



www.thunderbirdsailingclub.org

Mainsheet

June 2006

Thunderbird Sailing Club
 An Oklahoma Chartered Corporation Affiliated with
 United States Sailing & Central States Sailing Associations

Commodore Corbett Brown

Congratulations to Howard Haines for the regional safety award that he received from the National Water Safety Council at last month's meeting. Howard always gives credit for these awards to the TSC members, but we all know that Howard is deserving of this award in his own right. I would also like to thank Neville Koop for the program that he presented on youth sailing. We have been very fortunate to have Neville for the last two years and I was sorry to hear that he will be leaving us soon. Neville, we wish you good luck on your new assignment and hope that you are able to continue sharing your love of sailing with others.

On Saturday, June 10, 2006 we have an evening sail and raft-up planned. There will be a full moon so make plans to come out to the lake and howl with us. Hopefully this will lead to more cruising events in the future.

I won't be with you at the June meeting, but please propose a toast to my older son, Corbett III, who will be receiving his Masters degree from the University of California – Santa Barbara on Sunday. We plan to spend Saturday sailing off the California coast. Wish us luck!

Corbett

Sickness and Distress

Adela Rojas sends greetings to all her TSC friends. She reports that her radiation treatments have been going well and her Dr. says her prognosis is very good. Adela also thanks everyone for their prayers, cards, and well wishes!

Phone numbers you should know.

- ◇ Little River Marina: Bob Davis
 office 364-8335 (c) 823-5077
- ◇ BoatHouse 990-5171
- ◇ BH Management 447-4974
- ◇ Lake Patrol 425-2143
- ◇ Cleveland Co. Sheriff 321-8600
- ◇ TBird Park office 364-7634
- ◇ TBird Ranger 360-3572

**P.O. Box 1652
 Norman, Oklahoma 73070**

Note: The TSC and BoatHouse are sharing the new PO box as listed above!

2006 Legislative Actions!

Governor Brad Henry signed **Senate Bill 1495** that creates the **Kyle Williams Boating Safety Education Act**, named in honor of a 12-year-old Edmond boy who died in a jet-ski accident nearly two years ago. Authored by Sen. Kenneth Corn (D-Poteau) and Rep. Ken Miller (R-Edmond), the measure establishes new requirements for children under 16 to operate certain types of watercraft.

Existing state law prohibits children under 12 from operating a boat or personal watercraft. With SB 1495, Oklahoma joins 44 other states that require boating safety education for teens and children.

IN ADDITION!

We are very pleased to announce that our efforts on behalf of all 501©(3) non-profits have been rewarded with the passing of SB1084! This bill contains language written by Rep. Bill Nations and Les Cummings that provides the same reduced excise tax and registration fees (for boats/motors owned by 501©(3) non-profits) that have been afforded to the scouts and K-12 schools in Oklahoma. We also express our appreciation to Rep. Thad Balkman, Rep. Calvin Calvey, Sen. author Cal Hobson, Randy Terrill, and the Governor's Chief of Staff, Gerald Adams. The language in our original bill, HB2798, was added as an amendment to SB1084 and was signed by the Governor on June 7, 2006.



Sea Cadets from the OKC area visited the BoatHouse for an afternoon sailing trip! The host was Chad Cox.

Treasurer Dave Craigie

Hi All,

As you know, we are well underway on our trip to the North Channel in Canada. With a stop-over in Delaware to purchase an outboard (no sales tax in Delaware you know) and to have some work done on the boat.

Doris Shoemaker will handle the duties of treasure in my absence although now I understand she is in Europe. We will be sure to request a full audit of the TSC finances when she returns :+)

Happy Sailing,
Dave

Editor's Note: Hopefully the Mainsheet will have the list of Birthdays and our New Members in the next edition!

**Sea Cadets set sail from BoatHouse
Submitted by Chad Cox**

A mom, registering her son for sailing camp, mentioned that he was joining the Sea Cadets and asked if the BoatHouse might host a sail for the group. We agreed and the event was held on May 20. Sixteen Sea Cadets with a couple of Midshipmen and the leader, Jeff Dean and an assistant arrived at about 2 PM.

