



Hard-a-Lee

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


December 30, 2020

2021 Board of Directors

Commodore	Debra Halter	940/632-8557
Vice Cmdr	Glen Spadin	940/500-0478
Rear Cmdr	Blue Kennedy	940/733-6225
Treasurer	Matt Baker	940/923-7387
Secretary	Lee Havins	940/704-1474
Past Cmdr	Steve Colley	940/733-0847

The next WFYC board meeting
is scheduled for January 7,
7 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

The sun is setting on
2020, and it's not a
moment too soon



*Hey, what's to be said about 2020 -
That John Prine killin', social
schedule cancellin' pain in the butt
of a no-good pandemic year ?*

(continued from front page)

As Father Time brings down the curtain on the now infamous year gone by, surely there's something positive we can grab onto (well, we did survive, at least). Otherwise, I'm ready to just say goodbye. Goodbye, 2020, and may your successor be a little kinder to us.

WFSC did a few things during 2020, as we gingerly worked our way through the pandemic (so far). We pretty much accomplished a full racing season, including a Wednesday evening single hander series in addition to the regular fleet arrangements. Also, we gained a number of new members. And, through a couple of fundraisers and direct donation, WFSC raised a couple thousand for the local food bank.

Now all eyes turn to 2021, as we wonder what's in store. Will we get to enjoy the chili cookoff, crab boil, steak feed or Christmas Party ever again ?

Only time will tell.

* * * * *

For those machochistic enough to want a full review of the year 2020, maybe try comic writer Dave Barry's year in review in the Washington Post Magazine.

(see it at:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2020/12/27/dave-barrys-year-review-2020/?arc404=true>)

An excerpt:

"We're trying to think of something nice to say about 2020.

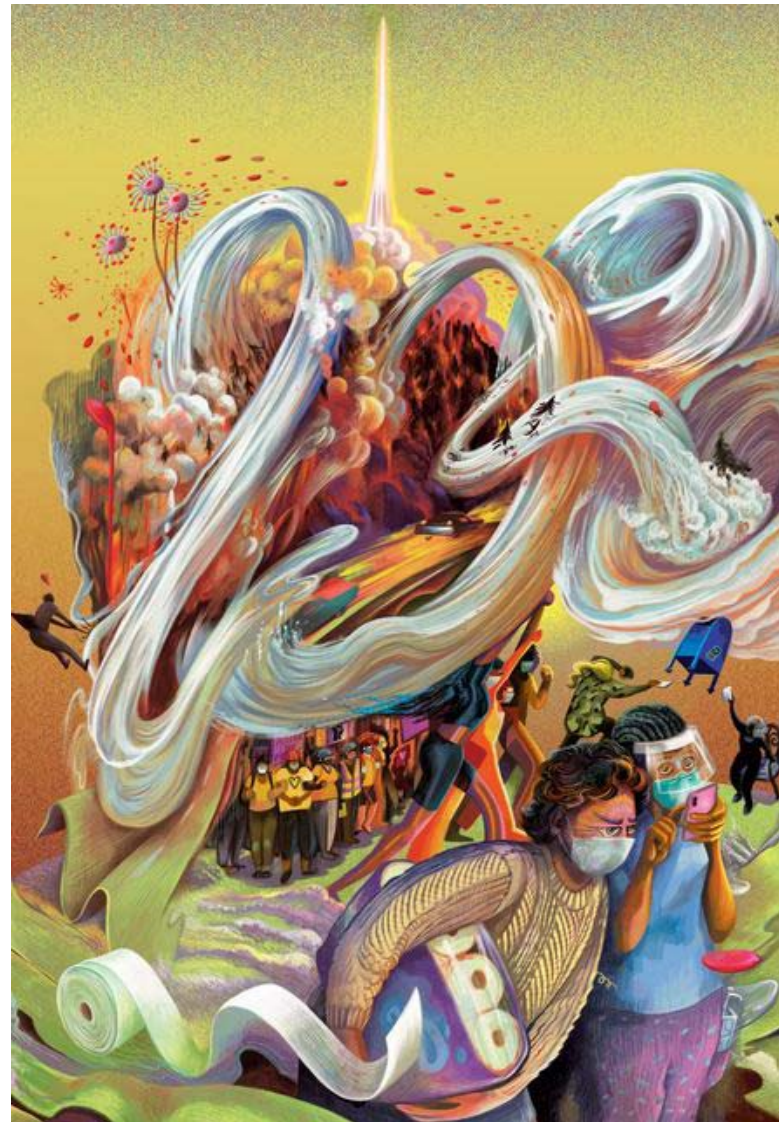
Okay, here goes: Nobody got killed by the murder hornets. As far as we know.

That's about it.

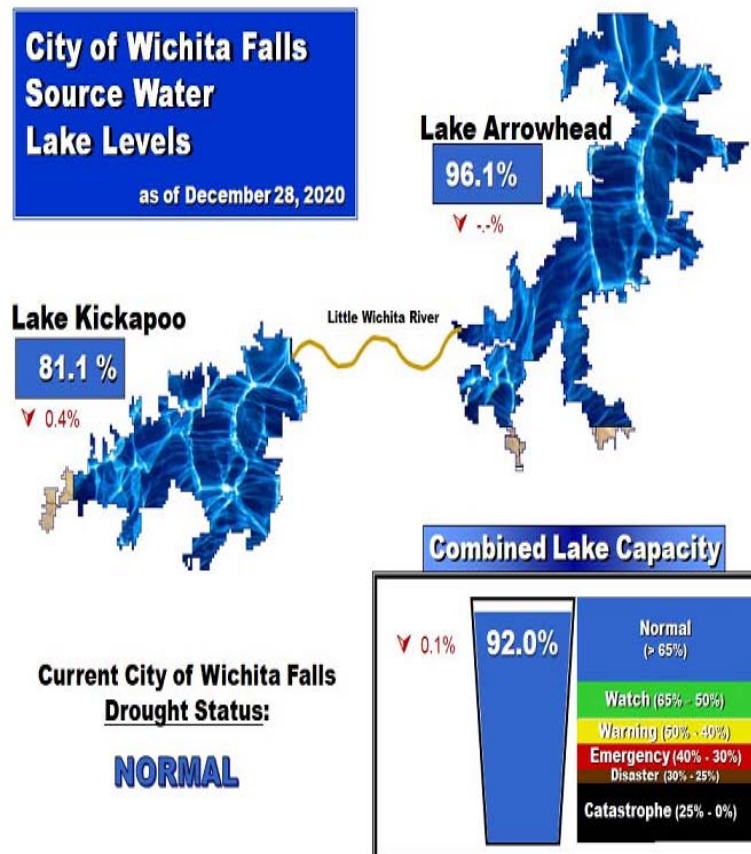
In the past, writing these annual reviews, we have said harsh things about previous years. We owe those years an apology. Compared to 2020, all previous years, even the Disco Era, were the golden age of human existence.

This was a year of nonstop awfulness, a year when we kept saying it couldn't possibly get worse, and it always did. This was a year in which our only moments of genuine, unadulterated happiness were when we were able to buy toilet paper.

Which is fitting, because 2020 was one long, howling Category 5 crapstorm ... "



*Okay, already!
Enough about what a buzz kill
the pandemic has been.
We do have some stuff to be
thankful for. Not the least of
which: The lake level has
remained remarkably high.*



LEARNING ONLINE

Improve yourself



You know, you can even get a college degree online nowadays, and just about anything else you can think of. Among the things you can get is information to improve your competitive sailing.

North, a biggie in the performance sail industry, is one provider of sail-improvement courses. One is the somewhat pricy Sail Trim & Boat Speed Webinar. "Speed wins races", so they say. Check this out at www.northu.com.

Another great site is sailing.com, put together by avid scow racers. Among their numerous online offerings is a very useful series taking apart the 2021-2024 sailing rules. (Rules? We have rules?) Other stuff, too, apparently all free.

Not doubt there are many more great online sailing venues waiting for us to look for them.



MEANWHILE, over at the Ahlhorn Estate, they celebrated around a Christmas tree appropriately decorated with Santa and a WFSC "Covid Buster" series participation medallion.

DIDN'T GET EVERYTHING YOU WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS ?

Well, poor baby.

Let me whisper something in your ear: "WFSC Flying Scot Fleet 170 is still trying to find the right person to take over the recently donated Flying Scot #2578."



The boat was owned by one of the five original Fleet 170 members. It left the club for a few of years, and recently came back on its own. Now that's a good, loyal boat !

The "right person" for this purchase will be someone who is still able to explain to their spouse how another dang boat followed them home. A commitment to keep the boat at WFSC for two years is part of the deal.

I would call this an easy restoration. Much buffing, one or two little dings to fix. The mast and sails are suspect, but there are replacements around the club.

All proceeds from this sale will be donated by the fleet to WFSC's general fund. If interested, call Steve Priester, 781-7016.

Will 2021 Bring More Boat Slips to WFSC?



As everybody knows, our boat slippage is full, and there are a couple members waiting to get a boat in the water.

No doubt incoming Commodore Debra Halter will take up this issue in an effort to determine how we might acquire some more slips, and where they might be placed.

Recently Grounds Chairman Paul Spilman brought his tractor over to the club and cleaned out a path into our weedy junk storage area.

He pulled out these pieces of unused bracing from a past slip build, which could be the foundation for a dock or two.



Hopefully that will be a first step toward making some additional slips a reality.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Cmdr Steve Colley Steered the Club Through Some Difficult Waters

Running a club like WFSC is frequently a fairly thankless job.

Steve Colley's year as Commodore proved to be particularly tedious, due to the unpopular decisions that had to be made as the pandemic and accompanying government edicts unfolded. We had to cancel most of our social schedule, and apply restrictions to Clubhouse use.

In early summer, Steve and Larry Ahlhorn increased our boat-slip count by one by providing the volunteer labor to build a new finger.



In August, a little twister plowed through the club, scattering small boats and damaging our roof. Steve was able to negotiate a payoff from our insurance carrier that allowed us to purchase a new metal roof for the Clubhouse.

WFSC depends on volunteer leadership to continue thriving, and it's folks like Steve who help keep it going.

As Past Commodore, he intends to develop an online presence for the Club on Facebook, Snapchat and other sites (which our current luddite secretary has no clue about). Anybody wanting to help him in that promotional effort should speak up and get involved.