

THE WINDSONG

Editor: Lisa Baker
wcsconlinepublishing@gmail.com

WESTERN CAROLINA SAILING CLUB

Hartwell Lake, Anderson, SC

April, 2016



FROM THE COMMODORE

On Saturday the 5th of March the club celebrated Commissioning Day. Lisa Craft organized the event and Dan Marett was our emcee. As per tradition there were cannon shots with Keat Pruszenski acting as our gunnery officer. Many of the past Commodores attended and stood in observation. The board was presented with brief anecdotes about each. The American flag was raised by the Westside High School color guard. All in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance and Rachel (Tweeie) Bowman did a beautiful job of singing the national anthem. This was followed by Dan's Blue Gavel presentation and ultimately my speech to the club. If you were not able to attend you missed a nice ceremony and probably the only time you will ever see me wear white pants. My speech is included below for your review. The two main themes are the importance of membership and participation. It is remarkable to know that the club has been in existence for 53 years now. After the speech, Dan said the blessing of the fleet and with another cannon shot I announced the start of the 2016 sailing season. To all of you whom participated and attended the ceremony I extend a special thank-you. Let the 2016 Sailing Season Begin!!

Commodore's Commissioning Day Speech 2016

Ladies and gentlemen, members and guests as Commodore and on behalf of the board of stewards I welcome you to Western Carolina Sailing Club's Commissioning Day 2016. I am honored to serve the membership as your Commodore this year. I am supported by a strong board with a diverse background that benefits the club through their experience. I can assure you that your board of stewards is committed to the welfare of our sailing club.

On this commissioning day we celebrate the start of the sailing season. It is on this occasion with the gathering of our past Commodores that we clearly see the shared love and passion for this club through service and dedication. Western Carolina Sailing Club was incorporated as a non-profit in 1963 four years after the completion of the Lake Hartwell Dam. Through the volunteer efforts and financial support of our membership this club has had a successful existence for 53 years.

This year as in the past there are many areas that your board is focused on to maintain and improve the club. Two key areas each year seem to be membership and support of the club through volunteer activities. Each of us as members share in many fun activities whether racing, cruising or simply spending a lazy day at the lake relaxing. As of today our membership is healthy with approximately 220 members enjoying the club with their friends and family. Membership is important. For our club to survive into the future we must always be attracting new members. On an annual basis as we attract new members we also lose existing members. Some years we have a net gain and others a loss. Do not be hesitant to introduce friends, family or work colleagues to our club by inviting them as a guest. As a club this simple effort will probably gain us more members than through any other effort or advertising. Be good advocates for the club.

It is important for our club (and other sailing clubs) to foster interest in the sport of sailing through youth programs. As you know we have an active juniors program and offer a wonderful summer sailing camp. The youth of today are tomorrow's sailing advocates. They are future club members that our club and many others will depend upon. Many of the activities at the club such as Sail Camp are not possible without the volunteer efforts of members. Volunteering is important. We are a volunteer club. We simply would not be able to maintain dues as they are without membership involvement necessary to maintain the club through fair share activities. Many members contribute hours significantly beyond those required by fair share.

Many of the tasks are easily taken for granted as they occur in the background. Examples include quarterly billing, paying of club bills, communication whether through the Windsong or the club website, meeting with prospective new members. Other tasks are very visible such as our grounds and club house maintenance. Look around and notice how work has been completed in just the past couple months with the drive of our Rear Commodore, Ronnie Ashmore, and support of members willing to get dirty. Every year we face a new challenge and need help. This year we will be dealing with the removal of a significant number of trees. Much help will be needed from the membership this coming month despite having hired a commercial tree crew. So I encourage all members to stay active in the club and volunteer lending a hand. There is always the need for help. Your club depends on it to function. Remember "Many hands make light work", which will leave us with much more time for what we love best, sailing.

