



Mainsheet

March 2009

Thunderbird Sailing Club

www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org

Commodore: Ted Streuli

Fellow Sailors,

Spring is in the air! Sailing season is upon us and there are several events on the horizon.

Splash Day is set for Saturday, April 11, the day to get the gunk off the fiberglass and chase the spiders out of the canvas.

We'll call April 18 our official opening day, with our first-ever Blessing of the Fleet. Rev. Matt Meinke from First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City will be on hand that afternoon for a brief on-the-water ceremony to help ensure a safe and happy sailing season. Matt has been out on my boat and loves all things water-related; he's also a certified dive instructor. It will be a short afternoon event before our regular club meeting that night, so it's an excuse to get as many boats out on the water as possible, all making a pass at a pre-determined time that afternoon for the blessing.

A Blessing of the Fleet is the traditional way to start a boating season, whether it's a fishing fleet, sailing fleet or other water-borne endeavor. The tradition began centuries ago in Mediterranean fishing villages and found its way to the US predominantly among immigrant Catholic fishermen. The idea spread, and the ceremony has become a festive boat parade to launch the year in many ports, with particularly large events in Kemah, Texas, Jacksonville, Fla., Biloxi, Miss., Destin, Fla., Brunswick, Georgia, San Francisco and Narragansett, R.I. Ours will not involve the Coast Guard or a 10k run, but it could easily become to be a fun new tradition for our club.

On May 16 we'll be holding the Race Judicatta, a fun regatta that will raise money for Calm Waters while giving our club and our sport a great bit of public exposure. There's no cost for skippers, but every boat must have at least two Oklahoma licensed attorneys on board. The attorneys will pay entry fees for the chance to sail for the afternoon and have dinner; Calm Waters will provide a brief program (it's our regular meeting night) and a small silent auction.

More to come on that, but for this event to be a success we'll need every possible boat, so please save the date.

One personal note: Betsey and I are delighted to announce that we're making way for a new hand to join the Streuli crew in September. Raymond says he's hoping for a sister.

With wishes for fair winds and calm seas,
Ted Streuli, Captain of the Slow Sloop Seascope

An Oklahoma Chartered Corporation Affiliated with
United States Sailing & Central States Sailing Association

P.O. Box 1652

Norman, Oklahoma 73070

Note: The TSC and BoatHouse share this PO Box.

Past Commodore—Phil Moershel

Lake Thunderbird Trash Pickup

March 28th is the annual Clean Sweep and Spring Festival at the Crow's Corral 8:30AM to 2PM and at the East Sentinel point picnic area on the north side of the lake from 8:30 to 10:30. Trash collections on the north side of the lake will run from 830 AM registration at the East Sentinel picnic area(just east of the twin bridges) till 10 30 and from 9:00 AM till 11 AM on the lake south side based at the Crows Corral Nature center. The Clean Sweep Appreciation Celebration will start at 11:00 AM. The celebration will include live music, free lunch, and many elected state and local officials. Special recognition and awards will be given to our Adopt the Beach Honorees and the Clean Sweep Volunteers. The celebration will continue with the Spring Festival starts at 1 PM. The Spring Festival is open to the public with live Music and with 4 PM Chile Cook Off. It all takes place March 28th at the Crow's Corral near the Clear Bay entry to the park. Hwy 9 and 142nd Ave SE.

Come out and lend a hand, water, gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Spring Keelboat Class!

At the BoatHouse: Start April 17, 2009

TO ENROLL or FOR INFO!

CONTACT RICK SHAW AT:

shaw9939@sbcglobal.net

Or call 405-306-8597!

Vice Commodore: Sam Tiffany

Hey, Spring is almost here! Daylight savings time has begun, so we can start enjoying those after-work sails again. Last month's Mardi Gras parade was great fun – thanks to all who participated. The Flying Scot was well-lit, the food was great, and there were tons of people there to watch the parade.

Bob King of Candid Color Systems will be at the March 21 meeting to give some tips on getting a good pic of your boat and April's meeting will feature Randy Worden of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District who will be speaking about the Bureau of Reclamation feasibility study for a pipeline to carry water from southern Oklahoma to Lake Thunderbird.

