

DECEMBER 2007 - JANUARY 2008

SWSC NEWSLETTER

From the Commodore - December 2007

Ahoy all SWSC sailors

More than a month has past since our illustrious Commodore's Ball of the 2007 season. We had 60 members, families and friends in attendance of a fantastic event and if you missed it, (to quote from one of the stunning performers of this evening) you were "hurtin' for certain...".

We awarded many racers for their successful participation on the regatta circuit, we crowned our new Skippers of the Year, Steve Gully in A-fleet (that new bottom sure did pay off...) and Ruth Leber in B-fleet (congratulations, and welcome to the A-fleet);

We saw a very emotional Richard Deason accepting the Macy's Cup for the 2nd time to a standing ovation.

Don Ahrens was the proud recipient of the ever popular Piddle-Paddle award. If you stayed around long enough, you also witnessed what surely will become a tradition in some way: the reading of all the piddle paddlers names and if they were in attendance, the telling of their story of what REALLY happened that earned them the award. Good job Richard Deason.

The surprise of the evening for many was the impromptu appearance of our old friend Richard Silver. Barb had to stay in Florida and we all missed seeing her again.

Richard, the old prankster, surprised everybody in the cabins the night before, when suddenly "a gorilla from the mist appeared out of no-where and started to mingle with the crowd" (with a stone faced Richard Deason sitting there in plain view pretending not knowing anything..).

I know Richard Silver is doing fine; he was up in the Atlanta area, trouble shooting for his former employer, but mainly, to fabricate boat parts for his (as he put it) fixer-upper S2.

Thanks again to the past officers and board and in particular to the planning committee under the leadership of Alice and Larry Nix, for topping off a great year with another impressive and fun-filled Commodore's Ball.

Looking ahead, the new sailing season is also right around the corner. The planning of the events such as races, cruises, raft ups, beach parties is in progress. If you feel strongly about an event or any matter concerning the club or have a new idea for us to try, please don't hesitate to let me or any of the officer know.

For the time being, regular meetings will remain at Barclays (where we had them last year)

Don't forget to get on the lake in the winter time. At least five boats were out on December 1st for a very fine and (warm) impromptu sail. North, past the Victoria Marina Basin and back almost to the Kellogg's Creek bridge. Jordan Ball went on to spent the night on his C22, Brian Mc Brayer had hoisted **both** sails and put the rail in the water, Steve Gully was still in short sleeves

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after the sun went down. Dangerous Dan joined us late in the afternoon. His boat seems to slice through water very graceful with the new bottom. Yours truly skippered the 3rd Catalina of this small armada.

It is impressive to be able to see right now the undulations of soil, red clay and tree stumps of what is normally the bottom of the lake or the shore line. Just be careful out there.

Hope to see you soon at the lake

Fair Winds

Andy Kohler

Commodore

From the Commodore - January 2008

Ahoy all SWSC sailors

The new year has shown up in a hurry and before you can blink your eyes a couple of times the first month is halfway gone and the Boat Show is over...

What a week we had, two snowfall 'events' in 3 days - it all did not add up to much but the excitement mounted with each snowflake and each degree below freezing.

From an organizational point of view, all dates and events for the new season have been planned and are posted on-line, thanks to the fleet captain (Scott), the raft-up coordinator (Joe) the social event chair (Beth) and the 'web-meister' Robert. We may be adding one or the other 'special event' as we develop the ideas and find room on the calendar.

The attached official meeting notes from the January gathering do not reflect the amount of satisfaction and praise that was expressed by various members towards Robert Forrester and his work / design with the webpage. He has done an incredible job with it - and it is getting better by the month.

I am aware, that the meetings at Barnacle's have one major draw-back: the acoustics are dismal and not everybody can hear every word spoken and or join the conversations.

While the next meeting is again at Barnacle's, we will have a different set-up of the tables in a U-shaped form (in the far corner) to decrease the distance between speaker and audience and improve the flow of communication during the meeting.

I will also explore another meeting location for March, in particular the Los Reyes (I think...) restaurant on Chastain Road near I-75 which has 'secluded private' rooms for up to 40 people.