Let us enjoy the club and make this a memorable sailing season! We are starting this year with a full lake. Our on water resources are in good shape and ready to support racing activities. Whether a racer or a cruiser our calendar is full of fun events throughout the year. We will soon have the warmth of summer, the sound of water slapping against the hull as we sail smartly in a fair breeze and the smell of food cooking on grills.

I would like to thank all of those that pulled together the Commissioning Day event especially Lisa Craft and Anna Kay Lord. I am so grateful to have the support of friends and family with all my children and wife in attendance. I would like to recognize past Commodore Ron Moede for bringing me into this club through the Furman Adult Sailing program. I thank Dan Marett for being our emcee today and a wonderful supportive resource. Now let us express our gratitude for what we have through a prayer and blessing of the fleet.

May God give us
For every storm, a rainbow
For every tear, a smile
For every care, a promise and a blessing in each trial
For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share
For every sigh, a sweet song and an answer for each prayer

May we be safe on the water and blessed with good weather and fair winds.

Paul Rock
paulrock61@gmail.com

From the Vice Commodore

Spring is here!! Definitely one of my top three favorite seasons at the club (sorry Winter... you lose!). As we all make our way back toward the water you can almost hear the boats trying to shake off months worth of grime and algae. Much like trading out drawer space from sweaters to short-sleeves during my closet's spring cleaning, I always enjoy the first washing of the boat and the promise of another sailing season to come. I have to say, the Cruising Fleet and Ronnie's Underbrush Gang have kept the club from being totally abandoned during the cold, winter months, but spring truly brings the whole place back to life!

The slip docks have weathered the Winter better than they usually do... no additional damage since our storms last year. Most of the repair work has been finished from the storms, but a few more fixes are in the works to strengthen the docks against the next big blow. The long, sustained winds that come with winter should be mostly behind us, but spring brings short-lived and powerful gusts as the frequency of thunderstorms increases. Whether in a slip, on a mooring, or on the hard please be sure your boat is always secured well and equipment and sails are properly stowed.

If you plan on launching your boat on the main launch ramp, make sure there is enough space for your trailer/boat between the dock and the edge of the ramp. At the moment we are working to install more anchor points for the dock, but until they are finished the dock may be off-center, making the ramp on one side much wider and the ramp on the other much narrower than usual. Hopefully the anchor points will be in soon and the dock won't be able to walk around as much. Also, if you use the dock/ramp on the North side (usually where catamarans put in), you'll notice that the end of the dock is partially sunken. During the extreme high water last month, we lost the two outer floats on that dock. We are working to refasten the floats, but Custom Steel may have to make the repair in June. Please use caution if you use the North dock!

The racing season is in full swing, and we welcome everyone to come out and race. If racing sounds a little too stressful, come sailing with the Cruising Fleet. It seems like they are out almost every day and they are an awesome, fun group to get to know and sail with. And since racing season has officially begun, I need to remind everyone to check the calendar and be certain you have seen when your Race Committee assignment is scheduled. There has been an unfortunate increase in absenteeism on the RC over the past several years, and we have a new system in place to track RC assignments if members do not show up and haven't set up a substitute. Missing RC duty is expensive and chronic absences eventually result in expulsion from the club... please, please show up or set up a substitute... we don't want your money, we want you on the RC boat!

One last thing to remind everyone about: safety! The only way to enjoy the lake year after year is by keeping safety in mind. Most people's skills are a little rusty from the long Winter, and the water will probably be in the low to mid 50s by the time you're reading this. With our 80 and 90 degree days, it's easy to forget how cold the water still remains. Everyone is responsible for their own safety at the club, and a few good decisions can ensure a great time for you, your family, and everyone else, too.

Hope to see you on the water soon!

