



WFSC Hard-a-Lee

Newsletter of the Wichita Falls Sailing Club
<https://wfsail.org> March 2016

Commodore's Corner

WFSC Sailing Clinic is finally here! Saturday, March 26, 11:00 AM at WFSC club house and lunch will be served.

Our first professionally presented sailing clinic featuring Bill Drehiem of GUS SAILS will get us off on the right foot for 2016. Bill's credentials are impressive, Olympic sailor and national champion on Thistles, Lightnings, Flying Scots and more. Bill was a professional sailmaker with Ullman, North and his own loft, GUS SAILS. But the real deal is his very personal and direct way of presenting this lifetime skill and knowledge of sailing. It will be informal but oh, so much to take home.

Be at the club, starting on time at 11:00 AM, SATURDAY, MAR. 26. There will be a lunch break with burgers served by the awesome pair of Steve Colley and Eddy Harvey.

As a club member, please feel free to bring a guest. WFSC is sponsoring this clinic and your guest is welcome. Whatever level you sail or desire, there will be great information for you to retain.

RSVP is not totally necessary but you might give me ring if you know a day or so ahead so we can be sure to have enough burgers (just trying to get a rough count). 781-7016 Steve Priester

***** **If you will be attending the Clinic, remember to bring pen and paper.** *****
You'll want to take notes on what you'll learn for future reference.

FISH FRY – April 16

Steve Colley has set up a fish fry for April 16. We will have the Band back for another performance.

The Donated Boat Has a New Owner

Rob Havins, brother of Lee, is the proud new owner of the San Juan 21. As you recall, a generous member donated the boat to the club. Proceeds from the auction will go in the club's funds. Congratulations, Rob.

Racing news WFSC 2016 Racing Schedule

The 2016 racing season will kick off in April with a couple of informal on-the-water events to help skippers and crews shake the cobwebs off their gear. Flying Scot Fleet 170 set April 23 as a warm-up event. The new big boat handicap fleet will have a similar on-the-water event April 30.

Beginning in May, big boats will race on May 7, June 4, July 9, August 6 and Sept 10.

Flying Scot race days will be May 21, June 18, July 23, August 13 and Sept 24.

Skippers meetings will be at 1 p.m., except during July and August, when skippers meetings will be at 10 a.m. As usual, up to three races can be run on a day. Any make-up race days will be set on the following Saturday.

The Sunfish fleet will consider its racing options at a later, warmer date.

One or more regattas may be added to the schedule later by the WFSC board.

Those who are interested in crewing for races or working on the race committee boat(s) should contact Debra Halter, club secretary.

If you are willing to crew for any of the aforementioned fleets, please contact the Fleet Captain for the fleet, Debra Halter, or Lee Havins. We will publish the list at a later date.

Flying Scot Fleet – fleet captain: Steve Priester

Sunfish Fleet – fleet captain: to be announced

Handicap Fleet – fleet captain: Dave Brunner

It has been suggested that each member of each fleet should volunteer for a race committee. They will receive their average finish for their efforts. Among the club rules in force for these series are: no single handing (except in the Sunfish fleet); 3 boats required to make a fleet; no race started in winds above 20 mph.

Harbor

There are still four slips ready for rent. Dave “Big Wind” Brunner will be checking out the club’s pontoon boat for “sea-worthiness”. The Dinghy slips should be in by the end of the month. Now if the water will warm up....

Club Day

Do you like to just hang out at the lake? Do you ever desire to work on your boat, but wish there was someone around who could offer advice or assistance? That’s the premise behind Club Day. Our first Club Day will be April 14. Whether sailing, working, cooking out, or lounging, come join us.

Grounds and House

The club has two refurbished lawnmowers available for your use to mow around your boats, Please bring some gas with you and fill the mowers when you are through so the next person will have one ready to go. They start easily, if you remember to prime them before trying to start them.

There are now two City of Wichita Falls rolling trash cans on the club grounds. Now we can have bigger parties, without members having to take the trash home with them.

We now have lights for the steps leading into the east side of the clubhouse. No longer do you have to fumble around under the front stairs to turn on the switch. Bink has also done some repainting on the deck and railings. He also mentioned that the stove appears to have gone to the great bake-off in the sky. The Board will debate replacing it.

As they say, it’s not what you know but who you know. Eddie Harvey knows the Road Superintendent of the City of Wichita Falls. You will notice when you drive in that the potholes along Crow Trace have been filled.

2016 Everglades Challenge – by Lee Havins

Kim and I didn't make our third entry into the Everglades Challenge this year, maybe due to a brief but overwhelming battle with good sense. Aghast at our cowardice, we can now take solace in the fact that this year's challenge was brutal.

Eighty nine boats (ranging from small sailboats to kayaks) started in St Pete, and only 34 of them finished in Key Largo. Six didn't make it to the first mark (Cape Haze Marina in Placida). Twenty two others dropped out before the second mark (Chokoloskee Island in the Everglades); 23 others failed to reach the 3rd mark (Flamingo campground) and four got that far but gave up before crossing Florida Bay to Key Largo.

The problem was wind. After a day or so of manageable winds from the north, the vast majority of the fleet encountered big winds right on the nose. Bad news for sailors, but also for the rowers and paddlers. One unsuccessful rower reported later that his Fit bit (before it died from saltwater intrusion) showed him burning 8000 calories per day (that's a lot of trail mix and M&Ms).

During that initial pleasant interlude, the winner had slipped through, finishing the 300 mile course in one day & 13 hours. That's a new record, set by Jeff Linton of Tampa, a frequent Flying Scot and Lightning champion. He had sailed a highly modified Flying Scot ("Frankenscot") in the EC a couple years ago. This year he and his crew showed up with "Spawn", a specialized 22-foot dinghy Linton built, with the help of O.C. Rodgers (boat designer, Kiwi 35, etc.).

Here's a picture of Spawn in Tampa Bay. I want one of those !



***** Next Board Meeting will be April 7 at the clubhouse, 7 PM *****

Board Members for 2016

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
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