



# Mainsheet

June 2011

[www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org](http://www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org)

*Thunderbird Sailing Club*

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

## Commodore's Message:

*Paul Reynolds*

**P.O. Box 1652**

**Norman, Oklahoma 73070**

Note: The TSC and BoatHouse share this PO Box.

Thunderbird Sailors:

June is upon us; prime time for sailing. Many thanks to Karen Thurston and the helpers at the Family Sailing Day. We could have used a few more participants but successfully introduced several folks and, most fun, a number of kids, to sailing and playing with boats. We also need to thank Glede and Teresa Holman, great BoatHouse supporters, for their timely donation of a canoe and kayak.

I'm very happy to announce some new members: Greg and Tracy Stevens, and Julian and Lana Horner. Many of you met these nice folks at the last meeting. Those potluck dinners and your friendship are hard for any prospective member to resist. Greg is busily refurbishing his twin bilge-board M-16 scow, while the Horners are now buying a Catalina 20. Welcome, welcome!

June is BUSY: the adult Level 1 class starts on the 6th. Contact Mike Klatt to help out. Vernon Green runs a handicap race on June 12. A one-design race and the Beach Party comprise our program for the 18th. Phil is running the first kid's camp June 20-25; it is full to bursting with 13 students!

I'm looking forward to more boats launching this month. We are finally getting back on the water.

Paul



## Kid's Sailing Camps

### HELP NEEDED!

The June camp is 6/20 thru 6/25 and the 2nd Camp is July 11-16. Phil Moershel and Les Cummings, instructors for the 1st and 2nd camps respectively, need your help.

Please contact Les at [les-cummings@omrf.org](mailto:les-cummings@omrf.org) or 823-2342 to volunteer for the July Camp or Phil at [pmoershel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmoershel@sbcglobal.net) or 405-208-1532 to volunteer for the June Camp! The June Camp's registration is closed with only a few spots left for July.

If you'd like to register a student on-line and pay via PayPal, go to :

[www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org](http://www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org) and click on the LEARN TO SAIL link at the top of the webpage.

# COMMODORE'S CUP KICK OFF REGATTA!

Vernon Green

Thunderbird Sailors,

Sunday, June 12th will be the first of the handicap Commodores cup races. That Sunday we plan to start at 3pm. This should allow everyone time to get there after any morning commitments yet still get us off the water at a decent time.

The start line will be between the #4 buoy and the end of the dock. We will sail to mark #1 which is located in the mouth of the cove to the east of clear bay restaurant. From there we will sail to Mark #6 which is located north of the club in the middle of the lake. From there head back south and back through the same line as the start.

So at the start you should be to the north side of the start line and at 3pm or after cross it headed south.

To make sure that your watch is synced up with mine check out this website,

<http://www.time.gov/timezone.cgi?Central/d/-6/java>

After the race just record the time you cross the finish line and then email that to me at Santa-na616tdg@gmail.com.

I will score the race using the Portsmouth handicap listed for any boat participating. If you plan to race let me know so I can have the handicap number ready.

I encourage everyone to head to the boat house dock after the racing and hang out and socialize.

## June 18 TSC Meeting

Phil Moershel

*Drive up or sail up night. A fine social evening on the beach and lawn.*

Thundersailors

Let's sail up or drive up for an evening on the lawn and beach. The Board will bring baked beans coleslaw and potato salad. Members should bring their favorite item for grilling and a desert to share. The grill will be up and ready at 6:00 to transform whatever you bring into a burnt offering. The agenda for this evening is to socialize and to enjoy a fine June evening. Officially, we will be celebrating the nexus (sort of) of the full moon (June 15) and the summer solstice (June 21). Please bring your comfy lawn chair and plan on chatting till sunset.