Will DeHart
wpdehart@yahoo.com

From the Rear Commodore

Wow! It has been a busy quarter. I will try to give you a synopsis/update of what has been going on with the land based activities. The Board approved the replacement of our 36" Garland range in the club house kitchen. Two 30" GE ranges were purchased and installed along with two 40 amp circuits and new wiring that was run in the repaired existing conduit. That was the easy part; however the scope of the total project grew requiring 22+ trips to 4 different stores for supplies. The holes in the wall behind the stove were repaired/patched and gaps were sealed with spray foam, baseboard molding was added to attach the electrical boxes, the wall was primed and painted with 2-coats of oil-based enamel, shelves were built and added; 9 broken floor tiles were removed and replaced; baseboard and toe-kick molding was added, primed, and painted with 2 coats of oil-based enamel to the kitchen cabinets to further prevent deterioration of the bottom of the cabinets.

With some insight/assistance from Patrick Hopp, Tim Crane got to the bottom of the sewer smell we had been battling in the clubhouse bathrooms. As it turns out, there is only one large vent stack for all the bathrooms. The water fountain, women's bathroom sinks, and men's bathroom sinks are not tied into this vent stack, but are vented using a one-way Air Admittance Valve ("AAV") which for

From the Rear Commodore (cont)

access purposes reside behind the vent grate you see at each of those locations (who knew?). Our AAV's had deteriorated and become not functional, thus releasing sewer gas into the building. Tim went to White Jones Hardware, bought replacement AAV's and installed them. Within a few hours the smell was gone. Thanks to Tim and Patrick!

Replaced the faulty light switch in the kitchen pantry, replaced various light bulbs, added a weatherproof cover to the outlet on the porch deck, replaced the door kick-stop on the door to the deck, lubricated and tighten door locks on both entrance doors, and repaired 2 areas of the rim board around the deck that had popped loose. Reinstalled the threshold on the doors going out on to the deck. Installed 4 small LED post lights on the entrance ramp to the club for safety. The leak in the ice maker was repaired only to discover that the water pump had also seized up. The pump has now been replaced and the ice maker was working in time for Commissioning Day.

Just in time for summer, the baseboard electric heater and timer in the women's side of the mainland head was replaced. Old heater had an element wire that was burned out and the timer was not working properly.

Dave Ruth has stepped up and volunteered for the Fuel Shed maintenance. Thank you Dave! Jerry Greene has serviced our tractor and built a small work table to hold supplies. Thank you Jerry!

Beginning on Friday March 25th we have a tree cutting service coming in to cut the trees the CORPS has given us permission to take down. These are the 50+ trees with the yellow tape and blue paint marks on them. As you have probably seen this is a major project and is expected to take 5 to 6 days. The plan will be to take down and remove the large pine trees from the property. Any solid hardwoods will be cut into firewood lengths for us to pick up and haul to our various firewood storage piles. Smaller trees and all the limbs will be chipped into mulch and left in piles at various locations for later use around the club.

We continue to eat our elephant (the under brushing project) one bite at a time. This under brushing project is certainly improving the appearance of the club, will help with the mosquito issue, improves air flow, and will make the grounds easier to maintain in the future. We have now had 6 Special workdays since January 31st, one was a no-show (except for me) and the other 5 were attended by a total of 46 different club and family members. We have consumed 194 hours of our fair share capital on this project thus far. While we have made some noticeable progress, we still have a long way to go and stuff is going to start growing very soon. Come out and join the fun! It would be much appreciated.

Our first regularly scheduled work day was March 5th. While the turnout was light (18 members), we were able to complete most of the tasks that were on our To-Do list. Jill Jerome came with flowering plants and had the beds in front and around the flagpole looking good for Commissioning Day. Thank you Jill! Our next regular work day is April 16th, but keep an eye out for those special under brushing work day announcements.

As always, if you see a maintenance need, have a "somebody/they should fix that thought", want to volunteer to do a project on your own time/schedule, or need to express other concerns that fall within the "Shore Based" arena, please let the appropriate committee chairman and me know. See you at the club!