Spring is the time of the year when the weather starts to grab our attention. This month's nautical term of the month – **Weather Proverbs !**

Nautical Know How—Weather Proverbs

We have been attempting to forecast the weather since the beginning of recorded history. Long before the invention of radar and other meteorological tools, people relied upon "natural" clues to approaching weather. Many of these have a scientific basis and it can be explained why they "work", others have no such basis but often prove to be true.

Perhaps the most often quoted weather proverb among mariners is:

Red sky in morning, Sailors take warning.

Red sky at night, Sailors' delight.

A red sky at night (when the sun is to the west) is caused by light passing through dust particles in the air to the west. Dust indicates dry weather and since most weather changes come from the west, a red sky at night usually indicates dry weather approaching. A red sky in the morning, however, indicates that the dry air has moved away. A gray sky at night means that the western air is filled with moisture and it will likely rain soon.

The first recorded use of this system of weather forecasting can be found in the Bible. In Matthew 16.2-3, Jesus says to the fishermen, "when it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' and in the morning 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.'" Since it has lasted so long, we think there must be something to it.

Other variations on this theme include:

Evening red and morning gray, help the traveler on his way.

Evening gray and morning red bring down a rain upon his head.

Rainbow in the morning

gives you fair warning

The sun is in the east in the morning, the shower and associated rainbow are in the west. Since weather generally moves from west to east, rain is approaching.

Beware the bolts from north or west;

In south or east the bolts be best.

Same reasoning as the above.

Rainbow to windward, foul fall the day;

Rainbow to leeward, rain runs away.

If the wind is coming from the direction of the rainbow, the rain is heading toward you. Conversely, if the rainbow is in the opposite direction, it has passed you.

Mackerel skies and mares' tails

Make tall ships take in their sails.

Cirrus clouds (mackerel skies or clouds that looked as if they'd been scratched by a hen, according to the old-timers) often precede a warm front which brings winds and rain.

When halo rings the moon or sun

Rain's approaching on the run.

The halo is caused by high cirrostratus (ice crystal) clouds that are indicative of an approaching warm front and predict rain within 20-24 hours. The U.S. Weather Service confirms that rain follows about 75 percent of sun halos and about 65 percent of moon halos.

The higher the clouds

the better the weather

From <http://boatsafe.com>.

In addition to many informative articles and boating tips for boaters of all ages, this website <http://boatsafe.com> contains the first Nationally approved Basic Boating Safety Course. This course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and recognized by the US Coast Guard as acceptable to the National Recreational Boating Safety Program. Marine insurance companies, in all states, give discounts to boat owners who have successfully completed such a course.

Treasurer: Dave Craigie

Greetings Sailors,

Mardi Gras went well and although it was a chilled night, I think that we all had a fun time. Thanks to Sam & Sheryl Tiffany for bring their boat to decorate and show in the parade.

The trees are already starting to bloom and soon it will be sailing season. Meanwhile, down under, they have just had their last day of summer and it is raining. That news is thanks to our newest members, Jon and Julie Haynes of Melbourne Australia. Yep, you read that correct; we have members in Australia. At first I thought it was a joke, but there was a Pay Pal payment to support the online registration. Then I thought perhaps it was a mistake and I might offer to refund their money. But the response that I got was indeed pleasant and is published elsewhere in this issue.

In Other News:

Still lacking a few familiar faces that I hope will renew and continue to support TSC. If you have not renewed yet, please do so ASAP. We do need you and we do need your support. Thanks You.

If you would like to renew your membership on line, go to the club website www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org click on the membership section and then finish with a credit card payment through Pay Pal.

Enjoy the photos below of Jonathan, Gabby, and Andrew at the parade, and I'll see you on the water!



TSC ADOPT-A-MILE UPDATE

Thanks goes out to Mary Anne Secrist, Barbara Schindler, Poon, and Jerry Lojka for helping with the Adopt-A-Mile trash pick-up last month. Also Chas Cox for pick-up and return of the city equipment.