### Dingy Drag Races

We will be racing dinghies on Saturday afternoon June 18 at 2:00 before the TSC evening meeting. Please turn out to race, crew, watch, and cheer starting at 2:00. We will do matched one design races with the three 15' Americans with one skipper and one crew on each. We will attempt to get in as many heats as the afternoon allows. If you are planning on racing Saturday afternoon June 18, please email ([phil@moershel.com](mailto:phil@moershel.com)) or call me (208-1532)

# Family Sailing Day

By: Karen Thurston

The Thunderbird Sailing Club and the Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse held its first Family Sailing Day last Saturday, and it was a great success. Activities included kayaking, canoeing, swimming, playing on the beach, and, of course, sailing. Many who attended had never experienced these joys on the water, and I was glad to be there to witness their smiles when they did.

The morning started with canoeing, kayaking, and swimming while we readied the sailboats. After lunch, each boat went out with an experienced sailor to introduce sailing to each family in attendance. The families were welcomed to learn to steer, trim sails, or just sit back and relax. I, personally, took out four young girls who all steered through several tacks each and learned how to trim the jib. They had so much fun that the enrollment of the July Sailing Kids Camp has now grown!

I must say the newly-acquired fleet of Americans made this day very enjoyable. I hope that these boats get much use and enable the BoatHouse to continue to introduce sailing to members of the community in the future. Thanks goes out to all those that helped me pull this new event off: Phil Moershel, Sam Tiffany, Paul Reynolds, Mike Devenitch, Marilyn Friend, Kerry Knowles, Mike Klatt, and Altus Boren.

*Editors note: The TSC would like to express its appreciation to Karen Thurston for developing this 'family oriented' program and hopefully it will grow over time. Please express your appreciation to Karen and all the helpers listed above.*



## Happy June Birthdays

Ted Streuli 01-Jun  
Gus Shaver Potts 09-Jun  
Karen Thurston 14-Jun  
JB Messer 14-Jun

Laquita McDonald 18-Jun  
Jim Shinn 19-Jun  
Fredrica Cottrell 22-Jun  
"Chris"Luppens 30-Jun

We are missing many Birthdates, if we missed yours please send the information to David Craigie at [incipient@msn.com](mailto:incipient@msn.com).

# Help needed for 2011 Kids Sailing Camps!



Monday thru Saturday 9AM til 2PM

Please lend a hand for the June and/or July Kids Sailing Camps this year. As you know last year we had to cancel the June Camp because of the tornado. This year we are excited about being back on schedule with both the June and July Kids Sailing Camps. Any and all help appreciated.

Registrations are already coming in!

**Contact Phil and Les to sign up!**

**June Camp:** 9am-2pm Monday-Saturday June 20-25, 2011

Primary Instructor: Phil Moershel: [pmoershel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmoershel@sbcglobal.net) 405-208-1532

---

**July Camp:** 9am-2pm Monday-Saturday July 11-16, 2011

Primary Instructor: Les Cummings: [les-Cummings@omrf.org](mailto:les-Cummings@omrf.org) 405-823-2342

---

Remember Saturday is the busiest day as we have awards and need to put equipment away!

**AND THESE CAMPS PROVIDE THE PRIMARY INCOME FOR THE BOATHOUSE!**

# 2011 Thunderbird Sailing Club and BoatHouse Calendar

TSC Board meeting 5PM 3rd Sat each month, general meetings starts at 6PM. Sea Scouts 10am-2pm each Saturday. Full moons on June 15, July 15, Aug 13, and Sep 12.

Jun 5 BH Management Mtg 3:00

Jun 6-11 Adult Level 1 Basic Sailing Class - Mike Klatt Help is needed

Jun 12 Commodore's Cup Regatta – 3:00 Start. Any boat, Portsmouth handicap - Vernon Green

Jun 18 Commodore's Cup regatta – 2:00-5:00, One design (3 American 14.6), 6 skippers, 6 crew, 2 races

Jun 18 TSC Mtg - Beach party following the race to celebrate the solstice and a full(ish ) moon

Jun 20-25 Sailing Smart Kid's camp - Phil Help is needed

Jul 2 Alameda Mile Trash pick-up – Mary Anne 10:00 - Alameda Mkt., x from fire station

Jul 4 BH rental

Jul 10 Commodore's Cup regatta – 2:00-5:00, One design (3 American 14.6), 6 skippers, 6 crew, 2 races

Jul 11-16 Sailing Smart Kid's camp - Les Help is Needed

Jul 16 TSC Mtg 6:00 (day after full moon) Program: Exotic and nuisance species coming to a lake near you.