Ronnie Ashmore
sailtanzer@aol.com
Cell: 864-420-4782

Old Range:



New Ranges & Wall After:



Welcome to New Members

by Spencer Mathews

Please let me introduce Kirk Brutosky. He joined our ranks when he attended his new member orientation on January 9. Mike Miros, another member of the membership committee, was at the meeting as well, and so was Susan Whitehead. Both of them contributed to the orientation. Kirk has lots of experience with power boats, but none with sailboats. He describes himself as a beginner. His long-term goal is to get to do some blue water sailing, so he's in the market for a cruising boat to learn on. He hopes that WCSC's friendly atmosphere and respectful competition will help him up the learning curve. He is a retired army ranger who was a member of an amphibious team, so he's no stranger to the water. He's lived in South Carolina since he was about ten years old, so he's familiar with our funny customs too. And, as you can see, he can balance a sailboat on his head. (One day – maybe – I'll be a better photographer.) Be sure he knows we're glad to have him with us. Jason Tucker and I are his sponsors.



Kirk

Another couple has joined our happy band – John and Kerry Gulyas. Their sponsors are Ron Moede and Tim Crane. John completed Ron Moede's course a while back and attended an orientation meeting on Saturday, February 2. He works with BMW Material Control and Kerry, with the Greenville County schools. They'll be sailing a boat that has been at the club before, *TEMERITY*, a J/24. They describe their sailing skills as 'very basic' and hope to learn to sail better while enjoying the lake. John is also a member of the Greenville Woodworking Guild. Have a look at their picture above and when you see them, make sure they know we're glad to have them with us.

Whee! I get to introduce the new members who attended an orientation meeting on Saturday, February 13 (the day of the Chili Cook-off ... which, if you missed it, we wish you'd been there – it was grrrrreat!) But I digress.

Tyler Mink is a recent graduate of Furman University who lives and works in Greenville now. He's a Scansource account analyst. He knew about us because he crewed for Roger Welte during his student days and was impressed by the welcoming, friendly nature of our members (so we have something to live up to). Now he sails a high performance Australian catamaran, *ROTOROD*, Sail #146. His sponsors are Roger and I.



Tyler

Jim and India

Jim Mann, Jr. and his fiancée, India Siviero have purchased the Catalina, *COLUMBINE*, which they hope to sail as part of a family oriented club. Susan Ruark and I are their sponsors. They live up in Walhalla. Jim is an engineer with Koyo Jtekt and India works with Pruitt Health. They have three children, James Mann, III, Jody Lancaster, and Micah Mann. Micah is 15 and hopes to benefit from Junior Sail Camp. James describes himself as having limited experience on a Trac 16 and looks forward to becoming a better sailor and participating in a family oriented club, enjoying a hobby that the family can practice at together.



2016 Centerboard Fleet

The Centerboard fleet has kicked off the 2016 racing year and it looks to be a great season coming up. We have racing from March thru November where we take off several summer months during the doldrums to rest up and recharge. Our Spring racing dates remaining are:

April 9th	Fleet race date 3
April 30th	Fleet race date 4 and <u>Cook out following the racing</u>
May 21	Fleet race date 5
June 4	Fleet race date 6
June 12	Fleet race date 7

We race 3 races each race date. We usually have Flying Scots, Lightnings, Buccaneers, Highlanders, Weta Trimarans, Lasers, Force Fives, MC Scows and Sunfish racing in the fleet. Each boat is assigned a Portsmouth rating to make the racing fair.

We have a lot of great competition and with spirited racing, it makes for a really great afternoon. After the boats are put up for the day, we congregate at the Tiki deck in the lower lot or in the parking lot behind a truck sharing drinks, stories, trash talk and the occasional rules discussion.

Boats are available if you want to check out the fleet (see my other article). If you are interested and would prefer to crew, contact me at jakreidler@mindspring.com and I will connect you with a skipper.

2016 Club Championship Regatta

by Brian Hampton, Club Championship Regatta Chairman

So you might ask "How did people get invited to the club championship?" Well, here is how it works.

