



Hard-a-Lee

occasional newsletter
of the Wichita Falls Sailing Club

(find us online at wfsail.org)

January 16, 2020

Commodore's Corner

By Steve Colley, 2020 Commodore

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

Can you believe it is really 2020, and where is that flying car I was promised? I know we all have heard or said things to the similar, so hold that thought for a minute.

I guess most everyone knows me to date, but for those new folks who I have not gotten to meet yet, here is a short background. (For those of you who do know me, maybe it will provide some insight as to just what went wrong.) In all sincerity, I feel great privilege in being a member of this Wichita Falls Sailing Club, and truly love being out at the Club as often as I can be.

I began sailing with a sunfish, but had an eye for a certain Catalina 22. I was able to purchase it, as well as purchase some new sea legs to go with it. As some of you know that vessel felt differently and rejected the new legs. Ask around; it's a good story. I still owe many thanks to lots of people on that one. After a year of sailing a Hunter 22 which needed a lot of work, most of 2019 was spent restoring it, and I hope to launch soon.

I was born and raised in the "Falls", and have been fortunate to work and raise a family here. I have been married to my best friend, Peggy, for 34 years now with never a dull moment nor lack of laughter. I retired from the Wichita Falls Fire Dept. after 34 years as well, and have the broken body to prove it.

We were blessed with three boys, two of whom are grown and living in the Dallas area, and one still in college in Oklahoma. For the most part now we are amateur empty nesters, and reside in the county of Clay just a few feet from the thriving metropolis of Dean.

I grew up spending many weekends at a small cabin on a muddy lake close to Bowie. When I reached the age where I could legally drive, I frequently was at Lake Arrowhead. At that time I participated in the new phenom of personal watercraft, as it was in its infancy, but I always made a sachet over by what i understood at that time to be "the place where the sailboats are".

I have now been a member of this club for about six or seven years, and have been on the board as the Rear Commodore for the last several, and we have put on many great events including meals, entertainment, holiday festivities and plain ol "get togethers". This was accomplished with much help from many club members and some non members as well, just good folks.

(continued on Page 2)

2020 Board of Directors And Appointees

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
Harbormaster	Mike Gillis	940/867-3753
Webmaster	Dave Meany	940/224-6099
Grounds	Paul Spilman	940/782-3277

Commodore's Corner (continued from Page 1)

When asked about accepting a nomination of Commodore, initially I was very reluctant, and expressed that maybe someday in the future I would love to be, but I might not be ready just yet. After some skillful, silver, slick talk by one member, I was reminded of all the amazing and exciting people I would meet, the places the position would take me, and all the fame and fortune that would follow. How could one resist! Oh yeah , the flying car...

I was reading an article a few days ago that recalled some predictions that had been made in the past about the year 2020. They were way off, or were they? Yes we have seen impressive technological advances, like phones that unlock by scanning our faces and artificial intelligence, but it is still not the world of flying cars and robot butlers that we were promised by now.

One such prediction asked the question. What happens to our feet? In a lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1911, a surgeon named Richard Clement Lucas made this prediction. Our useless toes will become used less and less, and man might become a one-toed race. Hmmm. guess our kids will have to settle for a one lined bedtime story.. This little piggy....done, nighty night...? Another was made by the Rand Corporation saying they expected to have animal employees capable of performing manual labor by now. No robot in the broom closet, just well trained apes to do the gardening, chores, housework and be the family chauffeur. Why does "right turn Clyde" come to mind? And yes, we will eat candy made of underwear! Popular mechanics predicted that all food would be delivered to your home in the form of frozen bricks by the 21st century. Cooking as an art is just a memory in the minds of old people. They wrote it would be soon possible to take ordinary objects like linens and "rayon underwear" and bring them to "chemical factories" to be converted into candy. This is scary, as I did participate in a New Years Eve game that required you guess the flavor of the jelly bean. There was a chance the bean would

be a lovely flavor, or it might be something vile. I got the "vile", and did not have the desire to check the ingredient list on the package.

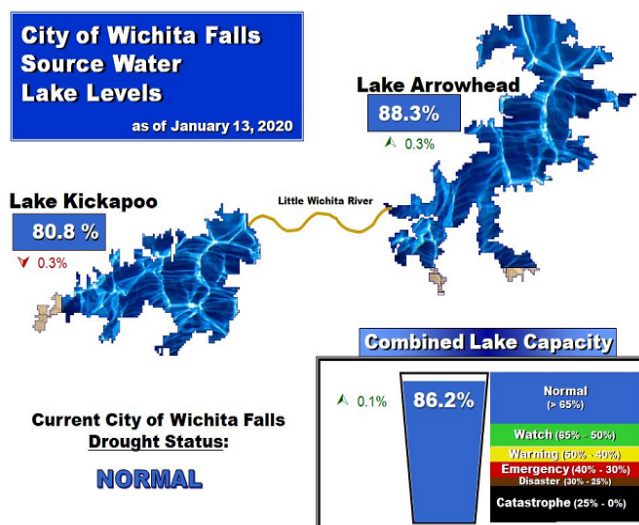
Personal helicopters...extinct alphabet letters, lol...rofl...Emoji emojis...,teleportation and the claim that nobody will work, we will all be rich. There were many more, but i have to stop at the nuclear vacuum cleaner.... run by an ape?

Back to the present, all fun aside, I am looking forward to being involved in this new year. I am confident my fellow board members won't let me run aground. Having worked with most of these fine members for several years, I do believe we will carry on in the same positive direction in the coming year. I plan to be bringing some new ideas to the table, and welcome the same.

I am looking forward to relaunching my Hunter and having a great new sailing season, with a heavy emphasis on new members, and sailboats on the water!!! Perhaps we will try some of these futuristic ideas like wind power, water and hydraulic power, solar energy.

Again I am honored to have served in the past, and to continue to serve as new Commodore. I look forward to the sailing year 2020, and getting to spend time at the Club with everyone new and old, or should I say, "not so new".

Sail on !!!



Three More New Members Are Joining WFSC

At its January meeting, the WFSC board approved membership applications from three new members.

Voted into the club were:

- * **Derrick Christoff**, who has been sailing here a couple years with his father, John Christoff. They recently purchased a McGregor 26 from member Robert Brouchard.
- * **Jim and Jan Kingrea** of Wichita Falls, currently not boat owners.
- * **Brad & Jenny Merrick** of Vernon. Brad brought in an interesting little trimaran, built with Prindle catamaran hulls and sailing rig (see pic below).



MISC BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Also at the January meeting, the board:

- * Discussed upcoming social plans. The first will be a chili cookoff, tentatively set for April.
- * Heard Webmaster Meany describe a new addition to the club website, wherein members can log their local sailing activities.
- * Discussed plans for annual anti-sticker spraying. Paul Spilman is taking care of that.
- * Approved continued work on the boat slips. Old flotation is being replaced under more of the fingers with encapsulated styrofoam.
- * Approved applying for a permit from the Corp of Engineers to build a breakwater next to the boat ramp. The actual method for doing that is still under discussion.

The next board meeting will be
February 6 at 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse.



WFSC chefs Steve Colley and Larry Ahlhorn check out the spread during the Christmas Party last month (see more on next page).

2019 WFSC Christmas Party

The 2019 WFSC Christmas Party, early last month, was a resounding success! Sixty or so participants packed the clubhouse for a prime rib dinner, fun and frolicking. Reportedly nobody lost an eye or had to be hauled away by the sheriff. Special thanks to Larry Ahlhorn and Steve Colley who prepared the excellent dinner.