Jul 21-23 Sailing Better intermediate Kid's camp - Paul Help is needed

Jul 24 TBD - Boathouse Kid's camp regatta

Jul 29 Meteor shower – WATCH the Delta Aquarids and the Capricornids from the BH dock!

Aug 20 Commodore's Cup regatta – 2:00-5:00, One design (3 American 14.6), 6 skippers, 6 crew, 2 races

Aug 20 TSC Mtg 6:00

Aug 27 Greater Oklahoma Disabled Sports Association Water Fest

Sep 5 TSC McDonald's Cup & Boathouse Volunteer Appreciation Day (Labor Day)

Sep 17 Catch A Special Thrill 7:00 AM

Sep 17 Commodore's Cup regatta – 2:00-5:00, One design (3 American 14.6), 6 skippers, 6 crew, 2 races

Sep 17 TSC Mtg 6:00

Oct 2 Layton Regatta

Oct 8 Alameda Mile Trash pick-up - Mary Anne 10:00 - Alameda Mkt., x from fire station

Oct 15 TSC Annual business meeting and election

Nov 6 Hiram Douglas Regatta

Nov 19 tentative, BoatHouse work party 1:00 - 5:00

Nov 19 TSC Mtg

Dec 10 TSC Holiday Party (final meeting of the year)

## Happy 50th High School Reunion!! Ed Shoemaker

Ed and Doris will be attending Ed's 50th High School Reunion in Nowata, OK. During the weekend of June 4-6. They hope, of course, to see friends from the class and hear of what changes have happened to them since Ed graduated in May, 1961. We can just see Ed and Doris doing the 'twist' to Chubby Checker's music now.

## BOATHOUSE HOSTS TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S ESL PROGRAM

By: Emily Jerman

Lake Thunderbird became “international waters” April 30 when students from around the world learned about sailing at the BoatHouse and then experienced it first-hand. For all but one of the more than 20 participants, the day marked their first-ever sail. Even learning how to put on a life jacket was a new (often laughter-inducing!) experience.

The students who participated in the activity are part of Trinity Lutheran Church’s English-as-a-second-language conversation program. Mike Klatt started things off with a presentation on basic sailing vocabulary, the points of sail, and how “lift” works. After lunch, Altus Boren and Paul Reynolds, with the help of some fantastic crew members (aka their families and friends), took the students sailing.

Mike’s discussion of “heeling” and advice to watch out for the “boom” came in handy—it was a breezy afternoon! After returning to shore, the students said their biggest surprise was how much the boats “leaned” over.

While waiting for their turn on the water, the students talked about the differences in boating in the U.S. and at home. Several students from China said the only time they had ridden a boat was for (crowded) transportation down a river.

The students who participated in the sailing day hail from China, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, and Germany. Thank you, Mike, Altus, Paul, and helpers, for so generously sharing your time, expertise, and kindness with these students. You offered them a new experience they will take home with them and remember for years to come!

Each Saturday during the school year, the English conversation program features a presentation on a different American- or Oklahoma-culture-related topic. Mike has presented on sailing several times, and Les Cummings spoke about life on the Chesapeake Bay last fall. If you are interested in talking to the group, please contact Emily Jerman. We’d love to have you!



Top Left show the English as a Second Language group enjoying the view from the new dock. Bottom left shows the students getting ready to enjoy a nice sailing trip aboard Altus Boren’s beautiful Dolphin 22 “My Hope.” Photo above shows Mike Klatt giving a quick sailing terminology class to our guests.

