

The Mainsheet



T h u n d e r b i r d S a i l i n g C l u b

From Your Commodore

Hi All

Your Thunderbird Sailing Club board has been working diligently on this year's calendar. 2010 promises to be a fun and busy year for the club. There will be quite a few club sponsored sailing opportunities this year, starting with the first clean-up of our adopted mile (Alameda St. from 72nd to 84th) on March 6. Wait a minute! That's not sailing! Right, but there will be sailing afterward. We'll be freshening up our mile for about an hour, then have several hours to sail when we're done. This will be a great time to get in a little community service, maybe meet someone new, and have some fun sailing. If you don't have a boat, you can ride along with someone who does. Be looking for a sign-up sheet with details in your email inbox or contact a board member to sign up. Commodore's Cup races will start back up in May, there are also plans in the works for some Wednesday night fun sails (races?) for our centerboard folks, and the program for some of our spring and summer meetings will be evening sails. That should be enough sailing for everyone to fill their sails a few times this year.

There will also be plenty of chances to help with events this year. Volunteering to help at regattas, youth sailing camps, adult sailing classes, CAST for Kids, and other

events is a fun and rewarding way to help out our community. Thunderbird Sailing Club has a great volunteer spirit and I know we can count on everyone to pitch in and help with these activities. Look for a sign-up sheet coming your way. Until next month,

Smooth Sailing,

Sam



M A R D I G R A S !

This month's club meeting will be this Saturday, February 13, a week earlier than usual. We'll be meeting in Norman at the annual Mardi Gras parade. The theme of this year's parade is "All You Need is Love" and TSC's entry will be "The Love Boat". Yes, we'll be dressing up my Flying Scot as the famous cruise ship from the 1970's TV show. You can come dressed as Capt. Stubing, "Gopher", Doc, Julie or a cruise passenger, 60's hippie, or march to your own

TSC Annual Dues!

\$50 full, \$25 Associate and \$15 Student. For

more information go to:

www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org

drummer – just come ready to have some fun! We'll be meeting at 5:00 pm at the Northeast corner of Peeters and Comanche, across the street from the courthouse. If that spot's already taken, we'll be in the vicinity, just look for the Love Boat. We'll be tail-gating, socializing, and decorating until the parade starts at 6:45 and the parade will probably last less than an hour. Bring your own food (there will be a charcoaler or two available) and the club will supply water and sodas. Check the internet at <http://www.travelok.com/>

media_room/release/2010-norman-mardi-gras-parade-february-13 for more details about the parade.

Update on Lake Thunderbird Buoys

As many of you know the TSC will be placing four new and two older model regulatory buoys on the Lake this spring. The Taylor Made buoys are the latest models and the Fleet Captain and committee will determine where the buoys will be placed. They will also need to determine the depth of the water for each buoy and the date and or lake height when the soundings were made. Once known we can cut the cable lengths to provide some 10' of extra cable over 'normal' 1039' lake height. The buoys will be placed to serve two purposes, first and foremost for navigation aids and secondly as racing marks. Also, we thank David Craigie and Vernon Green for helping to make the anchors for

all six buoys.

We have received approval from the Park Manager to put the buoys on the lake!

The photos were taken on Saturday, February 6 as Dave Craigie and yours truly installed the numbers and the high intensity reflective tape on the four new buoys. And yes, the old buoys are numbered "4" and "6". We do have a grant application submitted to the National Water Safety Congress to cover most of the cost. If the grant is not funded in full, the TSC, LTEF, and BoatHouse will share the costs equally.



What to expect from your fleet captain this year!

I want to use this space to explain what my plans are for the coming years commodores cup.

Things will be pretty similar to last year, the races will be on Wed. nights. I chose that for several reasons but mainly because it is a really nice midweek break for those that can make it out and it doesn't conflict with too many things. The starts will be set up like last year were the slower boats will start first with progressively faster boats starting after. One thing I will change is how much lead

the slower boats get, I want the faster boats to just barely be able to catch the slower boats in the allotted time so that some of the less race focused boats still get to cross the line first! But don't worry you more serious racers because the results will still be based on total elapsed time and will be figured using the Portsmouth handicap rating system. Of course the skipper that consistently does well will take home the travelling trophy. But I wanted to encourage people to get out and race so I am going to include a nightly price for the first

boat across the finish line. Any boat could be the first boat on any given night because of the way we are doing the starts so it should be a lot of FUN!

