



From the Commodore – May 2009

It's the time of the year when the temperatures and the activities on the lake are heating up; many events on the water are scheduled over the course of the next month, starting with our first raft-up of the year- which coincides with The Harbor Town Yacht Clubs (aka the power boaters...) 'Blessing of the Fleet' event – it will be loud and crowded in the marina, so come early.

Memorial Day is not too far off either, with picnic and special races scheduled, followed shortly thereafter by the BEER cruise. On first count we will have quite a fleet going down to Pensacola: Holcombe, Thompson, Ball, Gully, Kohler, Hunter are scheduled to show the SWSC flag.

Speaking of Pensacola, yours truly will join Scott Widmier this weekend in the inaugural Florida 120 challenge (Scott's brain child...) where we will try to cover 120 miles along the Florida coast (inside of course) roughly between Pensacola and Fort Walton

Beach in small boats with no or limited motor use. Our long time friend Sam Hunter will be the 'mother ship' for my Apollo dinghy – which is fast, but one does not sleep well in it...

I let you know more about this event of self-inflicted pain in the next edition.

We had one SOTY race in April with the results posted on the website. Steve Adams J 29 is a very fast boat even when almost everybody else is looking for wind, one can hear his bow wavelets splashing with excitement and intimidation – the draw-back is a very low handicap which kept him in 2nd place although he crossed the line 8 minutes ahead of me in the Apollo. Scott and Steve dueled it out along the shoreline found the usual dead spots and got 3rd and 4th place respectively; In B-fleet Jordan Ball excelled over Bob Ross in his Catalina 27. Robert Forrester was race committee and did an excellent job.



We also had a small boat race scheduled the last weekend, but the weather gods and some bad timing on our part made it a wash. Initially we tried to get the race started before the weather front hit. Just as Gary H. was ready to deploy the starting pin, the lake started to white-cap and we postponed the race. Max and Raquel had a tough time in Eric John's old boat the 'Kokonut' but made it back to the marina entrance safely. Surprisingly, by then the squall line was gone, the weather looked better and Gary and his sea scout crew tried again to get a course set up – this time closer to the marina entrance – just in case. Out of nowhere, the next gusts appeared over the hills and flipped Robert Forrester in his Capri; agile as he is, he did not even get wet as he stayed on top of his turtle boat, up-righted it again only to have to jump back into the water to untie a stuck line – but he was sailing again with only minimal water in his boat.

Max and Raquel were not so lucky; their boat flipped as well, but a blown or unattached hatch cover made it fill up with water in a hurry and they were unable to upright it – I still don't know what kept it from sinking all the way. Eventually, Gary had to pull the boat close to shore, where Nils joined the boat rescue efforts. The kids were fine all along, they had their life jackets on and were

safely huddled in Gary's boat. It took a while, but finally the boat was upright and bailed out enough so it could get towed back to Harbor Town; I think, it still drained water for an hour on the trailer- that boat needs some modifications to stay afloat... To top it off, by then the weather had moved on and the sun was out for real and good sailing weather was all around us.

One lesson that we will take from this – even so there was never anybody in real danger, is the need for a safety boat when the sea scouts are racing in their small boats.

On the upside for the day, Gil and I were able to lower and raise the stick on his 25 ft Catalina on the water in about 45 Min to get a stuck jib halyard back onto the sheaves. Used the boom as a gin-pole in conjunction with the 4:1 sheet purchase and Gil lowered that sucker forward onto the bow pulpit and back up in no-time flat – then it was time for a drink...

Hope to see many of you on the water during some if not all of the many activities that SWSC has planned in the near future – be sure to check the website.

Fair Winds to all
Andy Kohler
Commodore SWSC



March Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, April 9, 2009
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Held at Niks Place in Marietta**

- Past Commodore Steve Gully called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.
- Steve thanked Nick and Wanda for hosting the meeting again.
- Motion was made and seconded to dispense with reading of the March 12, 2009, minutes.

Reports

- Fleet Captain: Ruth Leber announced there will be a small boat race on 5/9
 - . Need race committee for first June weekend
 - . Race results on the website
- Membership: Joe Carter advised there are three raft-up dates still open.
 - . New member: Bill Foster, 20' Tri
- Purser: Candice Ahrens advised balance in checkbook is \$3234.64
 - . Almost everyone has paid there dues.
 - . A new roster is in progress, send any changes you may have.

Old Business

- St. Thomas Cruise - April 17-19, schedule was reviewed again.
- Thank you to Steve Adams for the Dock Box located at the front of the maintenance building. It's a real help because the markers don't have to be deflated!

