



Hard-a-Lee

occasional newsletter
of the Wichita Falls Sailing Club
(find us online at wfsail.org)

February 28, 2020

Commodore's Corner

By Steve Colley, 2020 Commodore

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant"Ann Bradstreet

Well we have almost made it! I was out on the slips chatting with John Cristoff the other day, and he shared a little about foxholes and the Korean winter. Made our winter here sound balmy. First, thank you John, and all our members who have served our country. And second, I am still tired of winter! No longer do I have to ride on the tailboard of a firetruck in the snow and ice, but nonetheless I am still tired of winter.

I think it's just the anticipation of seeing sails out on the lake I guess. Why do things like dry asphalt, green weeds, and the distant sound of a Briggs and Stratton make me feel better?

Sunshine and warmth are just around the bend, and signs of life are returning to the club. Thanks go out to Paull Spilman and friends for working on the grounds throughout the whole winter season. Trees trimmed, lighting installed, and

other things that sometimes go unnoticed. Things are looking great already, and I understand there will be more opportunity for all of us to get in on some of the maintenance to come in the next month or two. Stay tuned for these opportunities to be posted soon. As I am sure we have all trimmed a few trees in our day, so I feel it needs to be said again...Many Thanks!

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Annual Chili Cook-Off Set for March 28

The Club will open its social season March 28 with the annual chili cook-off at the Clubhouse.

If you want to join the chili chefs, let Steve Colley know. (The chefs cook their concoctions at home and bring them to the Club, which provides all the fixings, fritos, cheese, iced tea, etc.) The event is BYOB.

As in the past, there will be some balloting after the eating, and someone's chili will be deemed the best and receive a modest prize. But every year, all of the entries are super good, and you can eat your fill for \$5 per person.

Plan on this event starting about 5 p.m.

COMMODORE'S CORNER

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Along those same lines, Steve Priester, Mike Gillis and others have continued through the season with keeping the dock and slips in great shape, and in a state of ready. Steve has been hunting, chasing and hustling flotation from all over the state, only accepting the best, and culling the rest..How many of us would have thought of actually checking to see if the flotation actually floats before allowing it in our service? I did see that most of the fingers on the slips have the new style flotation under them, with only a few of the old styrofoam fingers remaining. It's looking like we will see the slips close to capacity this year. How about that!!

Another phenomenon I have observed this spring is a migration of vessels wanting to nest close to our telephone pole on Tole Road. There has been a network of orange cables that appear to generate from that pole, and inch their way out in every possible direction, and if you follow them to the ends you will find life ... yes regeneration.

The club has seen some new member growth, and some have purchased boats that we have seen earthbound for quite some time, as well as some new boats being introduced into the club. Speaking of new folks, have you seen what our relatively new member, Ronnie Brasket, has done with the Passion Flower? It looks like a totally different boat now. The faded chalky light blue is gone, and he was able to bring the original glass back to pretty close to factory new. And from what I am seeing, he is just getting started. He has posted some great pics of the whole process online. Great job Sir!

New member John Kidwell has got that S2

floating, and I would be willing to bet within a week or two he will be taking a few laps around the lake.

The Christoff and Christoff Incorporated team entry have been sailing, tweaking and upgrading that vessel, I believe, on a daily basis all winter. So far they are making Bink work to keep ahead of them on sail time. I can calculate in my head what Binks response would probably be..."and that's a good thing". Because it really is.

Speaking of Bink, he has been feverishly working on his back up craft, and I think I have heard of the new name for his Clipper. I won't divulge exactly what I inferred from talking to him, but I will hint that he has kept with the ornithology theme. I think I did see a bumper sticker on his pickup that says, ask me about my keel. More words about Bink next paragraph, stay tuned.

Matt Baker is well on the way to getting his Tanzer in the water as well. Yes, I can't wait to go for a ride around the block on that one.. I did get the opportunity a few weeks ago to board and take the tour. Amazing floor plan, it has three bedrooms, two baths, and a one car garage off of the kitchen.... and that is just downstairs! All kidding aside, it is quite roomy inside, and from what i have read possibly quite a speedy craft.