# Periscope: Don't leap when Neptune's looking

By [Ted Streuli](#) (Former Commodore TSC)

The Journal Record

Posted: 09:17 PM Tuesday, May 17, 2011

It was about two years ago that I took a colleague out for a sail on Seascapes, my 25-foot, ill-fated sloop that did not survive last year's May 10 storms. We came into the slip under sail, a chore I mastered with the help of an unreliable motor. My friend's job was to catch a line with the boat hook and stop us, but we were caught by an unexpected puff. We missed the line but hit the dock, damaging the bow in a way that would embarrass better sailors.

Since then, I have teased him regularly over the gaff and blamed him publicly for the miscue that caused Seascapes to crash into the dock.

This year, I got my comeuppance.

Nearly one year to the day after 55 tornadoes came twisting through Oklahoma, we launched the new sailboat, the one that replaced the one that the F4 took somewhere over the rainbow and redeposited on Lake Thunderbird as a heap of unseaworthy fiberglass, aluminum and sailcloth.

The new boat is a sturdy little Irish lass built for Atlantic swells by the O'Day company in Fall River, Mass. She's 23 years old, but she's solid and was well cared for by her owners in Wisconsin.

We christened her in my partner's backyard, where I performed a short but official-sounding renaming ceremony. Sailing lore insists that changing a boat's name is bad luck because it will confuse and therefore anger Neptune, whose wrath no mariner wants to incur. But the boat came with a name we couldn't abide: Pixie Dust. So we peeled off the letters, made an appropriate sacrifice to the god of the seas, blessed the boat and her new name, and thereby made ourselves the Shamrock Sailing Team.

Shamrock was named for her Irish heritage, the three leaves that represented the three partners, and a bit of luck; two America's Cup winners have shared that name.

Mast stepped and sails furled, Shamrock was launched for her maiden Oklahoma voyage on the finest sailing day on record, 75 degrees with a fresh northerly breeze. Shamrock flew across the lake as though she'd lived there all her life and knew just where to go.

We tested her mettle on all points of sail and found her to be well-balanced, responsive and, much to our surprise, a little faster than the San Juan 21 that couldn't catch us. We sailed about nine miles, enjoying every tack and jibe, the weather, the company, and our excellent foresight in selecting such a fine vessel. With a grand afternoon of sailing astern, we dropped the main, furled the jib and turned into the mostly rebuilt marina.

As we motored slowly into our slip, I stood abeam on her port side, one hand gripping a shroud, feeling every bit the triumphant conqueror of the seas looking, I'm sure, just like an Old Spice commercial. We were tying up on our starboard side, leaving me with nothing to do.

Impulse struck. I'll hop onto the dock, I thought, then run up front and catch the bow.

Chest full, I leapt for the dock, about four feet away. Unfortunately, I only managed to jump about three feet, nine inches, smashing thigh, shin and elbow on the dock's cement edge. That caused me to utter the sort of phrase that gives sailors their reputation for colorful language and those on deck, clearly concerned for my well-being, to grunt, "What the hell'd you do that for?"

As I limped into the office that Monday, a colleague unwittingly asked, "How was the first sail? You didn't crash into the dock, did you?"

Well, yes, I confessed sheepishly. Yes I did.



The three owners of the **Shamrock** are Jim Waller, David Craigie and Ted Streuli. At left are Jim at the tiller and David in his favorite pose. On the right Ted is being helped by his son Raymond.



## The rebuilding of *ENYA*

Following the tornado of May 2010 Roger, Cheri, Barbara and I decided that we (Roger and I) would rebuild the old girl ourselves. We found a Catalina 30 Tall-Rig mast on eBay and had it shipped from California which was a story in itself. Fortunately we were allowed to move our boat to John and Gus Potts acreage east of Norman and this has proved invaluable to the project. We had very little hull damage at all, just a few gelcoat scratches that should be repaired quite easily. We thought we could save some of the stanchions but after installing 6 of the eight we found the two originals were bent as well so we now have all new stanchions and lifelines. A local welder helped straighten out a lot of our stainless including the bow and stern pulpits. They still have a little warp to them, but hey, it will be a remembrance of a horrendous day in May 2010. Most importantly, there are no structural issues with the Enya.

