



# Hard-a-Lee

occasional newsletter  
of the Wichita Falls Sailing Club  
(find us online at [wfsail.org](http://wfsail.org))

December 1, 2019

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## 2019 - What A Year It Was!

*By Dave Meany, 2019 Commodore*

This year flew by and 2020 is rapidly approaching. First and foremost, I want to welcome all of the new members this year has brought to our club. The great news is the club is still growing. One of the Board's main goals this year was to increase the club size, and we did it! We are still actively recruiting and, if you know anyone who is interested, please get them signed up.

Here is a quick year in review (I will leave the racing info to the racers and talk instead about what happened behind the scenes).

We started the year off with a water line break on the southwest part of the grounds, apparently caused by a frozen pipe. Thanks to Larry Ahlhorn and Mike Schulte for making the immediate repairs and swapping out more of the outdoor spigots with industrial strength faucets to prevent more failures.

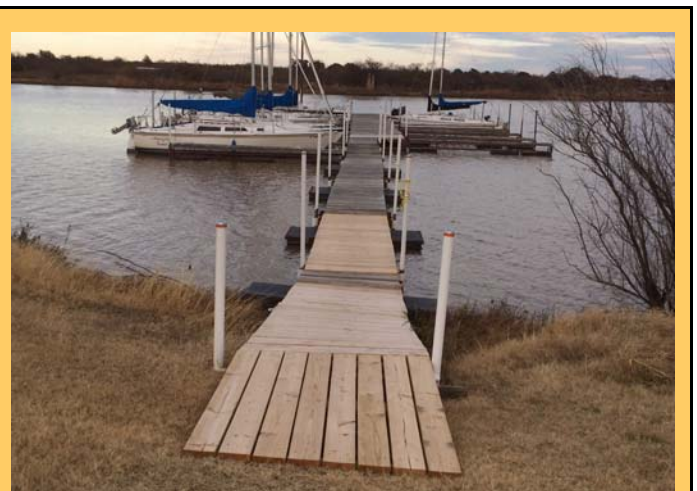
Soon afterward, the lake level spiked well over 100% and the dinghy dock walkway was under water. Steve Priester took the initiative, had a small metal walkway ramp built and installed, raised the walkway, painted poles, installed caps and made it serviceable again.

High lake levels and several storms caused havoc at the club this year and we sustained damage to our floating main dock and boat ramp dock. Ahlhorn and crew recovered the ramp dock several times in the Fall/Winter. His son Zach managed to save all of the decking material that was ripped off during one of the storms. Finally the Board decided to pull the ramp dock.

Meanwhile, the floating main dock was in a precarious status, and with the help of many members and some significant outsourcing, we were able to secure it and return it to a safe and serviceable condition. For those who did not see the damage, we had multiple finger docks stuck, bent mooring poles, a very unstable walkway, as well as damage underneath that loosened the entire covering of much of the dock. Mike Gillis, I and others worked numerous hours on the dock, accomplishing work that was worth thousands, according to outside bidders. Lee Havins and Bink Davidson secured some of the cleats that had torn loose and resurfaced some of the finger docks. Steve Priester obtained the floatation from Dallas and transported it to the club. Steve also painted the poles, placed reflective tape and caps on the ends too.

Are we finished with the floating dock? No, more repairs are scheduled for 2020.

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*Photo shows repaired docks standing straight and tall, with new walkway landing.*

## What A Year It Was, (continued from 1<sup>st</sup> page)

Our goal this year was to have four main events and we succeeded in completing them. Huge thanks for behind the scenes guys: Chef Steve Colley (the Rear Commodore) and Chef Larry Ahlhorn (Past Commodore) in making all of our events a success. These gentlemen, along with others, are always present well before the event, preparing the clubhouse and food, and usually are last to leave, too.

**Please don't forget about the upcoming Christmas Party December 14 (RSVP by Dec 7). Details are on the website at [www.wfsail.org](http://www.wfsail.org).**

Weeds and stickers can easily ruin one's day, and fortunately enough we have Paul Spilman, Grounds Chairman, who managed all of the spraying around our grass. Paul also used his really fancy ground equipment to clear the beach of some of the gravel that has washed up there. He used some of it to help support the boat ramp from erosion underneath the concrete.

I started a new job and vacationed every second possible, so huge thanks to Glen Tole, Vice Commodore, who stepped up in my absence and ensured everything was handled. Matt Baker, Treasurer, is our incredible accountant and bookkeeper and keeps us all aligned in the meeting too. He tells us if we have the budget to execute projects and most importantly pays all of the club's bills.

Our clubhouse was under direct supervision of Jack Russell. He did an outstanding job ensuring the house was maintained and cared for with the help from other members as well.

Big thanks to the Fleet Captains, both Bill Robison (Big Boats) and Steve Priester (FS Fleet) stood up to help out in coordinating with the Skippers too. Special thanks to Lee Havins, Secretary, for sharing Club News by maintaining the website, sending info via email and keeping us up to speed on all events. His editing skills are a true asset to the club.

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## *New Members, Some New Boats and New Life for Some Old Boats*

We gained a number of new members this year. Here are some of them:

- \* Ronnie Brasket, our newest member, bought "Passion Flower" recently (see pic).
- \* Bradley & Christy Beauchamp, bought a Flying Scot on the grounds, and also brought in a San Juan 21, now in a slip.
- \* Gary & Ann Southard, brought in a Lido 14.
- \* Paul & Dana Cory, brought in a Flying Scot.
- \* Scot & Connie Lyles, brought in a Cal 25.
- \* John & Angela Kidwell, bought an S2 keelboat on the grounds (see pic).