Your Fleet Captain

Vernon Green

Treasurers Report

Greetings Sailors,

Last May, Joyce and I towed our Hunter 26, *Incipient*, to Kentucky Lake where we spent three weeks cruising. This is a good stopping off place to be while we are enroute to Canada for the summer; it is too early in May, or June for that matter to be on the water in Canada.

I wrote an article about our time on Kentucky Lake with other trailer/sailors and it was published in the Trailer/Sailors Association Magazine, Clipper Snips. It is now being presented in this issue and I hope that you enjoy it. If anyone ever has a yearning to trailer somewhere, please let me know and I will make it happen.

Renewal Notices:

Renewal notices were sent out last September and to date we still have many members who have failed to renew. **Please**, consider renewing your membership today. A big **THANK YOU!!!** to everyone who has taken the time to return their renewal form, or who have gone on line to renew electronically. **THANK YOU TOO**, for the generosity of all who have chosen to donate to the LTEF. Considering the economic climate in the U.S., this has been a good year from where I sit.

If you have not received your renewal notice, please get in touch with me asap.

If you would like to renew on line, just go to our club web site WWW.thunderbirdsailingclub.org click on the membership link and fill in the necessary information. NOTE: If there are no changes in your information, then you only need to fill in your first and last name and e-mail address.

Balance in the bank.

The current balance in our TSC checking account is \$6408.36. Included is an amount of \$390.90 that we are holding in trust for the Junior Sailing Club. I have one outstanding bill to US Sail, but other than that we are debt free. Thank you all for all that you do to support the TSC.

See you on the water

David Craigie, Treasurer, TSC

Membership Information

If any of your membership information has changed, please contact:

David Craigie
101 W. Marshall Dr, Midwest City OK 73110
405 741 2555 Incipient@MSN.com

Upcoming Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to the following TSC members. If your birthday is not included, it is probably because you did not share that information with your Treasurer/Membership Secretary. If you want to share your special day, please contact me at: Incipient@msn.com or phone 741 2555. Thanks, David

February

Elsbeth Dowd 2/4

Virginia Fitzpatrick 2/5

Vicki Palone 2/6

Gray Graham 2/8

Glenda Anderson 2/9

Karen Rieger 2/12

Liz Hedrick 2/13

David Hendricks 2/20

Fabiola Spens 2/25

Isaac Finkbeiner 2/27

March

Jason Wells 3/8

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

Barbara Cummings 3/21

Catherine Morin 3/21

Kathleen Smith 3/26

Michael Ozmun 3/28

NSPS

Rick Shaw and I just attended the National Sailing Programs Symposium in Houston. Glede Holman was also there, sent down by the OCU program. It was an easy drive and the Super 8 was just fine - thanks to Rick for putting the miles on his car and the BoatHouse for funding this trip. This was a pretty intense conference with the many choices of topics and great opportunities to hear what other sailing programs are doing. Some highlights:

The keynote speaker was Nick Hayes, a market researcher and sailor who just published a book - [Saving sailing : the story of choices, families, time commitments, and how we can create a better future](#). Despite what many of us think of as an irresistible pastime, participation in sailing is down 40% in the last decade, and 70% since a peak in 1979. Through research and over a 1000 interviews he begins to unravel why this is and what might

be done about it. The conclusion, which he says is staring us in the face, is to take time to sail with your family and friends. It is the shared complexity and shared depth of experience that leaves an indelible appreciation for sailing. For community sailing programs and clubs that might mean structuring classes or sails that encourage mentoring and family or group experience. Get the schedule right so parents can participate. Start much earlier than 12-14 year olds. One provocative idea is that sending kids out in solo boats to learn sailing does little to retain their interest; most such kids take their lessons then do not return. A program in Wisconsin has a class called Pre-Pram: a 3-6 y.o. kid and a parent in each Opti. The book is fascinating and articulates much of what is happening in the sailing world.



US Powerboating, part of US Sailing, now has a well developed course. Rick and I sat down with Dick Alsop, who helped develop this and gives these courses. He was an Olympic sailor and CO of the aircraft carrier JFK! He teaches safe powerboating in Florida, where almost all his students are kids. This is the only hand-on, on-the-water powerboat safety course in the country.

Adaptive sailing: opening up sailing to people with disabilities was a recurring theme in 4 presentations. I heard about the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors(BAADS), Traverse City's new program using Access dinghies, Houston YC's 6 year old program with the Special Olympics, in Flying Scots, and Project Odyssey of the Wounded Warriors Project, which uses the calm and focus of sailing to help heal "invisibly" wounded vets with PTSD and brain trauma.

