



From the Commodore – October 2009

Ahoy SWSC Sailors

Where has this September month gone- flew by like the wind it seems and we are well into October already – time to enjoy decent days, cool nights and fall winds on the lake.

There is a great variety of news from all areas of the club:

From our 'young folk corner' I can report via Nancy Johns, that her son Eric has gotten his official Captains license (the so called 6-pack license) – passed the test with an 'A' I might add. His next goal is move is home, the sailing vessel 'Courageous' from Hilton Head to somewhere warm in Florida and to upgrade his license to the 100 ton limit over the winter. He said that it was a big plus studying for his test that he had actually seen and sailed through many of the situations they were quizzed about, on his trip south from Rhode Island last year. Way to go Eric and much kudos to you.



From the younger folks still: I am happy to report that under the skilled guidance and leadership of Donna & Gary Holcombe, 4 of our sea scouts Raquel / Amber and Matt / Andy first qualified then raced in the Southern Region Finals of the Koch Cup in the 420 class last weekend. There were 4 races under ideal conditions on

Saturday and 2 on Sunday at Lake Lanier with teams from North Carolina and Florida attending the event. Our young crews took 3rd and 4th place in the overall results and should be congratulated by all for doing an outstanding job.

By the looks of it, they will be strong contenders for fleet racing in our club next year.

From the party corner: we had several firsts in this category as there was the inaugural Southern Fried Food 'raft-up' hosted by Kathleen and Tracy, which was not a raft-up at all. Switching to plan B, we were all gathered under the covers of dock 10 to seek shelter from the rains. Long, narrow tables fitted nicely onto the dock, plenty of dry seating area, good food and good attendance made for a fine event in all aspects. The sight of the evening was the 'private table for 2' that the Baxter's set up on one of the dock fingers – very classy and worth an imitation here or there – good job Doug and Sue.



Steve and Vicky's Pirates raft-up required us to switch to plan C as it was scheduled on the weekend after the big rains came to Atlanta and the lake rose to levels I have not seen before. All the dock's gang planks were under

several feet of water which put the use of dock 10 out of commission. Steve had come out earlier Saturday to the picnic area at the point and set up an elaborate tent/tarp combination that would have done any tent living dessert nomad proud. It kept the food dry and provided shelter for people and pirates alike. It gave us plenty of room to gather and observe the strange looks surrounding the lake at this flood stage.

Speaking of the flood: Never have I seen this much water pour down in such short time; it is no wonder we had horrendous flooding and severe damage all over. My heart and thoughts go out to those who had their homes flooded and who must work through the clean-up and rebuilding process. Thankfully the marina / docks and all of our boats made it through that ordeal all right. Many thanks go out to Nik and Wanda who stayed on their boat during the rain and went in their dinghy from dock to dock to check on all the boats. For us sail boaters, the main culprit for disaster are clogged cockpit drains, which –if unchecked- will force the water after a short while over the lip down into the cabin and cause havoc down there. But all our boats were fine in this regard.

They had to tell the marina personnel on Sunday morning about 5-6 power boats and pontoon boats that were on the fringe of going down and about one houseboat 'Memory Maker' that had actually sunk at the end of dock 10 (one thing I never considered: if you cover up a pontoon boat with a large tarp that collapses in heavy rain, it becomes a huge unstable bath tub). I was out at the marina on Sunday myself and helped bail water from some of the power boats when I heard a loud bang on my dock and saw it drifting off. The lake had started to rise at this time so fast, that it snapped one of the anchor cables and set the dock off 15 feet before the other cables caught it. To their credit, the marina people were out all day Sunday and Monday, adjusting cables, resetting anchors and moving gang planks higher, where feasible. Specially, adjusting the cables was an ongoing affair since nobody knew how high or how fast the lake was rising.

I mentioned 'Memory Maker' before: it sunk to within one foot of its roof, temporary halted in place by its dock lines when Nik and Wanda discovered it Sunday Morning. Quick action by several people saved it from going all the way to the bottom when large straps placed under it secured it to the dock fingers. The Cherokee County dive and lake rescue team later in the week assisted in raising the hull back above the water line – and that's where the story really begins.

It's details are too long for this article and are best told by the people involved, but the short version of it is: Wanda asked the owner, who was cleaning out the boat by throwing everything into the dumpsters if she could have the (nautically decorated) stern door of the wreck; he

said No, that door stays with the boat- to which Nik replied and how much do you want for the boat?