Be aware, that the next meeting in February is on the 14th of that month - bring your valentine to the meeting- make it a date...

It was announced as the frost-bite regatta, but winter gave us a break for that weekend: temperatures were very mild and winds almost non-existent for our first official event of the year. It was a light air day all-the way. Thanks to all eight skippers, crews and the race committee for creating a successful first race day of the new season. Please check out the results and pictures of this day on-line.

If you have not noticed, the lake-level has been coming up steadily and is projected to pass through the 824 ft level next week.

See <http://water.sam.usace.army.mil/actframe.htm> for details. The means the ramp should re-open soon as well. Time to go sailing!

I will start another list for people who are interested in a new club burgee (\$26) - the first batch has been sold out since the end of last year. We need about 6 more orders before a new batch can be made.

Since a lot of skippers have a club burgee now, I would encourage everybody to fly it while on the water for fun, during raft-ups or races.

The next club event is another SOTY race on Saturday February 2; this is pretty close to Mardis Gras this year - maybe we will see some costumes or masks to make things interesting...

On the advice from the techies, all open e-mail references to club and the officers have been removed from our websites to keep automatically generated spam of our server.

The way to contact anybody in the club is to use the 'Contact-Us' form - which will be forwarded to the appropriate person automatically.

A note and reminder from the Purser: it's time to renew our club membership (still \$45 for the family, for the year).

Mail checks to Candice Ahrens; 104 Springwater Trace, Woodstock, GA 30188 or renew during the sign-up for the next race or at the next club meeting - please.

I wish every body a happy New Year and a great sailing season 2008.

See you on the water.

Andy Kohler

Commodore

A note on the Commodores Ball from Larry

The annual Commodore's Ball was as always a true highlight of the year's activities. This year's effort, with a theme of Harbor Lights, was reflective of the imagination and hard work of the members of the CB Non Committee, which did such an admirable job in putting all the right touches to the event.

For those unable to attend, you missed a great evening, which began with entering the harbor, guided up the channel to the mooring by the red and green blinking beacons (red right returning, of course). Our greeting was the white lights surrounding the dock. Upon debarking, we were led into the main reception cabin by the blinking light house on the shore covered with rocks and flotsam. All were made welcome by the friendly natives in nautical attire and soft music wafting over the waves. Ships were everywhere in the anchorage under brilliant starlight and a hovering moon. After mingling, nibbling and drinking, the crew was called to dinner.

An old shipmate Richard Silver had arrived by Gulf Express to revel in the evening's festivities. Alas, he had to leave his first mate Barbara behind to guard the keep and ensure the ship was safe from pirates. He consented to leading the assembled crew in thanksgiving before the meal was served. His blessing is as follows:

GREAT CAPTAIN OF ALL THE SEA
WE MEET TOGETHER AND JOINTLY DECREE
BLESS THIS FOOD AND ACCEPT OUR THANKS
REMEMBER US EACH DAY, AND PROTECT OUR FLANKS
PROTECT US WHEN WE WORK, AND WHEN WE PLAY
AND AT THE END, HELP US BE ABLE TO SAY:
WE HAVE SAILED ON AN OCEAN, AND SAILED ON A LAKE
EACH WATER OPPORTUNITY, A TIME TO RENEW
AND WHEN WE GET TO HEAVEN'S GATE
WE HOPE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOME CREW

Dinner was superb, having been prepared and served by our most popular ship's cook Charlotte and consisting of steak, salmon, shrimp, rice, beans, salad, drink and dessert.

The company enjoyed it all and exchanged wit and whimsy until the Commodore called all to order.

As gifts and awards were passed around, the joy and hilarity were best shown when the youngest sailor (under the age) won a bottle of grog for his own. The evening was concluded with dancing and drink until all had to hoist sails and catch the morning tide.

Many thanks to all (Steve, Vickie, Jane, Beth, Ruth, Gary, Donna, Sam, Frieda, Nancy, John, Sue, Andy, Candice, Alice) who made this evening an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Fair winds until we meet again, Larry

January Meeting Minutes

South Winds Sailing Club
Members Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2008
Barnacles Restaurant

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 by Commodore Kohler. There were 35 people present.