Birthdays for March/April

March

Camisa Stewart	3/13
Paul Reynolds	3/14
Jacques Landry	3/15
Rachel Agin	3/18
J. Alva Brockus	3/19
David Brockus	3/19
Ann Luppens	3/19
Barbara Cummings	3/21
Catherine Morin	3/21
Kathleen Smith	3/26

April

Lorrie Sylvester	4/15
Cheri Elliott	4/19
Jim Kasbohm	4/29

If corrections/additions, please contact Dave Criagie!

Saturday April 4

Please Help!!!

**BOATHOUSE/BOATYARD
PREP FOR THE NEW
SAILING SEASON**

Time to be announced by email!!!

June and July Kid's Sailing Camps

Kid's Sailing Camp HELP NEEDED!

The 1st camp is 6/9 thru 6/14 and the 2nd Camp is July 7-12. Les and Corbett, instructors for the 1st and 2nd camps respectively need help. Please contact Les at les-cummings@omrf.org or 823-2342 or Corbett at cb8917@att.com or 447-4974 to volunteer! Registrations are coming in already.



From left: BoatHouse Build- ing Manager, Roger Elliott goes over the Boat- House plans in 2001. Looking on are Les, Jerry, and Kerry.

LTEF/BoatHouse Update: *Roger Elliott, President*

The past couple of months have been busy at the BoatHouse:

1. Another ceiling light has been installed in both the Men and Ladies' rooms. The new lighting will brighten up the NE and NW corner of the Ladies and Men's rooms respectively. Thank you Kerry for the fixtures!
2. The cabinet pulls have been installed on all the new cabinets in the library. We only lack having the shelves delivered to complete the project that was jointly funded by the Oklahoma Communities Foundation and the LTEF.
3. The new snap-open poster frame and 2008 Volunteer poster has now been installed in the main hall. The new snap-open frame allows the new posters to be installed very easily. The black aluminum frame looks very nice as well. We thank the BoatHouse for funding the cost of the frame and the annual poster, see below.
4. Thanks to Johnson Systems and York International we have a new heat-pump in the main hall.
5. We are testing new vinyl seats/backs to replace the existing fabric for our chairs, let us know your opinion.
6. Kerry has also replaced all the roof vents at the BoatHouse, and donated the new vent boots, 'thank you' Kerry!

Photos below show Roger, Kerry, and yours truly hard at work, and the new poster and re-covered chair!
Well, at least Roger and Kerry are hard at work :+)



LTEF is awarded a 2009 grant from the
National Water Safety Congress
 The grant will fund safety equipment for the BH Safety Boats!



The National Water Safety Congress

Executive Office: P.O. Box 1632, Mentor, OH 44061-1632 • Phone/Fax 440-209-9805
www.watersafetycongress.org

Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation
 Mr. Lester R. Cummings
 717 E. 29th Street
 Edmond, OK 73013

February 17, 2009

Dear Mr. Cummings,

I am pleased to announce that your programs grant application has been selected as one of forty-five grants awarded under the 2009 Grass Roots Grant Program sponsored by the National Water Safety Congress and funded in part by the United States Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety. This year the Congress will award \$42,000.00 in grants to local water safety councils and organizations to use in their water safety programs and efforts. **If this grant is not adequate to fund your project in full or in part, and you do NOT wish to accept funding under this program, please advise us immediately so that we can award the grant funds to another applicant.**

The primary function of the Grass Roots Grants Program is to encourage local efforts in water safety education, training, and other activities. The Local Water Safety Council and grant Liaison Committee evaluated the grant applications and has voted to fund your request and awarded **\$1,000.00 to: provide assistance with funding for your vessel safety equipment, as outlined in your 2009 grant application.**

We are pleased that your organization chose to participate in our grants program. Funds will be awarded within the week that you sign and return the TWO contracts enclosed. Please return both to me within the week that you receive them. We will forward your check and a copy of a signed agreement to you a week later.

Again, congratulations on your successful grant request, and thank you for your efforts to promote water and boating safety and reduce water-related fatalities. If you have any questions please contact me at my address listed above.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Duer
 Executive Director, National Water Safety Congress
 Grant # 006-09

AND YET, ANOTHER GREAT DONATION!