There was a learning session to start with. They first heard about the BoatHouse history and function. We learned that the Sea Cadets is a program for 14-19 year olds, both boys and girls, with a collections of events and activities, such as repelling and study sessions as examples of the diversity. The program provides as outcomes a direct entry as a midshipman in the Navy, a good addition to a resume for college and even a chance for a scholarship. Oddly, there is no sail program in the collection.

The sail was for about an hour with skippers Les Cummings, Rick Eager, Walt Hedrick, Kerry Knowles and Karen Thurston. Although the forecast was for high winds, we were blessed to have at least decent winds for the sail. Clearly, we added a sorely needed sail event to their program.

Ed note: We hope to work with the Sea Cadets to provide a sailing class specific to their program needs.

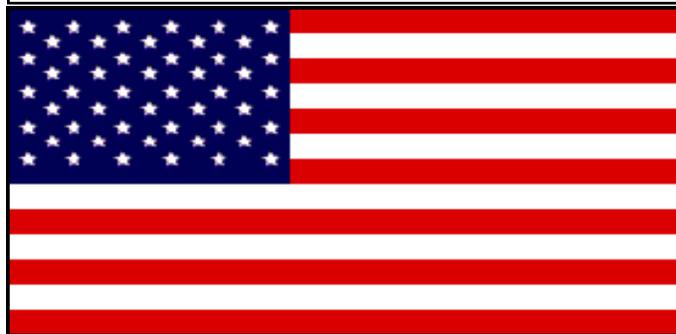
**FLEET CAPTAIN Kerry Knowles**

**Thunderbird Sailing Club
2006 Race and Recreation Schedule**

06/04	Sunday Commodores Cup Race 1:00
06/10	Saturday Raft-up Full Moon 6:00
07/08	Saturday Raft-up Full Moon 6:00
08/06	Sunday Commodores Cup Race 1:00
09/10	Sunday Commodores Cup Race 1:00
10/07	Saturday Layton Regatta 10:00
Nov. 5	Sunday Hiram Douglas Regatta 10:00

And other fun and challenging events as may be deemed necessary.

Kerry Knowles
Fleet Captain



Membership Information

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

**David Craigie Incipient@MSN.com
405 741 2555**

Volunteers needed!

Contact Skipper: Rick Shaw

Sea Scout Ship 5790

at:

[rick.a.shaw@usps.gov]





NOTICE OF RACE

CENTRAL STATES SAILING ASSOCIATION YOUTH CIRCUIT REGATTA #4



THE **WEST MARINE FUN** REGATTA

The Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse, Thunderbird State Park,
Norman, OK
July 29, 2006

RULES. The regatta shall be governed by the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing for 2005-2008 (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association, the rules of each class concerned (except as altered by the Sailing Instructions), the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions. The rules for all classes are altered so that membership in a class organization is not required.

CLASSES. Optimist, Sabot, Sunfish, Laser (Full and Radial), Club 420 and Others. All classes are “bring your own boat.” A minimum of three boats is required to form a class.

ELIGIBILITY. Open to all persons who do not turn 20 years of age during calendar year 2006. Optimists/Sabots are sailed in two fleets: Green Fleet – for novice sailors; and Red Fleet – for experienced sailors. Maximum Skipper age in Optimist/Sabot fleets is 15. Membership in a class organization is not required.

REGISTRATION. Pre-Registration is encouraged and may be done by sending a registration form to:
Les Cummings, Regatta Chairman, 717 SE 29th, Edmond, OK 73013, (fax) 405 271-3541,
Les-Cummings@mail.omrf.ouhsc.edu

Registration at the regatta will be conducted Saturday, July 29, 2006, between 0830 and 1000. Execution of a **Release of Liability, Health Care Release** and **Depiction Release** shall be required.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS will be provided at the registration and at the Skipper’s Meeting. If published in time, they may be posted on the CSSA website.

ENTRY FEE. An entry fee of \$15 per competitor will be collected at registration. This fee includes lunch and dinner for participants. Meals will be available for non-competitors at nominal cost.

SKIPPER’S MEETING. The Skippers’ meeting will be held at 1030, Saturday, in the conference room of the BoatHouse.