New Business

Steve Adams urged us all to come out to race or even just to cruise and Ruth, our Fleet Captain, says at least starting a race you'll get points.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardythe Ball, Yeoman

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
Florida 120	05/14-17/09	Pensacola, Florida	Florida 120 -- May 14 thru May 17, 4 days cruising the ICW in small boats.
Club Meeting	05/14/09 Thu 7pm	Niks Place, Marietta http://niksplace.com/id2.html	7pm for dinner, 8pm for the club meeting
Raft Up 1	05/16/09 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Please bring your favorite dish to share with fellow members
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 http://www.catalina22.org/PDFfiles/2009-National-NOR.pdf
Ladies Regatta 1	05/30/09 Sat 11am	On the Lake	Fun Race
Memorial Day Regatta	05/31/09 Sun 1pm	On the Lake	Fun Race
Memorial Day Picnic	05/31/09 Sun 5pm	At the point in front of D dock	
Cajun Raft Up	06/06/09 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Tom & Lucy Todd
Beer Cruise	06/06-10/09	Pensacola, Florida	4 days of cruising the ICW
Club Meeting	06/11/09 Thu 7pm	TBA	Club Meeting
SOTY 6	06/13/09 Sat 11am	On the Lake	Points Race
Greek Raft Up	06/13/09 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Nik & Wanda
Halfyard Race	06/20/09 Sat 11am	On the Lake	Long distance race
18 th Annual Jimmy Buffett Raft Up	06/27/09 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Joe & Louise Carter
Independence Day Regatta	07/04/09 Sat 11am	On the Lake	Fun Race
Luau Raft Up	07/11/09 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Don & Candice Aherns
SOTY 7	07/18/09 Sat 11am	On the Lake	Points Race

Race Results

Results as of 05/11/09

A Fleet

Skipper	Total Points
Andy Kohler	10.739
Scott Widmier	10.109
Steve Adams	9.270
Robert Forrester	8.214
Steve Gully	7.339
Gary L. Holcombe	0.673

B Fleet

Skipper	Total Points
Jordan Ball	9.617
Bob Ross	5.160
Sea Scouts	4.806
Nils Thompson	1.806
Andy Mils	1.354

Catalina points

Skipper	Boat	Fleet	Total Points
Robert Forrester	Catalina 22	A	9.627
Jordan Ball	Catalina 22	B	8.980
Bob Ross	Catalina 28	B	4.775
Andy Kohler	Catalina 22	A	2.860
Nils Thompson	Catalina 22	B	1.483

St Thomas Cruise 2009

What a great time we all spend together- thanks to all participants and to the ground work / planning by Steve Gully.

The sailing was a bit slim on Saturday due to the lack of wind, but we got compensated when the weather guys totally missed Sundays forecast and we actually had very little rain and no squall lines Sunday morning. (I know that Sunday night was a different story and hope everybody escaped major damages).

We have probably hit the jack-pot this year with respect to starting point, stop over and finishing location as I will outline in detail:

Friday night, a small fleet of boats gathered at the dock of the **Red Top Mountain** lodge between 6 and 8pm. Brian Mc Brayer soloed his C22, so did Jordan Ball, Robert Forrester, and myself; Steve Gully arrived on Mystery, Scott Widmier on his Mac 26 and Dangerous Dan had a junior friend with him on board his boat. Jan Randall had troubles with the fuel line of her outboard and when we got it fixed, it was too late for her to join us via the lake, so she drove to the lodge where Vicky Gully joined in for the buffet supper. Dining out in comfort is not a bad start for any cruise; on the other end of the spectrum was the crowd that gathered at the very spacious dock, watching Brian put his \$2.99 Ingles Special Grill into motion and carving out a very delicious grilled shrimp dinner right there; that little grill is really something; it lit up like a charm, and stayed warm for hours after Brian was finished cooking and so providing all of us gathered around it some comfort and a nice backdrop for the story telling. We solved a lot of the world's problems that night around that little grill, watched several satellites go overhead and even saw a flashover on one (when the solar panels hit the sun light so it is reflected back towards earth for a very short time). Camping on the large dock also kept the dirt and scum off the boats for one more day. Instead of anchoring out in the cove for the night we all decided to just stay tied up at the dock for the night; it was rather chilly at about 42 degrees in the morning, but there was already breakfast being served at the lodge (for around \$6 all you can eat) so all was good.

In the Piddle Paddle category for Friday might be Daniels trip up the lake, when he discovered smoke coming from a lazarett, and it was still pouring out after he shut off the engine; Following Brian's advice, he had placed a second anchor and rode into the locker; such anchor had wiggled its way to the battery terminals also exposed in this lazarett – well you get the picture; the involuntary arch-welding caused the engine control cables to be severed, but luckily major damage was avoided. Initially Brian pulled Dan's boat the rest of the way to Red Top

Mountain, were they jury rigged a pair of vice grips to handle the controls from then on. 'Fire' was the theme of the trip early on as Robert also tried to melt his boat by cooking breakfast in the cockpit with 2-4 burners, toasters and whatnot – it was an impressive mess (that's the nautical term for a dining hall...) that caused no sinking or further harm to men or boat.

Saturday morning just as the fleet was leaving, about 15 yellow and green swim caps bobbed in and out of the water in the cove. Accompanied by a kayak, some diehards in neoprene suits were plowing the waters towards the lake – a ghostly sight for sure.

As the winds were between very light and none existent early on, we decided to motor up beautiful Stamp Creek to make the annual visit to THE ROCK at the end of it. It's the rock of good luck for all events on Lake Allatoona so I felt compelled to stop and honor it with a visit while the rest of the fleet just circled it.

The way up the lake from the dam was part sailing in light wind, good wind for minutes and motoring; the high light was the arrival of the 'party-barge' aka Ruth Leber at the helm of her pontoon boat with Nancy Johns and her friend as guests – clicking away on the camera.

Jan met us in 'Usually Late' around the S-turns and we mostly sailed back towards Harbor Town Marina for a quick stop over before continuing towards Little River. Jordan and I met a new couple (Tracy and Katie) who brought a Venture Neptune (yellow hull, bowsprit, Cutter rig) over from Lake Lanier and we helped them get their stick upright – one less boat with the mast down on dock 3 - there are 4 others though...

Skip and Sue Preece were sailing their C250 towards Victoria and so was Tom and Lucy Todd on their C22. Both of these boats returned to Harbor Town before the night and Skip and Sue joined and Jan joined us at Little River restaurant via the road.

Brian, Jordan, and Robert skipped the Little River restaurant (they still had plenty of fresh food) and went straight to the anchorage across at Sweetwater Campground; the banks there sloped enough so that all boats could tie off on trees near shore and one simply stepped of the bow pulpit onto dry land. Gary and Donna Holcombe had gotten the Hirondelle fixed up again and joined the party at Little River with 2 Sea scouts in tow; so did Nils and Liz Thompson on their C22. Also joining us for supper by road were the Nix's and their son and Joe and Louise Carter. It was quite a large SWSC group descending on the restaurant. Little River restaurant just got into full Saturday biker's night swing at 6:30 and we

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had a hard time finding seating for our large group. Eventually everybody settled down in various places of the restaurant and a good time was had. The food came surprisingly fast and was very decent indeed.

The landlubbers left for home, while the sailors moved across the lake to join the others at the far end of Sweetwater creek to complete the armada anchored side by side along the bank. To our surprise, Harry McGowan and his son joined us in his red Ranger for the night. We cleared out a small area and had an evening camp fire with more story telling (all true..) and generally good times. The forecast gave us a bit of worry as it called for rain and squall lines early in the morning – well nothing came of it aside from a few drizzles. Donna, Gary and the Thompson's left the anchorage early to motor across to Cushings Park where they prepared a festive breakfast – a delicious and much appreciated treat for 'weary' sailors. We put our new found strength to use and helped Gary to lower the stick on the Mirage. She will be moved into his drive way for a speedier repair process.

The good old Piddle Paddle ghost peaked over the mountains again that day and it saw Jordan Ball, on the last boat trying to leave the anchorage at Sweetwater; I had just left before him and was already turned towards the exit when something made me turn around to see Jordan waving at me to come back; well, 'EBB-TIDE' had

struck again and gotten herself stuck in the muck along the bank. A towline and the full bore of 10 Honda horses got her free – again. It's time to rename that boat I think.....

The weather started to get damp and drizzling wet on the return trip to Harbor Town. Nils' outboard worked exactly as he predicted it and gave up its ghost after 10 minutes of motoring; another tow line and our C22 tandem made it back to Harbor Town without problems. I think the outboard problem got fixed by now and Nils is ready for the raft-ups.

Lots of flotsam up there on this part of the lake – one has to be careful in dealing with this unpleasant side effect of a lake above full pool.

Overall as I said in the beginning, the cruise explored again many parts of the lake in a very leisurely and comfortably fashion. Congrats again to Steve Gully for organizing the trip and again thanks to both Holcombe's and Thompson's for providing the breakfast.

If you have not seen the pictures, there is an entire set of them on the website to highlight the trip.

Hope you mark your calendar to join us next year.



Andy Kohler
Catalina 22; No more MC Scow, Apollo 16, Hobie 16

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