We have also been notified that a \$1,000 contribution has been made to the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation General Fund by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation of Ardmore, Oklahoma.



**SEASCOPE SHIP
5790
TAKING SCUBA
LESSONS**



The Sea Scouts used the four Saturdays of February to attend scuba lessons at OK Scuba in Norman, OK. We met at the scuba shop at 8am and received instructions and then completed four written tests pertaining to equipment and procedures. We then went to the Norman YMCA for the in-water lessons in the pool. The next step will be held when the weather & water warms up and we do our deep water dives at a nearby clear lake. The goal is for the ship to increase its activities with a monthly dive at some interesting location. We think that this will increase the appeal for others to join the ship and strengthen our membership. Don't be surprised if you see Sea Scouts buzzing around the docks cleaning boats as a fundraiser to support this new activity. Call Skipper Rick (306-8597) to arrange for a spring cleaning of your boat.



Spring Keelboat Class!
At the BoatHouse: Start April 17, 2009

CONTACT RICK SHAW AT:

shaw9939@sbcglobal.net
Or call 405-306-8597!

TO ENROLL!

TSC Welcomes our first International Members

Our illustrious Treasurer, Dave Craigie, reports that we have had our first international members join the TSC! Following is a letter from our new members from Sydney, Australia,

“Greetings to you David ,from the great southern land. I was prompted to join your club after reading a article you posted on Sailing Anarchy . (Editors Note: actually, I believe the article Ron refers to was posted by Vernon Green, thanks Vernon for drawing attention to us inland sailors!)

We sail a Australian built Compass 28 (circa 1978) traditional long keel masthead sloop out of Coasters Retreat which is located on Broken Bay some 20 miles north of Sydney. This is a large waterway and river system that opens onto the TASMAN SEA..(google for pics)

We mostly sail inshore usually just my wife and myself and the two dogs . I take great delight in wearing the Tbird cap that I bought when I joined , although most of the Yachties in this neck of the woods cant understand why we joined . Sufice to say this is the only club Im a member off with exception of the COMPASS YACHT OWNERS Association....

So we take great pleasure in being your first International members and thank you for the welcomeLOOKING AT YOUR PICS .. its another world sailing in the Northern Hemisphere....you are heroes and as we say in OZ " good on ya".....look forward to exchanging sailing stories and pics.”

Regards JON
Jon & Julie Haynes
36 Rose St. , Sydney Australia< 01)281837
jondouglashaynes@hotmailcom
Compass 28 Sloop

Welcome aboard Jon and Julie!

Below are photos of their boat, Julie, Jon, and crew :-)