Brand new member Brad Merrick has added to the fold what possibly might be the clubs first trimaran, someone check me on that. But if you're out on the lake and you see an X wing fighter on your stern, it's probably Brad. I do believe it came with its own soundtrack as well. Such a neat looking addition. And finally after a year on the trailer of what I hoped to be only a couple months the OI "Savage Storm" Hunter will be back in a couple of weeks.... I hope!!!!

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COMMODORE'S CORNER

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Welcome to all the new sailors, and to you old regulars ... WELCOME ! Thank you for your stamina and persistence and willingness to help. I have seen our "senior" members, and I am not referring to the geriatric usage of the word, giving advice, helping hands, and working with others on their boats, to which I must repeat "and that's a good thing" .

Finally, turning to this year's activities, both social, competitive, and just plain fun, there are a lot of things in the works. Steve hosted a great "fleet meet" at the Backporch Grill, where the race season was discussed and calendar dates for fleet racing set. Steve Priester and Lee Havins will lead the Flying Scott fleet. Bill Robinson and Dave Bruner will lead the Big Boats, so keep in touch and support those guys to make the series a big success. Also I need to mention that Deb Halter and Rob Havins will serve as our race committee this year. Go ahead and thank them now for a sometimes thankless job.

Now, back to Bink as mentioned above. Bink has put a lot of thought into some not necessarily brand new ideas, but, how would I say, historical pleasure events that have been lying dormant. Some old fashioned cruising events, mixed with some possible poker run type adapted events, and raft ups in which you sail to a point and just spend some time doing _____... He also is thinking of some evening and night sailing which would possibly lead to some gps and navigational skills practices. So if you see Bink, ask him what you can do to participate and make some of these events happen. I do know there has been expressed interest in just some good ol cruisin. I heard him mention a couple other great ideas , so ask him and get involved.

Again, keep an eye on your emails, go to wfsail.org as well as Wichita Falls Sailing Club on Facebook to stay up on all the activities we have in the works.

Again thanks to all for working hard to keep the club moving forward this year. Spring is coming.... "and that's a good thing" .

Sail On!!

- Steve Colley

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
Webmaster	Dave Meany	940/224-6099
Grounds	Paul Spilman	940/782-3277
Secretary	Lee Havins	940/704-1474
Past Cmdr	Dave Meany	940/224-6099
Harbormaster	Mike Gillis	940/867-3753

MISC BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Last month's board meeting was delayed by a spate of cold, wet weather. When the board finally got together on Feb 13, there was no quorum, so there was much talk and no action.

The board heard of the withdrawal of one member, Joel Sansing, who has quit to devote more time to other interests.

The board also accepted one new application for membership, which will be acted upon at the next session.

**The next WFYC board meeting will be
March 5 at 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse.**

RACING NEWS

Two fleets set 2020 schedule during recent fleet meeting; rules/procedures seminar set for March 21 at Clubhouse

An overflow crowd packed the Backporch Draft House meeting room Feb 11 for the annual WFSC Fleet Meeting.

The crowd included our usual racers, as well as some newer members who are considering joining in on the action.

Season-long series were scheduled for two fleets - Flying Scot Fleet 170 and the WFSC Big Boat Handicap Fleet. The overall schedule also includes three one-day open regattas. The first race day, which is the beginning of the Big Boat series as well as an open Spring Regatta, is April 4.

(All the dates and details of the 2020 schedule can be viewed on the last page of this Hard-A-Lee, as well as in the Racing tab of our website, wfsail.org).