RACES. Subject to the decisions of the Race Committee, five races are scheduled. There will be no throw out race for scoring purposes. No race will be started after 1800.

LIFE JACKETS/PFD’S. All competitors shall be required to wear PFD’s at all times while on the water. PFD’s shall be worn outside all clothing.

SCHEDULE Saturday, July 29

0830-1000	Registration in the BoatHouse conference room
1000	Racing Clinic for beginners
1030	Skipper’s Meeting
1125	Warning Signal for the first race, other races to follow
~1700	Dinner and Award Presentation

AWARD PRESENTATION. Presentations will be held after dinner or approximately one hour after the last race or protest hearing is completed. Participation awards will be presented to all competitors.

DIRECTIONS. See www.lakethunderbirdboathouse.org/bhmap.htm

FURTHER INFORMATION. Contact -- Les Cummings, Regatta Chairman, (h) 405 341-2382, (o) 405 271-7188, (fax) 405 271-3541, Les-Cummings@mail.omrf.ouhsc.edu

HOWARD HAINES RECEIVES NATIONAL WATER SAFETY CONGRESS AWARD

During the May TSC membership meeting a surprise presentation was made to TSC past-Commodore Howard Haines. Mr. Arlyn Hendricks, President of the National Water Safety Congress and his wife Sharon were on hand to present the prestigious 2006 Region IV safety award to Howard. The award recognized the many years of teaching and volunteerism for the TSC, OCBC, Central States Sailing Association, U.S. Sailing Association, the LTEF, and of course the BoatHouse and its programs.



The Region IV award is presented each year to one person in the Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas area who best exemplifies the importance of education and boating safety. All Oklahoma and especially the Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron and the Norman Sail and Power Squadron should be very proud that Region IV has recognized members of the Oklahoma City and the Norman Squadron respectively for the past two years. Dave Shumake, Past-Commander of the Oklahoma City Power Squadron and LTEF board member was presented this same prestigious award last year by the National Water Safety Congress

These nationally recognized awards speak well on behalf of the TSC, OKC and Norman Sail and Power Squadrons, and of course the BoatHouse programs. Congratulations to Howard and of course to his one and only, Cleo who continues to support Howard's efforts on behalf of sailing and boating safety!

Neville Koop and Jr. Sailing

At the last TSC meeting Neville Koop, Coach of the Lake Thunderbird Jr. Sailing Team presented an interesting and informative program about Jr. sailing, what it has meant to him as a young boy and how these experiences have shaped his future and his avocation. As a weather expert for WeatherNews, Inc., Neville explained that sailing helped forge his interest in the field of weather forecasting which had eventually led to his and his family moving to Norman, Oklahoma.

He described his search for a sailing program that provided the support, infrastructure, and programs that would engender continued interest in the sport of sailing for both he and his family. After visiting several local clubs he said that the Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse offered everything that a child and parent could desire for the sport.



Neville helped form the T-bird Jr. Team and last year several members attended local and district regattas and performed very well. His hope is to recruit additional sailors for the Team from the upcoming Kid's Sailing Camps at the BoatHouse. He also looks forward to some of his charges participating in the July 29 West Marine Fun Regatta hosted at the BoatHouse for the 3rd consecutive year.

On a sad note, Neville also announced that he will be moving back to Australia in August to continue his work for WeatherNews, Inc. Please extend your appreciation and well wishes to Neville, Ray, and his entire family. We will look forward to his future visits back to the Great State of Oklahoma and to the TSC and BoatHouse. We hope we can build upon the legacy that he has started with the Jr. Team. Please offer your help to Paul Reynolds, Vicki Smith, and the others who are working with the Lake Thunderbird Jr. Sailing Team.

This is what the BoatHouse is all about!



Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation
Roger Elliott
President

Lake month while at a cocktail party in OKC the host, Mr. Rex Urice, pulled Les aside and told him that he had something for him and to be sure to remind him before he left at the end of the evening. Later in the evening he handed Les an envelope from the Robert and Eloise Bowers Foundation that contained a check for \$500. He said that they were aware of the fine work the LTEF and BoatHouse are doing and wanted to help!