Reading of last month's minutes was waived after motion was made and seconded.

Commodore: Andy Kohler

1. Happy New year
2. Warm Welcome to Joe Carters mom Ruth, Thanks for coming out!

Vice Commodore: Gary Holcombe

1. No report

Fleet Captain: Scott Widmier

1. Thank you Robert for the web site. Vist the web site Robert did an incredible job with it. (Round of applause for Robert)
2. The race page has changed. The 2008 calendar is up.
3. Sign up for race committee. This year 18 races will count for SOTY
4. Everyone who races need to fill out a race form this year. Please do that ASAP.

Social: Beth

1. Next picnic is coming up in March. Details to follow.

Purser: Candace

1. It's time to pay your yearly dues of \$45.00. Send your dues to Candace Ahrens. They are due before March.

Membership: Joe Carter

1. There are 12 raft-ups/ beach parties this year ,so be sure to sign up
2. Reminder to hand out Sail Club cards.
3. Joe still needs a back up phone caller for when he's out of town. Please contact Joe if you're interested.

Old Business:

1. Doug Baxter says go to the contact us page if you have any comments on the web site. The web site is still a work in progress.

2. If you need a roaster E mail Candice Ahrens. candiceahrens@bellsouth.net
3. We will order extra burgees this summer. If you missed out this fall.

New Business:

1. Check out web site for trailer sailor info. We are going to be doing more things.
2. The International Summer Solstice Sail will be June 21st. This is an International event to raise money for Oceanography.
3. web site www.summersoltice.com
4. Ruth has Sail Club flyers to be distributed upon approval. Harbor Town agreed to send flyers out with invoices.
5. Motion approved flyers

Meeting is adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully submitted by
Nancy Johns
Yoeperson

Purser Report

We are receiving membership money slowly - keep it coming. Our current balance is 899.33

Candice Ahrens

The Catalina Cup

The Regatta Committee proudly announces the Inaugural SWSC Catalina Cup for the 2008 season.

We have currently 9 Catalina 22's and 2 Catalina 25's in our club - by far the largest number of any class of boats. Short of forming our own officially sanctioned C22 fleet we want to encourage race participation and competition among this class of boats by introducing the Catalina Cup.

The Rules: (we wanted to keep this simple!!)

1. Any member racing in a Catalina 22 or 25 is eligible to earn points in any of the SOTY races and special races held by the committee.
2. From the official race results turned in by the race committee of the day, a ranking of the Catalina boats is established using the same adjusted times as by the race committee. Boats in B-fleet will be included as well, as long as B fleet and A-fleet races the same # of laps. If this is not the case, only A-fleet boats will be ranked.
3. Points will be awarded in reverse order of ranking:
 - A. First place gets maximum number of points which is equal to the number of C22/C25 participating in each race.
 - B. Last place gets one point.
4. If only one C22 or C25 participates and finishes (in either A or B fleet), one point will be awarded.
5. Winner of the Cup is the skipper with the highest point total at the end of the year.

For questions / comments re this cup contact your commodore Andy Kohler.

The Regatta Committee

Frostbite Regatta

For this year's frostbite regatta the new Fleet Commodore, Scott Widmier, messed up his order and got the wind speed added to the temperature resulting in a day that was wonderfully warm for January but disappointingly free of wind. Despite this lack of wind, the race committee, Gary and Garrett Holcombe, decided to forge ahead setting up a three short leg race. They borrowed Scott's Sabbatical to set the marks and accepted a tow from Andy's Good Time to position their engineless Mirage as the committee boat.

Five skippers showed up ready to race for A fleet. Steve Gully, the 2007 Skipper of the Year for A fleet, showed up with his fast Hunter 22 "Mystery." Andy Kohler checked in with his Catalina 22 "Good Times" and took the 2007 Skipper of the Year for B fleet, Ruth Leber, as figurehead...urr...umm... crew. Scott Widmier was there in his MacGregor 26D "Sabbatical", Jon Clausen in his Catalina 22, and our webmaster Robert Forrester was there in his Catalina 22 "Mirabella." Jordan Ball was there in his Catalina 22 but didn't finish due to the light winds and a hanky sized foresail. Two skippers showed up for B fleet. Taylor Kidd captained "Gershwin", a Pearson Ensign, with George Manners, his proud grandfather, as expert crew. Collin McIntosh captained "The Office", a Hunter 25, with Dan, his proud father, as crew.

The horn sounded for the first race and three boats jumped out ahead; "Sabbatical," "Mystery," and "Gershwin." "Sabbatical" quickly found itself in trouble being positioned to leeward of the two other boats so skipper Scott tacked to find clearer air. This proved to be a lucky move as "Sabbatical" found wind that eluded "Mystery." "Gershwin" plowed on ahead of everyone showing that George's sailing skills have been passed down the line. "The Office" was doing great until they struck the windward mark and had to circle it again. Collin and Dan never really recovered from the lost time. Robert Forrester's attention was split between sailing the race and entertaining his cute future skipper. Andy and Ruth had a conversation and a race broke out! Jon quietly sailed his Catalina 22 along towards the back of the pack. The first race was a two-lapper with "Gershwin" maintaining its lead over all other boats and "Sabbatical" just maintaining its lead over a dogged "Mystery." For the first race the results for A fleet were, in order, Scott, Steve, Robert, Andy and Jon. The results for B fleet were Taylor and Collin. At the end of the race Collin and Dan in "the Office" decided to not do the second race due to lack of wind.

The second race started with a gust of wind and a tangle of boats at the starting line. The ever helpful Fleet Captain decided to give the race committee a hand in extending the starting line by pushing the mark with the bow of his boat "Sabbatical." The reward for this act of altruism was having to round the mark again in very light wind while getting a few choice words of advice from the race committee. Meanwhile, "Gershwin" proceeded to lead the pack with "Mystery" following closely in her wake. "Good Times," "Mirabella", and Jon's Catalina 22 sailed off the start line only to sail into a dead patch on the lake. Meanwhile, "Sabbatical" set off after the rest of the fleet and found one of the few patches of breeze to pull up with the three aforementioned boats. Due to the complete lack of wind and a desire to finish the race on Saturday rather than Sunday, the race committee reduced the race to one lap at this time. Determined to pull ahead, Scott raised the Daggerboard of "Sabbatical" only to forgot to lower it when the wind shifted resulting in sailing sideways as much as forward. Meanwhile, "Gershwin" crossed the line followed by "Mystery" and they very selfishly decided to pack up the wind with them. As for the rest of the fleet...maybe there is a current in Allatoona since something had to be inching the boats forward and finally across the line. Some discussions went on about harnessing fish to the

boats in order to finish the race.



A Captain Morgan pose

The results of the second race for A fleet were Steve Gully, Robert Forrester, Andy Kohler, Scott Widmier and Jon Clausen. Taylor was the only B fleet boat to finish the second race. There was no third race.

Next race, everyone please bring your own wind!!!

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Sponsors	Location	Description
Monthly meeting	02/14/08 Thursday 8:00 PM		Barnacles Restaurant 2475 Chastain Meadows Pkwy. next to the new Super WalMart restaurant ph #770-424-1622	Club Meeting: Dinner at 7 PM. Meeting at 8 PM. http://www.barnacles.net/mariettahomepage.html
Monthly meeting	03/13/08 Thursday 8:00 PM		TBD	Club Meeting: Dinner at 7 PM. Meeting at 8 PM.

Upcoming Races

Race Name	Race Date	Committee	Description
SOTY Race	02/02/08 Sat 11am	Scott Widmier	
SOTY Race	02/16/08 Sat 11am	Andy Kohler	
SOTY Race	03/01/08 Sat 11am	Ruth Leber	
Ladies Race	03/15/08 Sat 11am		

The Spinnaker Bag

The Spinnaker Bag - is something I came up with as a location to display tips, tricks, safety, racing, articles, or stories from club members for everyone to read. So, if you have anything you would like to write for the club, please submit and we will get it on the site. We can get many of them into the future newsletters as well.

