



Hard-a-Lee

Newsletter of the Wichita Falls Sailing Club
<http://wfsail.org>
April 18, 2015

Spring has sprung.
Summer, and sailing season,
can't be far behind !

Winter is over, and everybody's thoughts are turning to sailing. At least mine are (but admittedly they didn't have far to go).

We've gotten a bit of rain lately - enough that the yacht club lawn has required mowing already. A racing schedule has been set (see story at right) and a BIG social event has been organized (see story at right).

Also time to start reminding everybody that it's your chore to clean up around your own stored boat(s). There's a mower underneath the deck on the west side.

- Lee Havins

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"Cousin Fuzzy" to highlight WFSC Shindig May 9

You don't want to miss this event!

Rear Cmdr Steve Colley pulled some strings and convinced "Cousin Fuzzy" to appear at WFSC May 9 for the club's Spring Shindig!

The local trio has performed classic rock and R&B in and around Wichita Falls for many years. A good time WILL Be Had By All!

The Saturday event will also feature fine dining, orchestrated by chef deluxe Larry Ahlhorn. Will he prepare his signature seafood boil, or something even more exotic? You won't know for sure until you tuck your napkin under your chin, grab a plate and get in line. But it's guaranteed to be so good your Sunday breakfast will be hanging its head in shame (no pressure, Larry).

Since we'll be outside, it's suggested that club members bring lawn chairs and/or blankets to sit on. Also bring your own choice of adult beverages.

Food service is set for 6 p.m., and the band is slated to start at 6:30. But come out early, socialize and get into the proper frame of mind.

RSVPs will be accepted, by any board member, up to May 6, but early reservations are encouraged. The cost for this event is \$20 per person/under 12 free.

Dinghy fleet sets race dates

A fleet meeting was held recently at the club, and a schedule was set for dinghy racing. Like last year, the low lake level dictates that racing be limited to the Sunfish/Starfish fleet and any other small dinghies that can be launched off our extensive western shoreline.

Here are the agreed-upon race dates:

- May 23	August 1
- June 6	August 15
- June 20	September 5
- July 18	September 19

(more fleet details on next page)

Dinghy fleet

(continued from previous page)

Most of our racing sailors are going to be using Sunfish or Starfish, so they will be scored on a one-design basis. But that fleet will share its starting line with any other dinghies that show up.

Under this year's rules, two or more boats constitute a fleet. As many as three races can be run on a single date.

Races will be postponed if winds are recorded at or above 20 mph. Any postponed races will be made up on the following Saturday, and cancelled if the makeup cannot be run then.



Fleetmeister Steve Priester and WFSC racers discuss schedule and rules

2015 Everglades Challenge cancelled by Coast Guard after rough start

By Lee Havins

As many of you know, Kim and I completed the 300-mile Everglades Challenge last year in a grueling 6 days 19 hours. But this year's event was over before the water got hot.

After logging a dozen "official rescues" in a turbulent Tampa Bay, the Coast Guard declared the race "cancelled" just several hours after the 7 a.m. (March 7) start.

By the time we got word that all entrants were to immediately get off the water (or face fines and legal trouble), we had already made it across and out of the churning bay and were heading on down the coast. So we beat to the nearest beach, on Lido Key, and waited a few hours before deciding that staying there was untenable. Instead, we slipped through a nearby pass

and proceeded south on the Intercoastal Waterway to Checkpoint One, a marina near Placida, arriving about 1 a.m. Sunday.



Situation pondered on the beach at Lido Key

After a little sleep, we got back on the trailer, and spent a couple days checking out the Florida scenery. Then we drove to Everglades City, got a camping permit and sailed into the "Wilderness Waterway" to Darwin's Place, a National Park Service campsite at an old Everglades homestead where a hermit (Darwin) once raised rabbits.

After returning the next day, we drove to Key Largo for a couple days, and finally came on home to paradise.



Kim navigates in the very shallow Everglades

At this point, we're thinking an attempt at EC 2016 is in the cards (the start is 7 a.m. March 5). So stay tuned. Or better yet, get fired up, gear up and come with us!