'The boat you can have for free – I am done with it' – they walked up to the office drew up a contract and the rest is history. Needless to say, the stern door is still with the boat and so is all the stuff the previous owner had put in the dumpster – most of it was reclaimed by dumpster diving Nik and restored to operating conditions. The house boat has a steel hull and is in great shape; the interior is currently being resurrected by Nik. The 'freaky' thing is that every single appliance from air-conditioner, to fridge, to heater, to hot-water tank, etc. works just fine after being submerged for several days.

Nik promises to paint 'SWSC' in large letters on both sides of the cabin and in a scenario where 'Size does matter' he will let us use it as a race committee boat for next year's season; hopefully right down the lake where AYC can have a good look at it.... to be continued...

To close out the party section of this report, I would like to invite everyone to the October Fest raft-up this coming weekend; Weather permitting – it will be held near Victoria Campground (on the side that faces Harbor Town Marina – no need to go around the island towards Victoria Harbor) in conjunction with Puddle Duck Racers event. We will raft up as usual and bring people from shore to our raft up with a Jon boat or dinghies. The Puddle Duckers have several special events going on that day and it should be a worth a trip up the lake during the day to observe their unique boats.

The following weekend is our Fall cruise, which starts on Friday evening across the bay near Harbor Town Marina, proceeds on Saturday to Red-Top Mountain Lodge for breakfast, followed by an all day sail up river to Little River marina for supper at 5pm and then we spend the night at Sweetwater Campground Cove.

The last outdoor activities for this season will take place on October 24th with the Turtle Rock race the Chili Cook off in the evening at the point.

The racing scene in the last month saw two diametrically opposed race days: one with almost no wind to make it around the marks at all and then last weekend we had almost too much wind. In the former, it took Steve Adams and I almost 2 hours to complete the third race as the winds all but completely died, reappearing every 10 minutes for a short stint during which we hopped to the next spot before we completely stopped again. Everybody else had left for the marina before the 3rd race.

On the other hand, last weekend I came close to flipping the Apollo in some gusts (yes I know, would have been a sight worth a picture or two – sorry) and we had as our third and last SOTY race of the year a long distance run (crossing the sand bar behind the island across from

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Harbor Town – because we could...) that lasted only 75 minutes or so. Thanks to all that came out and raced on that gorgeous day on the water and who continue to support our small racing circuit.

While the little boat (Apollo) gave all she had and took home 2 first places, it was not enough. Skipper Steve Adams on the J29 and his crew captured the overall title this year for Skipper of the Year in A fleet in many strongly contested events. Jordan Ball shored up his hold on the title of the B-fleet for another year. Congrats To both skippers and their crews for a great sailing season. The latest results please can be seen on the website which has been updated recently.

And last, but certainly not least are to mention the events surrounding the Commodore's Ball on November 7. The planning committee met and worked out the details; the invitations should arrive this week stating the particulars – let me draw your attention to the lower ticket price of \$30 per person for this year's event. Please RSVP as soon as possible so that constructive progress towards a successful event can continue.

Fair Winds to all
Andy Kohler
Commodore SWSC

On the club business side, it is my pleasure to announce that we have at his point the following people agreeing to their nomination for officer for next year:

Scott Widmier as Commodore; Ruth Leber as Vice-Commodore, Steve Gully as Fleet Captain, Donna Holcombe as Purser, and Ardythe Ball as Yeo-person.

As per our club by-laws, the nomination process is open until our next meeting on Thursday Oct 8, when we will vote-or the nominees will accept their new role - to establish the new leadership team for our club. Please plan on attending to show your support for the club and the new officers who will take over the 'ship' officially during our Commodore's Ball ceremony.

I hope to see all of you at Nik's Place, (proud owner of several watercraft at the moment).

Last: We have new club burgees available (\$25) - I will bring them to the meeting on Thursday or send me a note if you are interested in one and cannot attend.

Sailing Adventures

By Jan Williams

SWSC members have one thing in common: we love being on the water preferably on a sailboat under our own command. On a recent trip to South Carolina with my mother, sailing was not an option. I did, however, manage to incorporate several boat rides into our itinerary: first a boat ride and tour of Ft Sumter, then a boat ride to Daufuskie Island. We left Hilton Head and crossed Calibogue Sound, a forty-five minute ride with dolphins and fantastic views of water and marsh lands. As we passed a 40' sailboat leaving Daufuskie Island, I was already planning my next trip to the island aboard a sailboat with Ben as captain and me as first mate....

Daufuskie Island is what Hilton Head is not, still natural, almost wild and accessible only by boat. My mother and I are both fans of Pat Conroy; the Water is Wide is his story of Daufuskie. Over forty years have passed since Conroy taught school on Daufuskie, but the island remains largely unchanged.