Let me introduce myself as the 2008 web designer for the club site. I joined the club in the latter part of 2005 after purchasing my first sailboat, a Catalina 22' formally known as "O'tay" - I since renamed "Mirabella." I grew up sailing/racing with my dad on Lake Lanier on a 27' 1972 Cal T-2. My parents sold the boat around 2000 and moved to Florida and converted to powerboat owners, which my dad sometimes regrets - except for when a hurricane is approaching.

In my grown-up life, I have been in software development in some form or another since college, just over 15 years. I have dabbled in personal web design for about 10 years, with some business design as well.

Here is how the conversation arose with Andy Kohler and myself at the Commodores Ball. He asks if I "know anything about computers?" ...Sure... "Do you know anything about web programming" ...Sure... "How about if you take over the club website?" ... Ok, but can I redesign it? Ok. So, I got started back in November playing around and letting my creative juices flow. I worked a lot with Doug Baxter bouncing ideas off of him and getting suggestions and how things worked in the past.

Overview of what we achieved:

1. A new look and feel for the site.
2. Allow for easy changes to details and events on the site.
3. The ability for multiple people to make changes to the site, so we are not limited to the availability of one person.
4. Because of the years of spam that had been collecting on our club email, I changed the club email to a new email address that is accessible from a form on the site. This email address can be changed regularly without any worry as long as people use the email form on the site to email directly to the club.

Details of how we got there... You might notice all the web address for all pages end with ".PHP" instead of ".HTML" - basically, HTML is for static data, while PHP allows for web pages to be built dynamically each time a page is requested. As a club member is browsing the site, HTML vs PHP, should be completely transparent.

I took advantage of the hosting server tools and created a database for the site. I have created data tables for each of our functions on the site that can or will change regularly: Events, Racing, Racing Results, Newsletters, Photo Gallery, and the Spinnaker Bag articles. I created password protected maintenance pages for each function for committee members to make updates as needed. Changes are immediately visible when you browse the site. For example, a change to an event is from the maintenance page is immediately available for viewing the instant it is saved into the data table.

We have a couple of enhancements in mind for future changes, we can also take suggestions for enhancements. Also, submit your stories or articles for the Spinnaker Bag and we can build our selection.

Your new webmaster

Robert Forrester

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: _____

Boating Interests: Social events Racing
 Crewing Raft Up Events
 Cruising

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sponsors

<p>Boat/US Marine Center http://www.boatus.com/ 770-936-8611 contact Steve Westmoreland for a 50% membership renewal discount !</p>	<p>East Cobb Physical Therapy http://www.eastcobbphysicaltherapy/ 770-971-5244 contact Alice Nix</p>
<p>Great Oak Mortgage Corp 3235 Peachtree Road NE Suite 400 404-237-7600 contact The Richard Deason</p>	<p>Harbor Town Marina http://www.harbortownmarina.net/ 770-974-6422 contact Lara Voyles</p>
<p>Sailing is Life http://www.sailingislife.com/ contact Sam Hunter</p>	<p>POPE Machinery Erectors Inc. 2070 Attic Pkwy NW Kennesaw 770-426-4311 contact Fred Pope</p>
<p>Shoreline Marine Repair Inside Harbor Town Marina 770-966-1017 Boat restoration, mech.service, hull repairs</p>	<p>Southern Crown Boatworks http://www.southerncrownboatworks.com/ 1-800-746-3857 contact William J. Fennesy-Bill ...wooden boat fasteners, supplies</p>
<p>Sunshine Designs Interior Plants Sales and Rentals 770-429-9956 contact Nancy Johns</p>	<p>Unique Caterers, Inc. Cartersville, Georgia 770-386-5227 contact Charlotte Monroe Our Speciality is Food for You</p>
<p>Visual Marketing Group http://www.visualmark.com/ 770-517-8780 contact Jim Schuster</p>	<p>West Marine http://www.westmarine.com/ 770-612-9944 marine supplies and gifts</p>