Each fleet averaging more than 3.5 boats per race shall be eligible to send a representative to the Club Championships event. The fleets which qualified for this year's event are Keelboat A and B fleets and the Centerboard fleet.

The winner of each invited is fleet is eligible for invitation to the Championship Series. If the winner a fleet does not accept the invitation, then drop downs are used until the invitation is accepted or a fleet is unrepresented.

The next place fleet finisher behind the fleet finisher who accepted the Championship series invitation is eligible for invitation to the Qualifier Series. Drop downs are used until the invitation is accepted or a fleet is unrepresented. If there are still slots open, the regatta chairman and issue special invitations to fill out the field with individuals with exemplary credentials.

When I started sailing in the club championship in 2006 it was crewing for Marc Bailey on the 420. After a couple of years of that, I jumped into the qualifying series with Super Dave Foland as crew. It was a blast sailing one design even if it was in a 420. Some years we just sailed Saturday. Other years we are fortunate to advance to the show and sail on Sunday! As much fun as we were having, the whole club should be out spectating this great event.

In 2011 I took on the responsibility of Regatta Chairman for the club championship. That year we moved from 420s to Flying Scots. Our turnout was very good for the qualifier series with 3 boats. The Championship series was sailed with 4 boats and Dennis Baker took home the gold. We switched to Buccaneers in 2012 and Steve Kiemele won his first club championship. In 2013 we are back in the Scots. That year we started the Champion's dinner on Saturday night with the defending champion hosting the competitors in a pasta dinner. John Kreidler prevailed on Sunday to win his first club championship. Now that we had a good regatta going with plenty of competition on the water and a hosted Saturday night dinner, John took it up a notch and gave us a steak dinner for 2014. Again we were back in Buccaneers and Steve Kiemele pulled off a victory in the last race of the day to take his second club championship. 2015 gave us Force 5s and Marc Bailey as the Club Champion. In the 8 years I have been around the club championship, we have gone from anyone can get in and race to this is a very hard trophy to take home. It is exciting that we are attracting the top sailors in the club. We will continue to provide excitement and quality both on and off the water for this event.

The 2016 WCSC Club Championship Regatta will be held on April 23 and 24 this year. We are thankful to be sailing Highlanders (there can be only one...) on loan to us from our Club members. Sailing Saturday in the Qualifier series are Chuck Ballew, Ronnie Ashmore, and myself. The winner on Saturday will advance to Sunday and participate in the Championship Fleet against Marc Bailey, Paul Harder and John Kreidler. This should be an exciting event to spectate. Racing starts at 1000 both days. Come on down to the Club and enjoy some of the best racing ever seen at our Club. Last year both days provided amazing spectating.

Cruising Fleet News

by Tim Crane

HI WCSC!



Second quarter 2016 brings a lot of fun activities being sponsored by the Cruising Fleet! In April, May and June, we've got Sail-in Movies, Island Cruises with dinner and over-nighting, normal weekend day-cruises with a cookout afterwards, as well as another edition of Pirate's Day – Battle on the water! All are welcome and if you need a ride, just get with one a Cruising Fleet member and we'll find you one. So, be sure to check the club calendar on the website for the dates.

We've also got some of our workshops coming up – want to learn about winch maintenance? Basic diesel maintenance? Splicing docklines or halyards? Check in with us, we're gonna be covering these topics and more this year. We've enjoyed a great early spring with regards to participation and we hope to see these numbers continue to grow as the warmer weather comes on.

Here's looking forward to seeing you at the club and out on the water!

The Juniors Corner

by Joe Martin



Welcome back Springtime. By the time you read this, daylight savings time will have sprung forward (wish we did two hours per day all year long), flowers will be blooming, and pollen will be floating on the lake along with the WCSC sailors. It was a beautiful day for Commissioning day as Commodore Rock opened the season.

I would like to take a minute to congratulate several Juniors who did not attend the WCSC Awards banquet. