



WFSC Hard-a-Lee

Newsletter of the Wichita Falls Sailing Club

<https://wfsail.org>

January 2016

Commodore's Corner

This is a new year like we have not seen in a long time! A full lake has given us a sense of optimism that no matter our sailing backgrounds, the future looks great at WFSC.

We have a sailing clinic, club racing series, and club socials; all planned for 2016 (details to follow.) Your elected Board of Directors are experienced and they are fired up about the new year. The appointed board members: Bink Davidson (House), Dave Brunner (Harbor Master), and Eddy Harvey (Grounds), perhaps will carry the biggest load, We all will need to help them out in the coming year because sometimes they end up doing jobs that each of us could and should have done ourselves. We all appreciate suggestions and will build on them.

Leadership for the last few years had to lead with little water and that was pretty tough when sailing was the reason for belonging. The leadership from those men and women kept this club alive!!

See you at the club (remember sailing clinic Sat. Mar 26)

Steve Priester

Donated Boat to be Auctioned

A generous member has donated a boat to the sailing club. The Board has decided to place that boat up for auction to the membership, the proceeds of the sale to go to the club. It is a San Juan 21 and is parked on its trailer on the club grounds (photos to follow at a later date). Included in the sale are the title, 2 sails, old motor, trailer, etc. The boat does need some work, according to Steve Priester.



If you are interested, mail your sealed, signed bid to:

WFSC

San Juan 21

PO Box 4849

Wichita Falls, TX 76308-0849

No bids under \$500 will be considered. In case of matching high bids, those members who tied will have a chance to add to their bid. The bids will be opened at the March 3rd Board Meeting at 7 PM at the clubhouse. If you have any questions, contact Steve Priester 781-7016.

Christmas Party

By Lee Havins

As always, the Club Christmas Party last month was a winner. An enthusiastic group packed the Clubhouse for food and festivities. Larry Ahlhorn provided an excellent barbecue port with fixins and Noot Robitaille whipped up some spring rolls and fried rice that were outta this world!

Incoming Commodore, Steve Priester, recognized the racers in last year's Sunfish and Flying Scot fleets. He also presented 2014-15 Commodore Bill Robison with a plaque proclaiming him the "Drought Buster". We hope he will keep those skills sharp, in case we need rain sometime in the future.

Following the usual Chinese Gift Exchange, the club kicked off a new tradition – The Mouse Dance – and, yes, it does exist online somewhere. One of our mouse guests gave his life during the closing scenes of this dramatic event. The other mouse guest spent the rest of the evening running around the edges of the room waving a peace flag and flipping the bird with his little mouse hand (or so it appeared to me, but I may have had a couple by then).

Special thanks go out to the merchants and individuals who supported the Club by donating door prize items. These include Jerry's Sporting Goods, Gentry's Embroidery & Specialty Advertising, Cornelius Insurance, NOV Fiberglass Products, Green Sheet Energy Reports, Dr. and Mrs. William Robison, as well as the WFSC Sunfish Fleet.



WFSC AND GUS SAILS presents a SAIL TRIM AND RACE CLINIC

Bill Drehiem, sailmaker & small boat racer, is conducting a clinic at WFSC. Your club is sponsoring for you this great clinic with information that you can learn from and build on. Novice and experienced sailors will gain insight to use on the water at this informative and eye opening clinic. At whatever level you see yourself; there will be many interesting ideas to build on (cruising, racing, etc.). It will be held on shore at the club.

Bill's background in sailing is great: US Thistle Champion sailor, along with Flying Scots, Scows, J boats and many others. His sailmaking skills got him there (North Sails, Ullman, and his own loft GUS Sails).

There will be more info to follow, but start planning. This event is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, at the club.

STEVE PRIESTER

2015 Fleet Winners

Dinghy:

Flying Scott:

1st –Steve Priester
2nd –David Brunner
3rd – Eddie Harvey

1st – Steve Priester
2nd – Bink Davidson
3rd – Matt Baker

Big Wind

At the January 7th Board meeting, Dave Brunner told us of his sailing adventure that day. Paying attention to the weather reports that the winds were expected to increase in the afternoon, he and a friend went sailing that morning. Watching the wind gust reports for Wichita Falls on his cell phone, he noticed around 3 that the wind gusts were getting stronger and decided to head back to the slips. Suddenly he realized that he had stayed out too long. Rolling rapidly across the lake towards them were white caps. Big ones. The wind hit suddenly and heeled the boat over before he could react. With no rudder, he slacked the sails and aimed for the nearest shore. The wind drove the boat into the trees lining the shore of the next cove to the east of sailboat cove. After realizing that he couldn't walk the boat around because of the wind, and soaked by cold water, he tied the boat to the trees, called a friend to get them back to the club (it's a long way around now that you can't walk across the cove), and called it a day. He planned to go back for it the next day. Surprisingly, I received a call the next day from former club member, Mike Morrow, who lives on the east side of the lake. He noticed the boat in the trees and thought one had escaped. As a result of his love of high wind sailing, and this incident, Dave has earned the nickname "Big Wind".

Perhaps there's a lesson to be learned here (are you listening, Dave?). When you ignore Mother Nature, she'll get ya. Dave's boat was still stuck in the mud, where he left it that day, as of the 18th. Unfortunately, with the lake 6" above the spillway, he can't wait for higher water to float her free. He and Dwight created a "redneck mud anchor" to use to pull it out. It's so heavy that Dave said it needed wheels. They planned on testing it on Jan 19. It must have worked, because Steve texted me at 4:00 that after a lot of work the boat was free.



***** Next Board Meeting is February 4, at the clubhouse at 7PM *****

Board Members for 2016

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|------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Commodore: Steve Priester | 781-7016 | ssp3709@aol.com |
| Vice Commodore: Lee Havins | 687-0708 | leehav6@hotmail.com |
| Rear Commodore: Steve Colley | 733-0847 | lunk8362@yahoo.com |

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| Past Commodore: Bill Robison | 691-2467 | wrobi3@aol.com |
| Treasurer: Glenn Tole | 696-1749 | gltole@aol.com |
| Secretary: Debra Halter | 632-8557 | sailing@wf.net |
| House Chairman: Bink Davidson | 592-2614 | binkerbli@aol.com |
| Grounds: Eddie Harvey | 716-0049 | eddieh22@yahoo.com |
| Harbor Master: Dave Brunner | 237-3334 | bigdave555@aol.com |

Fleet Chairmen: Eddie Harvey & Lee Havins