As we came ashore, our first stop was the Old Daufuskie Crab Company overlooking the harbor with wonderful smells and cold beer! In line for drinks, I looked up and then kept looking at the young man eating his lunch at the end of the bar...What a delightful surprise to see SWSC member Eric Johns! Eric is living on his sailboat and working on Daufuskie Island – rewiring a boat, doing odd jobs at the Freeport Marina landing, and cutting a romantic path – sounds like a good life for a young sailor! On an island of 200 inhabitants, everyone knows everyone, and the romantic path quote is from Roger Pinckney, our tour guide and local author!



September Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2009
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Held at Niks Place in Marietta
645 Whitlock Ave., Marietta

- Vice Commodore Scott Widmier called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Reading of the August 13th minutes were waived.

Reports

- Vice Commodore: Scott was meeting with regatta committee to determine if penalty will be dropped for using a spinnaker.
- Fleet Captain Ruth Leber reported four races had good attendance. Upcoming races: 9/12 SOTY #9, 10/3 last SOTY race #10. Watts Bar on 9/19 is canceled. The website only shows regular SOTY races. To win a trophy, must participate on a committee boat. Labor Day race was good although there was some confusion about the course; check out Andy Kohler's laminated map of Lake Allatoona
- Purser: Candace Ahrens reported balance of \$3025.92, she has three checks to deposit. Commodore's Ball will need expenses.
- Membership: Joe Carter reported nine boats at the Mexican raft-up. There are two in September--9/19 Southern Fried and 9/26 Pirates of the Caribbean which will not be at AYC cove; one in October--10/10 Oktoberfest. One new member.
- Sea Scouts - Gary Holcombe reported SWSC scouts will go to Aqualand at Lake Lanier on 9/13, open to any Sea Scout, then winner of 10/3-4 goes to region in Annapolis. Good group of teenagers--no cross words in 18-24 months. Scouts will participate in Allatoona Cleanup.

Old Business

- Need perpetual trophies back by the next meeting.
- Location of the Oktoberfest Raft-up 10/10 will change because of extra 20 people. Sea Scouts will run the race. Anyone interested in helping out?

New Business

- Larry Nix advised there will be a 9/20 Commodore's Ball meeting, not sure of location yet. Good news--plans moving along. Bad news--caterer used in past has retired so need to find new one. Ruth will take charge. Discussion regarding menu ensued. Theme will be anything under the sea.
- Ruth reported will participate in Allatoona Clean-up 9/12, work hard two hours then sail.
- Motions were made for slate of officers for 2009-10:

Commodore:	Scott Widmier - accepted
Vice Commodore:	Ruth Leber - accepted
Fleet Captain:	Steve Gully - accepted
Purser:	Donna Holcombe - accepted
Yeoman:	Ardythe Ball - accepted

Voting will be at October meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Ardythe Ball, Yeoman

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
Club Meeting	10/08/09 Thu 7pm	Niks Place at Whitlock Ave	
Oktoberfest Raft Up	10/10/09 Sat 7pm	AYC Cove	Please bring German food, raft up near Victoria Campground. We will host the Puddle Duck Racers and their families.
Columbus Sails Allatoona Cruise	10/17/09 Sat 7:00pm		
Chili Cook-off	10/24/09 Sat 5pm	At the Point	
Turtle Rock Race	10/24/09 Sat 11am		Need Volunteer
Club Meeting/Commodores Ball	11/07/09 Sat 7:00pm	TBA	

Race Results

Results as of 10/08/2009

A Fleet – Unofficial results

Skipper	Total Points
Steve Adams	19.711
Andy Kohler	19.416
Steve Gully	16.559
Scott Widmier	15.169
Robert Forrester	9.214
Gary L. Holcombe	0.673

B Fleet – Unofficial results

Skipper	Total Points
Jordan Ball	19.095
Nick Zaimis & Wanda Williams	14.306
Bob Ross	9.177
Sea Scouts	4.806
Nils Thompson	3.526
Ruth Leber	1.00
Andy Mils	1.354
James Hammond	0.677
Jeff Lazlo	0.500

Catalina points

Skipper	Boat	Fleet	Total Points
Jordan Ball	Catalina 22	B	17.480
Robert Forrester	Catalina 22	A	9.627
Bob Ross	Catalina 28	B	7.775
Nils Thompson	Catalina 22	A	2.983
Andy Kohler	Catalina 22	B	2.860

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