A few days later, we had a rental of the BoatHouse to the Norman Business Association (NBA) and Walt Hedrick presented us with a check from the NBA for \$200 along with the rental and clean-up fee. Yes, Walt and Les were the janitors for the day!

These unexpected gifts help us to maintain the BoatHouse and its programs. Please, won't you help too!



LAKE THUNDERBIRD BOATHOUSE
Les Cummings
Fundraising Chair, LTFB

As I mentioned last month, we are entering our busiest time of the year with our recreational activities along with sailing classes for adults and children. Chad is heading up the recruitment for the Kid's Camps this year and it seems that enrollment is down considerably from past years. Perhaps it's the cost of fuel to drive to the lake each day, or competition from other kids' camps and activities. If you have children or grandchildren in the 8-13 year old range, please consider the BoatHouse Kid's Sailing Day Camps. There are 2 camps, June 19-24 and again on July 10-15. We guarantee the kids will have fun learning some terrific sailing skills, rowing, and boating safety knowledge. The parents love the last day of the camp when they watch the kids rig their boats and sail them safely across the lake! More information can be found at www.lakethunderbirdboathouse.org.

We would also like to express our appreciation to **Mike Klatt** for undertaking the Primary Instructor duties of the Essentials of Sailing Class completed last weekend, and the Adult Sailing Class that will finish on Monday June 12. In addition, we thank all those volunteers who are helping Mike make these classes a success.

Finally, we hope the new Carolina Skiff and Mercury outboard will be launched by June 9.

**OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH
 FOUNDATION**
Boats and Skippers Needed: A reminder!

The annual OMRF Fleming Scholarship sailing trip is scheduled for Thursday evening, June 22.

In addition to the 17 scholars we will have several science teachers from Oklahoma that are participating in the summer Foundation Scholar program at OMRF.

OMRF provides dinner and refreshments to all the skippers and crew. We will meet at the BoatHouse at 6PM for dinner and introductions, and then take an hour or so sailing trip weather permitting.

Please contact me by email at les-cummings@omrf.ouhsc.edu or cellphone 823-2342 if you can provide a boat/crew. Thanks!

Les Cummings

C.S.S.A. Representative: Karen Mellgren

Here we go! The Central States Sailing Association racing season starts right here at TSC!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at 321-7968.

June

- 3 CSSA Junior Regatta # 1 @ OCBC (J)
- 10 Hmmmfest @ COSA (A)
- 17 CSSA Junior Regatta # 2 @ WSC (J)
- 24-25 Lighthouse Charity Regatta @ OCBC ©

July

- 1 CSSA Junior Regatta # 3 @ NSA (J)
- 8-9 USODA Great Plains Optimist Regatta @OCBC (J)
- 15-16 Hobie Prairie Regatta @NSA (O)
- 22-23 Whitecap Regatta @NSA (S)
- 29 **West Marine Fun Regatta/CSSA Junior #4 TSC (J)**

August

- 12-13 CSSA Junior Championship Regatta @WLYC (J)
- 26-27 Cat Chase @NSA (O)

September

- 2-3 C.O.R.N. Regatta @NSA (A)
- 23-24 R.O.C.K. One-Design Regatta @ Kaw City OK (A)

October

- 21-22 Frostbite Regatta @)OCBC (S)

November

- 4 CSSA Annual Meeting @ NSA (U)
- 5 **Hiram Douglas Regatta @TSC (A)**

Note: TSC EVENTS ARE IN BOLD

Teaching 2006 begins at Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse
Submitted by: Howard Haines



Summer teaching at the Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse began over the Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29. While most sailing classes at the BoatHouse are designed for beginners, accomplished sailors populated this particular class. You guessed it! This class trained sailors to become sailing instructors.

Nine instructor candidates from as far away as Shreveport, LA participated in the intensive forty-hour course. Richard Shaw (far right, front row) taught the class with me serving as official 'gopher'. In addition to his many sailing and boating credentials, Rick is certified by US Sailing as a small boat Instructor Trainer. Even for knowledgeable sailors and people that have teaching and public speaking experience the class is nonetheless a challenge. Sailing skills, both practical and theoretical, are examined. Teaching and presentation techniques are taught and carefully evaluated. Concerns of safety and risk are discussed at length.