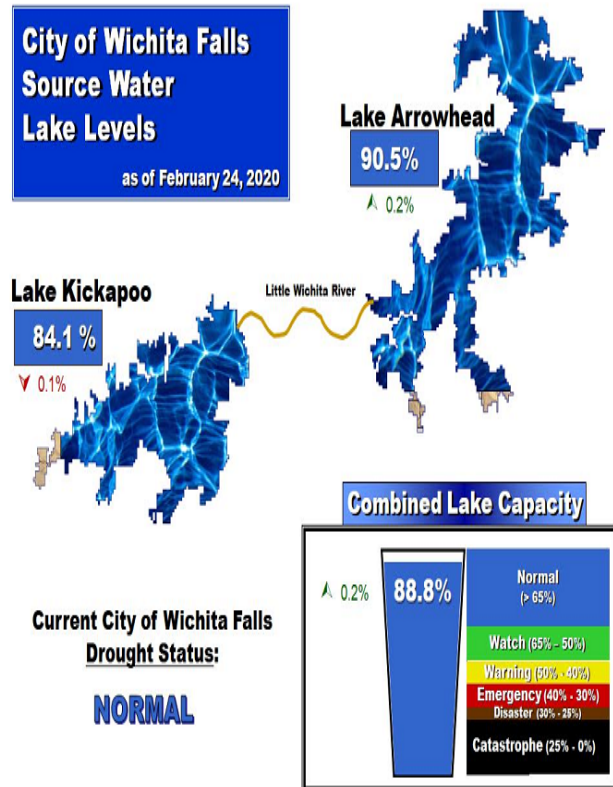
Rules/Procedures Seminar

If you're interesting in club racing and the associated rules and procedures, show up at the Clubhouse at 10 a.m. March 21.

It is rumored that coffee and donuts will be served.

Several club member/race veterans will lead discussions on various rule sets governing such topics as right of way and mark rounding. In addition, Race Committee chairperson Deb Halter will outline the procedures that go into staging a race, and possible changes we might make to increase efficiency.

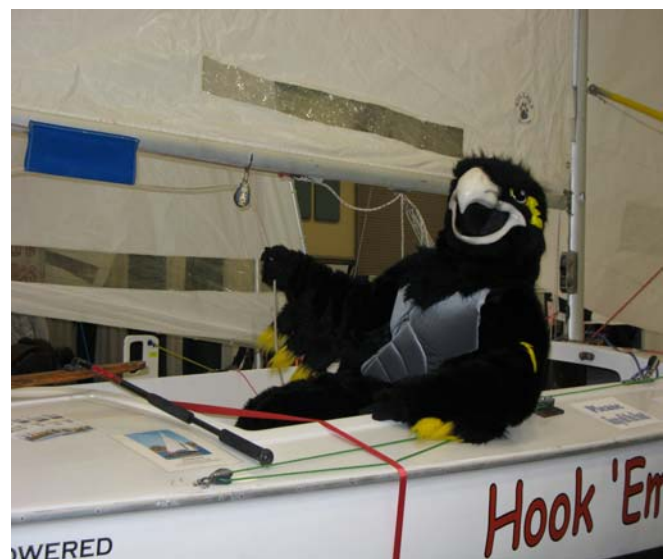
There may even be discussion of *race etiquette* (I don't know what that means, but it sounds like "no more spitting" - Wuhan Flu, you know).



OKAY YACHT CLUBBERS:

There's a new game in town, and its name is "*Guess What the Heck is Happening Here*".

Here's your first puzzler, (yes, it IS a genuine photo from the annals of WFSC history):



(I'll post the correct answer in the next issue. What? What do you win? Nuttin', nadda, zip!)



WFSC 2020 Racing Schedule

Big Boat & Flying Scot Fleets

Debbie Halter 940-632-8557, WFSC Race Committee Chairman

Rob Havins 940-257-1621, WFSC Race Committee Chairman

Bill Robison 940-733-7828
Dave Brunner 940-237-3334
 Big Boats Fleet Captains

Steve Priester 940-781-7016
Lee Havins 940-704-1474
 Flying Scot Fleet Captains

Big Boats
Handicap Scoring

Flying Scots
One Design Scoring

April 4 - Sat / 12 PM *
Spring Regatta I (All Boats)

April 18 - Sat / 12 PM *

May 2 - Sat / 12 PM *

May 16 - Sat / 12 PM *

June 6 - Sat / 12 PM *

June 20 - Sat / 12 PM *

July 11 Sat / 10 AM All Up Race Day
 Club Race and not part of the Series, "Hot Stuff Regatta"

August 1 - Sat / 10 AM *

August 15 - Sat / 10 AM *

September 5 - Sat / 10 AM *

September 19 - Sat / 10 AM *

October 17 - Sat / 12 PM *
Harvest Winds Regatta V (All Boats)

October 3 - Sat / 12 PM *

Notes:

*** Skippers Meetings**

- Please address all questions to the appropriate Fleet Captains
- Big Boats and Flying Scot Make-up Race is the following Saturday of that Race Day
- Oct 17, All Boats Welcome with Handicap Scoring & Final Big Boats Race
- Series Race days; Max 3 races and 3 boats or more make a fleet