Kid's programs: several speakers addressed children in sailing, like the Young Mariners Foundation for at-risk kids in Stamford, CT. Rick learned a bunch of new sailing games and drills, with interesting names like Stick Stick Dock and Nautical Bondage.

US Sailing Community Sailing Centers: this is an initiative that

would allow registered sailing organizations to have reciprocity with other sailing centers, for example a child or adult having passed a sailing course in one center could use boats at another participating center.

We spent one afternoon outside at the Lakewood Yacht Club - I sailed 3 plastic boats including the tiny and dynamic Open Bic, and the very nice Bruce Kirby designed Pixel, manufactured in China (surprise!). I also did a little stand-up paddling - much fun on a long and wide surfboard with a long-handled paddle.

Preparing boats for the season: best practices for readying the fleet.

Dean Brenner gave a motivational talk about leadership and "aligning our arrows" - how every organization needs clarity and alignment, that everyone must understand the goals, that roles and responsibilities must be assigned ... could be something to think about as we begin this new year.

Paul Reynolds

LTEF News

The Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation held its annual board of directors meeting on Thursday evening, January 21, 2010. Ten of the 12 board members were present and Ms. Betsey Streuli and Mr. Jerry Lojka were elected to three-year terms. The board now has 14 members and Rep. Bill Nations (District 44), remains as the Honorary Chair.

The total income for 2010 was over \$12,000 and expenses were over \$11,000 (including \$3,917 investment in the Endowment) generating over \$1,000 increase in the bank account. The LTEF expresses its appreciation to the anonymous donor who made the \$1,000 matching gift donation and for those who matched the gift and raised over \$3,000 for the LTEF.

The board also expressed its appreciation to the TSC and all the BoatHouse partner volunteers who have made the past 7 years at the BoatHouse so successful through their financial donations, gifts-in-kind, and for all their terrific volunteer hours. Speaking of recognizing the terrific work being done at the BoatHouse, the LTEF was notified by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits that it is one of 27 finalists for the Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence (ONE) award. This means that the LTEF will be honored at a dinner/gala in April in Tulsa with many dignitaries from all over Oklahoma in attendance. The LTEF will receive a minimum grant in the amount of at least \$5,000! There are three finalists in each of the nine categories.

Les also reported that we have three additional outstanding grants at the present time, two of them to the National Water Safety Congress, one to assist with funding for the new buoys on Lake Thunderbird and the other for the teaching materials for the BoatHouse sailing classes this year. The third grant application is to the Norman Community Fund (Ann Zarrow Youth Fund) for funds to help purchase a new sail training boat.

The LTEF received donations from 2/3rds of the Board of Directors totaling nearly \$3,000 in 2009. At year end, the LTEF's Dave Shumake Endowment was valued at over \$30,000 and the cash balances total over \$15,000 in checking and money market accounts. Approval was given to appoint Larry Pace, CPA as the auditor to complete the financials and 990 for the 2009 fiscal year. The LTEF Endowment is managed by the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma.

Officers for 2010 are: President, Roger Elliott; Vice-president, Dr. Frank Lawler; Secretary, Marilyn Friend; and Treasurer, Connie Divine. The other members are Betsey Streuli, Jerry Lojka, Glede Holman, Walt Hedrick, Phil Dame, Steve Johnson, Janie Davis, Chad Cox, Les Cummings (Fundraising Chair), and Sam Tiffany, Commodore of the Thunderbird Sailing Club. The Bylaws of the LTEF require the TSC Commodore to be a one-year member of the LTEF; this bylaw was included with the articles of Incorporation, as the TSC serves as the Managing Partner in the BoatHouse.

Without the TSC there would never have been a BoatHouse or the LTEF. Thank you TSC!

Gunkholing on Kentucky Lake

by David Craigie

Kentucky Lake is located in southwestern Kentucky and is the last body of water on the Tennessee River before it joins the Ohio on the way to the Mississippi. It is a very large lake that is a small part of America's vast water transportation system. This massive lake stretches north and south for 180 miles, with widths of up to four miles, and offers boating opportunities that are infinite with numerous easily accessible anchorages. Joyce and I choose to visit this area with our 1995 Hunter 26, *Incipient* while waiting for things to warm up in the northern latitudes. We were on Kentucky Lake from May 23rd through June 11th and during that time we were joined by ten other trailer/sailors for varying periods of time.