Having completed the class the students are pictured holding a 'tell tale', presented by Instructor Trainer Rick with the thought that this simple tool helps guide boats to places they otherwise could not go. The class left a 'Thank you, BoatHouse' card which is pinned to the east bulletin board in the conference room. Successful completion of the class entitles students to teach sailing under the auspices and guidelines of the US Sailing. And, for this group, that means..very soon. Sarah Warfield (second from left, front), brother Brett Warfield (fourth from left, front) and Chris Piszczek (mid, second row) will begin teaching at the Walnut Valley Sailing Club, El Dorado, KS later this month. Elizabeth LaBorde (third from left, front) whose home is Shreveport, will soon be teaching at the youth camp in Ohio. Neville Koop (left, second row) we all know as the coach and teacher of the youngsters in the Thunderbird Sailing Club Junior Sailing Team. Texanita Randle (fifth from left in front row) will present classes to members of the Ninnescha Sailing Assn., Wichita, KS. Kenna Green (third from right, front) and Glede Holman (right, second row) lead Sea Scouts in Oklahoma City. Courtney Holman (second from right, front) will soon join the staff at Slippery Falls Scout Camp and begin teaching sailing.

Certainly an excellent way to launch the 2006 teaching season at the BoatHouse.

Ed. Note: Congratulations to the new Instructors and to Rick and Howard for another successful class!

A Christmas Sailing Trip

By: Phil Trotter

The concept for this trip had been brewing for years. I wanted to take my Catalina 22 sailboat, Barchetta, to the Texas Gulf Coast and do some bay sailing. Details of exactly where and when and with who developed shortly before Christmas of 2004 when my grandson, Thomas (13 years old), suggested we go sailing after Christmas. He had the week out of school and since there was nothing on my calendar for that time I jumped on it. Thomas' idea of sailing was a day at Lake Thunderbird and when I told him of my plan for a WEEK on the coast, he was thrilled. He also suggested we invite his step-brother Austin (14 years old).

Having previously been to Matagorda Island State Park on the Texas Coast, I pegged that as our destination. After much research and planning I determined that the best place to launch the boat would be Port Lavaca on the NW of Matagorda Bay. That would give us a good day sail down the bay and along the Intra-Coastal Waterway then across Espiritu Santo Bay and eventually to Matagorda Island. This island is only accessible by water and normally a ferry runs from Port O'Connor once a day. Unfortunately, a fire a few months ago damaged the ferry and it was out of commission. Some friends from Okla. City, Marvin and Debbie Mason had taken mountain bikes on the ferry and spent a weekend on the island some years ago. It sounded like a necessary item so my list of stores included a bike for each of us.

Making a list and checking it twice was the order of the season before Christmas but when Dec. 26th dawned, Thomas, Austin and I were loaded and ready to go. With just a couple of glitches, in the form of ruined trailer tires, we made Port Lavaca just a day late and visited Nautical Landing Marina where we found very low tides had made the launch near impossible. An alternative launch site was suggested and we went to Refuge Harbor just three miles south of Port Lavaca. This turned out to be ideal as it had a deep ramp and the small shrimping fleet and barge loading facilities seemed to be closed. Local fishermen were the only activity in the harbor so without too much difficulty, we got the boat rigged and on the water. I left the boys in charge of the boat and, for security reasons, took the car and trailer back to Nautical Landings where I had arranged to leave them for the week. Riding my bike back to the boat, we loaded it and motored out of the harbor and onto Matagorda Bay. By this time it was pushing 4PM and although the boys were both wanting to forge ahead and sail into the night, I took the more prudent path and sailed us to a transit slip at the marina. For a \$10 fee we had a snug refuge that included water and electricity, hot showers and use of the marina day room where we met the denizens of the marina, live-aboards and Jim, the harbor master. On finding out our destination, Jim was good enough to bring out a chart and bestow some local knowledge about our route. And although I had a chart of the area, he gave me one of his that had some details mine lacked. Wow! That was ten dollars well spent!