BEAR

ROSE

Preliminary TSC/BoatHouse Schedule (Subject to Change) 2009

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sat		2/21 6:00p	Norman Mardi Gras Parade (NO TSC MTG)
Sat		3/21 6:00p	TSC meeting
Sat		3/28 all day	Sooner Bass (Veranda Only)
Sat		4/4 10a-2p	BH Workparty
Sat		4/11	Splash Day
Fri		4/17 6:00p	Basic Keelboat Part I: classroom
Sat-Sun	4/18-4/19	all day	Basic Keelboat Part I: on-the-water
Sat		4/18 6:00p	TSC meeting
Fri		4/24 6:00p	Basic Keelboat Part II: classroom
Sat-Sun	4/25-4/26	all day	Basic Keelboat Part II: on-the-water
Wed		5/6	Commodore's Cup Race
Sat		5/9	Possible fun race
Thur-Sun	5/14-5/17	varies	US Sailing Level 1 Instructor class
Sat		5/16 various	Calm Waters Fundraiser Regatta/TSC meeting after regatta
Sat	5/23?	all day	Sooner Bass Club
Wed		5/20	Commodore's Cup Race
Wed		6/3	Commodore's Cup Race
Sat		6/6 9a-5p	NASBLA Safety Course (Coast Guard)
Sat		6/6	TSC Full Moon Raft-up
Mon-Sat	6/8-6/13		Sailing Smart Camp I —LES CUMMINGS
Wed		6/10 evening	OMRF dinner and sail
Wed		6/17	Commodore's Cup Race
Sat		6/20 6:00p	TSC meeting
Mon-Sat	6/22-6/27		Adult Small Boat Sailing class
Wed		7/1	Commodore's Cup Race
Mon-Sat	7/6-7/11		Sailing Smart Camp II—CORBETT BROWN
Wed		7/15	Commodore's Cup Race
Sat		7/18 6:00p	TSC meeting
Sat		7/25 all day	TSC Fun Regatta/CSSA Jr. #3 Circuit Stop
Sat		8/1	Possible fun race
Wed		8/5	Commodore's Cup Race
Sat-Sun	8/15-8/16	6:30a-5p	Sooner Bass Championship
Sat		8/15 6:00p	TSC meeting
Mon-Sat	8/17-8/22		NROTC class
Wed		8/19	Commodore's Cup Race
Mon		9/7	Labor Day gathering & McDonald's Cup
Fri		9/18 6:00p	Basic Keelboat Part I: classroom
Sat-Sun	9/19-9/20	all day	Basic Keelboat Part I: on-the-water
Sat		9/19 6:00p	TSC meeting--Pirate Day
Fri		9/25 6:00p	Basic Keelboat Part II: classroom
Sat-Sun	9/26-9/27	all day	Basic Keelboat Part II: on-the-water
Sat		9/26	CAST for Kids
Sun		10/4 all day	Layton Memorial Regatta
Sat		10/17 6:00p	TSC meeting
Sun		11/1 all day	Hiram Douglas Memorial Regatta
Sat		11/17 6:00p	TSC meeting
Sat		12/12 6:00p	TSC Holiday Party/Awards Ceremony



U.S. Sailing Symposium: San Diego, Ca.

By: Mike Klatt, U.S. Sailing Level One Instructor, Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse



I recently had the privilege of representing the BoatHouse at the National Sailing Program Symposium (NSPS), held January 7-10 in San Diego at the Bahia Resort Hotel on Mission Bay. The NSPS is organized by US Sailing and is dedicated primarily to community sailing programs, ranging from yacht club junior programs to public learn-to-sail programs like the BoatHouse. Invited speakers gave presentations on varied topics such as fundraising, curriculum development, legal and tax considerations, and accommodating disabled sailors. There were also several excellent keynote presentations throughout the symposium. Approximately 175 people were in attendance.

After an icebreaker reception on Wednesday evening, there was a full day of presentations on Thursday at the Bahia. At lunch we were supposed to sit with people from our own US Sailing region. There was apparently nobody else present from the CSSA region, so I ended eating with people from Hawaii and Las Vegas of all places—and I thought *Oklahoma* sailors got an earful of “You can sail there??” At the end of the day I hurried back to my room to watch the second half of the BCS Championship Game. In retrospect, I should have stayed around to watch Dave Perry’s rules seminar.

Friday morning began with a keynote presentation from Betsy Alison, the head coach of the US Disabled Sailing Team, about the 2008 Paralympic Games in China. Her presentation was especially poignant because team member and gold medalist skipper Nick Scandone had succumbed to ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) just days before the symposium. After the morning sessions were over we loaded up on buses and drove down to Coronado, across San Diego Bay from downtown via the iconic Coronado Bridge. Our gracious host for the afternoon was the Coronado Yacht Club. After lunch there were presentations and on-the-water demonstrations, including the latest products from symposium sponsors like Bic (they don’t just make pens and lighters) and Laser Performance. After a fun and productive day in the Southern California sun, we enjoyed dinner and a party organized by CYC.

On Saturday, the subject of the morning keynote presentation was *Morning Light*, the TP52 that competed in the 2007 Transpac crewed exclusively by college-age sailors. The selection and training of the crew and the race itself are the subject of a Disney documentary of the same name; I highly recommend checking it out when it becomes available on DVD later this year. The Community Sailing Council awards were presented during lunch. Past award winners include the BoatHouse’s own Chad Cox, Les Cummings, Vesta Gettys, Howard Haines, and Rick Shaw. The symposium concluded with another Olympic keynote presentation, this one by US Olympic Sailing chairman Dean Brenner with 2008 Olympians Graham Biehl, Chris Rast, and Laser Radial gold medalist and 2008 Rolex Yachswoman of the Year Anna Tunnicliffe.