*(There may be other new members who I have missed, and to whom I apologize.)*



Ronnie's Passion Flower, getting a cleanout



John Kidwell's "new" S2, already in a slip

## What A Year It Was, (continued from 2nd page)

Give a big shout to the Race Committee consisting of Debra Halter, Rob Havins and a few other volunteers as well. Thanks for running all of our race events. And to Steve Priester for handling the fleet meetings and race schedule.

I apologize if I missed anyone who has helped significantly at the club. 2019 was a busy and successful year. From what the seasoned members tell me, the club was built on volunteers. If you want to get involved in helping make our club better, feel free to contact any board member or come to a monthly Board Meeting. Every time a member volunteers, it saves the club money and helps keep our monthly dues down too.

### *In Memorium*

#### **Pete Robitaille**

In early fall, we lost a longtime member, Pete Robitaille, who passed away after an extended illness. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Noot, who remains a club member.

Pete was an eclectic guy who did his own thing. He was an avid catamaran racer for many years, and later raced a Flying Scot in Fleet 170.

But he sailed and collected all kinds of small boats. Also collected Citroen automobiles.

He was a retired Air Force major, and had worked as a pilot trainer, at one time training George W. Bush.

### ***Incoming Board of Directors***

Commodore	Steve Colley	940/733-0847
Vice Cmdr	Jim Loudermilk	817-600-5148
Rear Cmdr	Larry Ahlhorn	940/781-7913
Treasurer	Matt Baker	940/923-7387
Secretary	Lee Havins	940/704-1474
Past Cmdr	Dave Meany	940/224-6099

Misc. appointments to be announced



Bink Davidson's "little black boat" (top) is back on the water after many years ashore and much work. Joel Sansing has made major repairs to Jim Halter's old C-22 (middle). Steve Colley should be about ready to launch his restored Hunter 22 (bottom left). We can't wait to see Matt Baker's cool looking Canadian craft (bottom right) hit the water.



## WFSC Played a Small Part In Helping Some Scouts Go to Sea in Florida

*Club interaction with the  
local community can be a good thing.*

In the spring, the Club was asked to help a local Boy Scout troop prepare for a sailing trip in Florida. The scouts, from local Troop 34, had won a "lottery" allowing the troop to send five youths and three adults to the Boy Scout "Sea Base" in the Florida Keys.

Several WFSC big boat skippers took the scouts and leaders out for a couple of day sails to get them more acquainted with sailing mechanics, terminology, etc. The interaction resulted in us gaining a new member, Paul Cory and family.

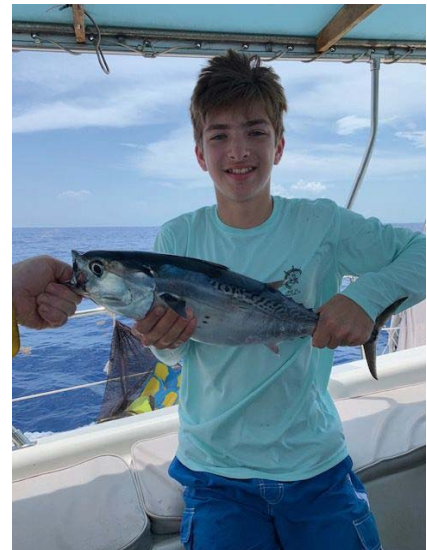
Paul sent us a few photos from the Florida trip, which occurred in early summer, and it's obvious this was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure for everybody involved.



The Florida Boat . . . The BIG Boat!



Is there a keel-hauling being planned here?



Dinner !



The gang poses before a South Florida  
sunset (or is it a sunrise?)

AND NOW FOR THE "R" WORD

## Wichita Falls Sailing Club 2019 Racing News



In general, it was kind of a rough season. Many race days and make-up race days with no wind, too much wind or heat in the extreme.

Our Big Boat Fleet managed to complete three races of a possible 18. Matt Baker (Balboa 26) took top honors in that fleet, followed by Dave Brunner (Venture 22).

WFSC's Flying Scot Fleet completed 11 races for the year. Lee and Kim Havins emerged the fleet champs, clinching the honor on the final day. Glenn Tole was second and Fleet Capt Steve Priester was third.

We contacted the local anonymous racing experts Frick and Frack for their thoughts:

Frick: "The Havinses must be a couple of leprechauns, as they are clearly carrying a lucky charm. They're slow and heavy, but persistent as all get out. And they rely on an almost criminal desire to take advantage of the misfortune of others."

Frack: "Yes. Definitely, if one of them is shaking your hand, you can bet the other is behind you feeling for your wallet. They 'stole' more races than they actually 'won'."

*Eww. Well . . . That's a bit harsh, don't you think?*

WFSC also ran a couple of fun one-day regattas in 2019, the "Hot Stuff" and the "Harvest Winds". Priester won both of those.

The Club will organize a Fleet Meeting in early spring to set the 2020 schedule. WFSC has the makings of a good Sunfish Fleet, at this point lacking only in sufficient interest. Anybody wanting to race Sunfish should make their desire known at the next fleet meeting.