Morning dawned red. Uh-oh! "Sailor take warning" didn't seem to apply in this case as we had perfect conditions. East by southeast winds at 10-12 mph carried us down the shipping channel close hauled on port. A few hours later we entered the ICW at Port O'Connor and bore off to a near dead run, wing-on-wing. Stopping at a gas dock in Port O'Connor we topped off our fuel and added a few stores in the form of emergency rations (candy bars and some chips). As we were getting away from the gas docks, some fishermen coming in behind us ask our destination and told us to watch out for the 10 foot alligator in the lake behind the lighthouse on the island. What more could two teenage boys and their grand-pa, a hopeless Peter Pan syndrome sufferer, ask for!? We already had sailing (with pod after pod of dolphins), fishing, exploring an island by bicycle, and now the possibility of an alligator!

When the boys weren't laying on the bow trying to touch the dolphins, I let them take turns at the tiller. We had to share the ICW with a few barges, shrimpers and fishermen heading for the prime red-fish grounds but we made the few miles to the channel into Espiritu Santo Bay without incident. The Espiritu Santo Bay channel is shallow and narrow and on my previous trip along it, we had touched bottom several times. As I was nervously steering from one day mark to the next Thomas made a brilliant suggestion. "Why don't I just follow the dolphins? They will likely stay in the deeper water of the channel." Ok. That is what I did and it seemed to work as we never touched. Maybe good helmsmanship. Maybe luck. Maybe the dolphins were really guiding us. *That* is what I will believe.

Approaching the island, the lighthouse can be seen towering in the distance on the north end. The buildings of the State Park and a few palm trees mark where I already knew the boat docks to be. As we pull into the calm waters of the unused ferry harbor, we see two State Park pick-up trucks sitting very authoritatively beside where I will tie up. We backed the boat into the first slip and make it secure. It was just 3:30PM and plenty of time to explore. Since neither boy had ever seen the ocean, that was the first priority. We unloaded and assembled the bikes, filled water bottles and set out on the 2.5 mile ride across to the Gulf coast after first trying to find anyone to check in with. We determined that the island was deserted. Fine with us. They had an honor drop box so I deposited a check to cover our camping fee.

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Matagorda Island has an abandoned Army airfield used during World War II to train bomber pilots. The run-ways and roads make travel around the island fairly easy. A central road runs the 38 mile length of the island with several gulf side access roads along the way. As we rode toward the gulf, we passed a sign that warned to watch for rattlesnakes. Another warned that alligators exist on the island. Official confirmation!! Another sign directed travelers to the Gulf Coast or lighthouse. We could hear the roar of the waves crashing on the beach from the moment we set foot on the island. Louder and louder it became until at last, we topped a line of dunes and saw it rolling toward us. Matagorda Bay presented the boys with a distant horizon so the Gulf of Mexico was maybe a little anticlimactic for them but they certainly loved the waves and all that they brought....lots of sea shells and an array of debris from passing ships and off-shore drilling platforms. If you ever need a hard hat or a five-gallon bucket, this is your place! On our sail down, we saw several crab pot markers in the form of round floats. The boys playfully called them "Wilson" of the Tom Hanks movie "Castaway" fame. While exploring along the beach they found a volleyball and although it was a MacGregor brand ball, they dubbed it Wilson and rescued it from its solitude in the sand.

Daylight was fast fading so we headed back across the island and, while the boys tried their hand at fishing, I started dinner. Cranking up the camp stove, I prepared "bangers and mashers" more commonly known as smoked sausages and mashed potatoes. After cleanup we did a little stargazing. This may have been the first time the boys had ever seen the Milky Way. We had been treated to a rare sighting of the International Space Station on our drive down as it was visible for just a couple of minutes before sunrise and in the glow of the nearby full moon.

Then it was bedtime. As we had spent the two previous nights on board Barchetta, the boys sharing the V-berth and myself on the drop down dinette berth, that is what we were readying when we became aware of the mosquito swarm. Having no screens for the hatches, which were open for ventilation, we had to fall back to plan B, the tent, which I brought along as a fortuitous afterthought. It was supposed to accommodate 4 persons so naturally it was cramped with 3 plus "Wilson" who had the loft bedroom (a small net in the ceiling for storage). The tent turned out to be just the ticket and everyone had a restful night in spite of constant yelping and howling from many coyotes.

