonderful spring break trip with the Sea Scouts. We hauled Nils Catalina 22, Gary's O'day 22, Richard Sunfish, and my Catalina Capri 22. We took 10 Scouts to Carrabelle Island. Gary and Nils took the big boats out to Dog Island and St George Island, while Richard and I sailed the small boats off the beach. The winds were blowing real hard the first day, but the Dog Island and St George Island keep the surf small. We had 2-3 rolling waves. Richard launched with one scout on his Sunfish and I launched with 3 scouts on my boat. My nerves settled once we got off the beach without capsizing. I had all four of us hiking out several times and we did plenty surfing the waves. We sailed down the beach and met up with Nils and Gary sailing out of the pass. They left us and headed out for deeper water and we headed back down the beach. We had another full day of this swapping out the scouts out for small/big boats. We finished the day with the big boats dropping anchor 30'

off the beach and letting all the scouts have some fun beach time.

Our third day was spent at the Coast Guard base in Panama City Beach. We spent a short time in a classroom listening to the stories of Coast Guard training and daily work. We took a ride on a 41' Coast Guard cruiser. This was very exciting for all of us. We had a walking tour of a 100+ foot working boat. I was shocked to see that the kitchen was the same size as my kitchen at home. Have a look on the website for the pictures and video from the trip.

Back on Allatoona, the Scouts have been working weekends framing out Puddle Duck Racers. We had 18 boats reserved for kits and several are nearing completion. There are several local Scout Troops and Venturing Crews that are building their own. Again, check the website for pictures and upcoming PDR races.

Website Changes

By Robert Forrester

I have been making small changes to the club site as we grow and change. Updates include changes to the Sea Scout page and a new Puddle Duck page. There are new videos and loads of new pictures.

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
PDR Race	May 9 Sun 1pm	Galts Ferry	Puddle Duck Race
Florida 120	May 13 Thu	Florida	Florida 120 Cruise, May 13 thru May 16
Club Meeting	May 13 Thu 7pm	Niks Place	Club Meeting at Niks Place in Marietta
SOTY 5	May 22 Sat 11am	HarborTown Marina	Sailboat Race – Points race
Raft Up	May 22 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	First Raft-Up of the year
Memorial Day Race	May 30 Sun 1pm	HarborTown Marina	Memorial Day Sailboat Race
Memorial Day Picnic	May 30 Sun 5pm	At the Point	Memorial Day Picnic at the Point
Florida BEER Cruise	June 4-8	Galts Ferry	BEER Cruise along the Florida Coast http://www.beercruise.info
Raft Up	June 5 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Raft-Up
Club Meeting	June 10 7pm	Niks Place	Club Meeting at Niks Place in Marietta
PDR Race	June 13 Sun 1pm	Galts Ferry	Puddle Duck Race
SOTY 6	June 19 Sat 11am	HarborTown Marina	Sailboat Race – Points race
Raft Up	June 19 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Italian Raft Up
Half Yard	June 26 Sat 11am	HarborTown Marina	Half Yard long distance Sailboat Race
Raft Up	June 26 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	19 th Annual Jimmy Buffett Raft Up

Racing Points A Fleet

Skipper	Points
Steve Adams	11.626
Steve Gully	7.648
Jordan Ball	7.562
Scott Widmier	7.552
Andy Kohler	4.943
Sam Hunter	4.879
Gary Holcombe	2.000

Racing Points B Fleet

Skipper	Points
Nick Zaimis and Wanda Williams	12.000
Tracy Reeves	4.105
Bob Ross	2.572
Andy Mills	2.404
Mike Alyea	1.745
Nils Thompson	0.900

March 2010 Meeting Minutes

SOUTH WINDS SAILING CLUB

Minutes of Month Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Nik's Restaurant

645 Whitlock Ave., Marietta

Meeting was called to order by Commodore Scott Widmier at 8:00 p.m. He reported seeing some members on the lake this season but not too much going on since we've had such a cold winter.

Retired Commodore Andy Kohler reminded us he has SWSC flags for sail and to sign up for the Ladies Race on April 24th.

Fleet Captain Steve Gully reported only one boat finished the first race. Boats that showed up were adjusted two points and the race results would determine if it's up or down. Next SOTY race is 3/20.

Membership: Joe Carter reported 25 families paid up and after April 1 only those paid would get reminder calls of the club's activities. We'll be hosting the 9/18 puddle duck regional competition; raft up will be near Red Top Mtn.

Commodore has new members who will be sending checks. Open raft up dates are 5/22, 6/5 and 8/11 and we're looking to add a December date. He's trying to make up roster for the website. Vote on the email list will be on the website.

Sea Scouts: Monthly meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wed. Spring Break four boats will be going to Carrabelle. They are working on puddle ducks at Wildlife Action Center 3/13, 3/20 and 3/27.

New Business: Commodore received a proposal from Steve Adams that plaques be awarded for each SOTY race. March 20th will be the St. Patrick's Day picnic, bring your green beer and enjoy.

Eric Johns update: he's sailing back from Key West.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardythe Ball, Yeoman

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

1034 Atherton Lane
Woodstock, Georgia 30189

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