We have completed the bottom job which consisted of cleaning and sanding and the application of two or three coats of Interlux Interprotect 2000 and another three coats of Interlux Micron CSC. The mast has been prepped for painting but the heavy winds have thus far stopped any paint application to the mast.

We have two small pieces of teak to fix as the Enya has a teak rubrail from stem to stern which saved her from more hull damage. John Potts has the teak in hand and will provide the expertise to fix this for us.

We have had all new canvas made by a local canvas maker including a new bimini, dodger, sailcover, binnacle cover, and cockpit covers. In addition, we are having new cockpit cushions made by JSI in Florida. If anyone would like to purchase a used set of vinyl cockpit cushions, just let us know. We will share the name of the canvas maker once we install the canvas and can give a knowledgeable review of her work.

This past week we ordered a new mainsail, new forestay, new furler and will have our 145 Genoa rebuilt. All of these items will be supplied by SailCare in Pennsylvania. We have used their services before and they have been great to work with. We have also purchased a new wind-instrument as ours was totally destroyed and Datamarine could not replace it. We are going to try a reasonably priced NASA Marine Clipper wind-instrument and will let everyone know how it works out.

Hopefully by mid July we will be ready to launch and will need some help to move the boat to the launching site and step the mast and launch at the Hog Creek ramp at the lake. We have a dock at the marina.



**THE FINISHED BOTTOM JOB IN TEAL GREEN LOOKS GREAT!**





Your 2011 officers! From left, Paul Reynolds, Commodore, David Craigie, Treasurer, Phil Moershel, Vice Commodore, Sheryl Tiffany, Secretary, Sam Tiffany Past-Commodore., Not shown is Kerry Knowles, Rear Commodore. We still have an opening for Fleet Captain.

**Boat House News! Contact Phil Moershel and Les to volunteer for the June and July Kids Sailing Camps and contact Mike Klatt for the Small Boat Sailing Class (see below)**

## TSC MEETING (Social)

**SATURDAY JUNE 18**

**6-8 pm**

**The board will bring beans, coleslaw, and the grill will be ready for our members to use. Bring your lawn-chairs favorite grilling food and a dessert to share. Dinghy races will be held at 2PM that same day! See page 2 for info.**

**Commodore** Paul Reynolds 405 292 5364 par2058@yahoo.com

**Past Commodore** Sam Tiffany 793-1398 (h) stiffany@powercosts.com 822-3280 (c)

**Vice Commodores** Phil Moershel 405 530 8952 (w) 405 208 1532 (c) pmoershel@sbcglobal.net

**Fleet Captain** currently vacant

**Rear Commodore** Kerry Knowles 833-7044, kmellgren@cox.net

**Secretary** Sheryl Tiffany 793-1398, stiffany@cox.net

**Treasurer** David Craigie 613-7774 Incipient@msn.com

**Mainsheet Editor** Jim Eller 405-924-3148 (c) wjimeller@gmail.com

## SMALL BOAT SAILING CLASS STARTS JUNE 6—Mike Klatt, Instructor

Small Boat Sailing starts June 6, and volunteers are needed. I've attached the syllabus so you can see the schedule. Ideally, volunteers need to arrive 30-60 minutes before class to help set up. Please let me know if you can help, and which days you are available.

Monday, June 6 (5:30p – 9:00p)

Tuesday, June 7 (5:30p – 9:00p)

Wednesday, June 8 (5:30p – 9:00p)

Thursday, June 9 (5:30p – 9:00p) Reserve day. No class unless needed.

Friday, June 10 (5:30p – 9:00p)

Saturday, June 11 (8:30a – 4:30p)

Saturday, June 11 (1:00p – 4:30p)

Sunday, June 12 (1:30p – 5:00p) Written Test, Graduation. Present US Sailing cards and Little Red Books.

**Mike Klatt can be contacted at Tel: 405-325-8870 or at mdklatt@ou.edu**

**PLEASE LEND A HAND!**