My normal sleep schedule was still in effect so I was up and out with the coffee on as the sun peeked over the sand-dunes. It was a beautifully still, hazy dawn with the bay laying like smoking glass. On our ride the evening before we had watched an 8 point buck bounce away from us into the rough brush and this morning he was browsing near one of the State buildings just across the small harbor from me. The island is open for hunting for a short while each year beginning Dec. 31st. I hope he is still bouncing and browsing. The boys crawled out at the crack of noon and we were ready for a full day of exploring.

The lighthouse was our first stop. About 3 miles north of the camp, it stands 91 ft above sea level and is made of cast iron. It has cast it light across Pass Cavallo, in one form or another, since 1852. A raised wooden walkway near the lighthouse led us on our quest to see the alligator. It zig-zagged through a mesquite bound marsh to the lake that had plenty of 'gator bait in the form of water-fowl, but alas, no alligator sighting for us. A quick tour of the small, civil war era cemetery that is the final resting place of some lighthouse keepers and then we were back on the beach.

Having traveled so far, the boys were determined to swim in the ocean. They even had goggles. As they were nearing waist deep, I stuck my toe in and immediately withdrew it. It was COLD. Much colder than I expected. I quickly whistled the guys in with no protest on their part. They'd gone "swimming" in the ocean. That was all they wanted. For the next hour we rode south along the shore, the boys stopping every other foot to collect another broken shell, myself just enjoying the slow pace and looking for the next access to the center road. I did not want to back-track. After several miles the guys were ready to turn back but I encouraged them to continue and we eventually came to the access. Following it we quickly came upon another overgrown runway. Those things cover a lot of ground. From there it was a short ride back to the camp.

Dinner plans for that evening were supposed to include fish that the boys failed to catch so second choice was good ol' stand-by, Dinty More Beef Stew. Before I could ply the can opener though, a couple of fishing boats, one towing the other came into the harbor and tied up at the docks. A fisherman, looking to be a professional guide with his client, asks if I had a flat bladed screw driver. Seems they were having hydraulic tilt problems with one of the motors and although they knew exactly how to fix it, they didn't have the aforementioned proper tool. I took care of their "lack of tool" problem and they took care of our "lack of fish" problem by donating a nice, 5 lb red-fish and even preparing it for "grilling on the half-shell". Add hush puppies and mashed potatoes and we had a very decent meal.

The next morning I roused the late sleepers out early and we started breaking camp. We had a wonderful southerly breeze that would carry us back to Port Lavaca and I did not want to lose it. Also, I wanted to get back in time to load the boat before dark. We hoisted the sails while still tied up and were able to cast off and sail out with ease. Austin had the helm as we glided along the Espiritu Santo Bay Channel. In the shallow water on our port side we witnessed a file of 5 Rosette Spoonbills feeding in unison. They would lift their white necks, take a step, dip their head into the murky water and sweep back and forth then repeat the process. Because of their beautiful plumage they are often mistaken for pink flamingos

Continued from Page 8.

My little Garmin E-Trek GPS had saved our route down, so we just kept the cursor on the black line and back tracked all the way to Refuge Harbor. As we were reaching up the Refuge Harbor channel in a blustery little rain squall, Austin suddenly exclaimed that this was the most exciting thing he had ever done. I figured it was just from the rush of the suddenly fast sailing but he said it was the total trip. It was all pretty exciting for me also and knowing they had such a good time adds icing to the cake.

A trip on the bike to retrieve the car and trailer and to make arrangements for a hot shower at the marina, then we were loading and de-rigging. Done before dark! After showers and a Sonic burger we were on the road, heading north up highway 77 and home.



Photos above show the Barchetta ready for the day's cruise and Thomas and Austin preparing to cast off as Cap'n Phil plays photographer!