For the record, this was the first organized Trailer/Sailor Association (T/SA) cruise in this area and was done in conjunction with the Heartland of America group (HOA), several of whom are members of both T/SA and HOA.

Somehow I was nominated to be the impromptu cruise leader, in partnership with Tom Grass, *Grasshopper III*, Creve Coeur MO. We started chatting about this cruise in the dead of winter and as spring came on we were collecting names and talking about dates and places. Tom had previously cruised with HOA on Kentucky Lake and was a valuable resource and a delightful co-cruise leader.

Tom was also very helpful in creating a web site with information about the cruise and links to some of the many marinas that offer launch ramps and services in this cruising area. It can still be viewed at: www.geocities.com/tgrass462/HOA_Cruise_2009.html By the time we were ready to head out on this adventure over twenty trailer/sailors had contacted me. Everyone was genuinely interested early on and excited

about a cruise in this area. But, situations change and when contacted later, many were unable to attend, for a verity of reasons; maybe next year. The good news was that during our time on Kentucky Lake we sailed with ten other trailer/sailors, some T/SA members, some HOA; all trailer/sailors though.

Late May and early June are early in the boating season. Consequently, most members were only able to attend for a limited time; some for a few days and others for a week. With some schools still in session and other work demands, it was resolved that it was OK to show up whenever and stay for as long as able. Further, it was decided that because the area of Kentucky Lake that we would be cruising on would be limited to about forty miles above the Kentucky Lock and Dam, it would be possible to catch up and join in at will.

Thank goodness for cell phones and good to excellent coverage on the lake.

There are many choices of where to launch your boat and store your trailer on Kentucky Lake. Our choice was Kentucky Lake Dam Marina which is located on the west side of Kentucky Lake just above the dam at MM 23. www.kydammarina.com We were able to travel four lane highways all the way from Oklahoma City to Kentucky Lake. Once off the highway, it was only a short drive to the marina ramp.

There is no charge to use the ramp and the parking is free!!! I was warned that this is a busy place on weekends, but during the time of our visit we found ample space at the ramp and more than enough parking space. Adjacent to the ramp and the parking lot is one of the nicest bays that I have ever seen to anchor in. At eight to twelve feet, a mud bottom and completely sheltered within the sea walled marina, it is ideal for a first nights anchorage. In addition, the whole area inside the marinas protected sea wall is a no wake zone. The adjacent Kentucky Dam Marina has free Wi Fi, the staff is very friendly and if you would like a slip for the evening,

This is the first page of four from an article that our treasurer Dave Craigie wrote for a trailer sailors magazine. I am going to include a page or two to each edition of the mainsheet over the next few months.

Come Sail With the Sea Scouts!

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!

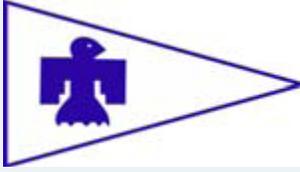
◇ Learn to Scuba Dive

◇ Participate in community activities

◇ Have lots of fun on the water



TSC



Thunderbird Sailing Club Officers



Commodore: Sam Tiffany

Vice-Comm: Ed & Doris

Rear-Comm: Kerry Knowles

Secretary: Stephanie Nguyen

Treasurer: Dave Craigie

Fleet Captain : Vernon Green

Past-Comm: Ted Strueli

What is Thunderbird Sailing Club

The Thunderbird Sailing Club is a non-profit corporation established in 1969 and is affiliated with the United States Sailing Association and Central States Sailing Association.

Membership is open to anyone of good moral character interested in sailing and water safety. Boat ownership is not required.

The club sponsors a full racing schedule of long distance and short course races, night races and fun races. A favorite end-of-season event is the Hiram Douglas Memorial Regatta, started in 1983.

There is a strong current of volun-

teerism in the club. Whether you are a complete novice or a dedicated racer, you will find helping hands and good advice. We have 12 US Sailing certified sailing instructors and one instructor trainer. Many of our members have raced in regional regattas, and several in national events. The cruising group has sent members to Lake Texoma, the Gulf Coast, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, and Chesapeake Bay. And should you need it, the club's collective wisdom on boat repair, rigging, launching, marinas, etc., is extensive. TSC is also proud to sponsor Sea Scout Ship 5790.



Two boats crossing during the Hiram Douglas Regatta 2009