One thing that’s clear after meeting sailors from many different programs around the country is what a unique asset we have in the BoatHouse, not just the facility itself but the fact that we are an all-volunteer organization. Many organizations utilize volunteers, but hardly any use volunteers exclusively. For example, while many programs are run by volunteers, they use paid instructors to teach classes. By using volunteer instructors we are able to offer classes for a fraction of the cost of other programs, yet I’m convinced that the quality of our instruction comparable to what you’ll find anywhere else.

It was a very full three days in San Diego, but also a very worthwhile experience. I learned a lot that I plan to use this season and beyond in running the BoatHouse adult dinghy classes, and I think I even gave some useful advice to other attendees. I’m thankful to the BoatHouse for the chance to go, and hope to attend more NSPS events in the future.

N.B. The 2010 NSPS is February 3-7 in Houston (an easy 7-hour drive away) if you’re interested in attending. More information about this year’s event including a full list of the Community Sailing Award winners can be found at www.ussailing.org/training/nsps/2009/index.asp.



***Between the ages of 14-21?
Join the Sea Scouts!***

Do you like to sail, but don't have a boat or a crew?

Join the Sea Scouts!

Is the only thing that you do on Saturday is cut the grass or watch TV?

Join the Sea Scouts!

Do you know any teenagers that would like to have fun learning to sail?

Bring them to the Sea Scouts!

The Sea Scout Ship has a fine fleet of small sailboats as well as larger keelboats. Instructors have U.S. Sailing Credentials.

- ◇ Saturdays from 10am-2pm at the beautiful Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse at Thunderbird State Park.
- ◇ For more info contact Skipper Rick Shaw 306-8597 by phone or email Shaw9939@SBCGlobal.net
- ◇ For all young men and women of good character between the ages of 14 and 21.
- ◇ The recent membership drive has been very successful, the Sea Scout Ship now has many new members and a crew of over 20 including adults!
- ◇ Learn to Scuba Dive
- ◇ Participate in community activities
- ◇ Have lots of fun on the water
- ◇ Learn important boating safety rules and regulations



**Aint' we got
a lot of fun?**

Phone numbers you should know.

- ◇ Little River Marina: Bob Davis
office 364-8335 (c) 823-5077
- ◇ BH Management 447-4974
- ◇ Lake Patrol 425-2143
- ◇ Cleveland Co. Sheriff 321-8600
- ◇ TBird Park office 364-7634
- ◇ TBird Park Ranger 360-3572

Next Meeting:
Saturday, March 21
6 PM
Program: Bob King
How to take great
photos on the water—redeaux!



2009 Executive Committee

Commodore:	Ted Streuli ted@tedstreuli.com	605-8073 (h) 589-0981 (m)
Vice-Comm:	Sam Tiffany stiffany@powercosts.com	793-1398 (h) 822-3280 (m)
Rear-Comm:	Altus Boren altusboren@yahoo.com	802-8869 (m)
Secretary:	Elsbeth Dowd efield@ou.edu	579-0424 (h) 609-540-2425 (m)
Treasurer:	David Craigie incipient@msn.com	741-2555 (h) 613-7774 (m)
Fleet Captain	Karen Thurston karen_thurston@cox.net	401-8454 (m)
Past-Comm:	Phil Moershel pmoershel@sbcglobal.net	364-6304 (h) 208-1532 (m)
M'sheet Ed:	Les Cummings les-cummings@omrf.org	823-2342 (m) 271-7188 (w)

Your 2009 officers! From left, Sam Tiffany, Vice-Commodore, Elsbeth Dowd, Secretary, Karen Thurston, Fleet Captain, Ted Streuli, Commodore, David Craigie, Treasurer, Phil Moershel, Past-Commodore and Altus Boren, Rear Commodore not shown.

Thunderbird Sailing Club
P.O. Box 1652
Norman, OK 73070-1086