Editor's Note: Phil and Anita have been long time members of the Thunderbird Sailing Club. Phil is an accomplished mountain bike racer and Hobie sailor with many off-shore racing and cruising miles under his belt. Phil has won many local and regional regattas and along with Anita have been active supporters of the TSC, LTEF and the BoatHouse. We are fortunate to have such terrific members as Phil and Anita.

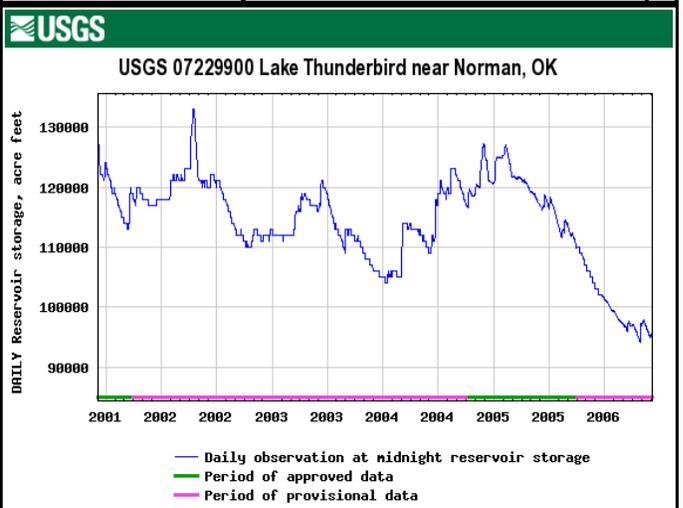
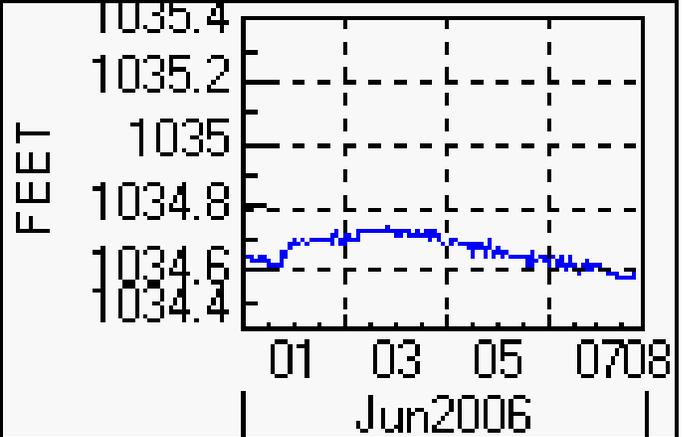
LAKE THUNDERBIRD

Suffering from drought!

According to the U.S. Geological Survey the 'normal' lake height is 1039', at present it is approximately 1034.6', some 4.4' under normal level. You can find additional information at the following websites:

- <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/>
- <http://www.usbr.gov/dataweb/html/norman.html>

Ed. Note: Thanks to Phil Moershel for providing this information and identifying these informative web sites.





Next Meeting!

A short meeting and an evening sail!

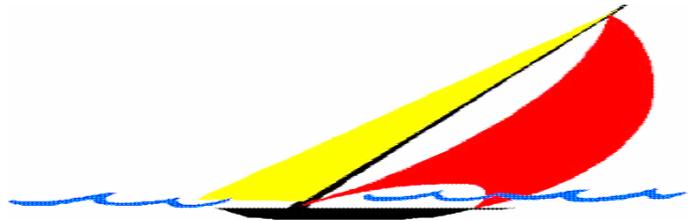
*Saturday, June 17
6:00 PM at the BoatHouse*

Potluck—Bring a dish to share

2006 Executive Committee

Commodore:	Corbett Brown cb8197@sbc.com	749-1547
Vice-Comm:	Barbara Schindler bschin@cox.net	321-1354
Rear-Comm:	Jerry Lojka jlojka@aol.com	620-4498
Secretary:	Mary Anne Secrist m.secrist@sbcglobal	329-3871
Treasurer:	David Craigie incipient@msn.com	741-2555
Fleet Capt.	Kerry Knowles kmellgren@cox.net	321-7968
M'sheet Ed.	Les Cummings les-cummings@omrf.ouhsc.edu	271-7188

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



**Thunderbird Sailing Club
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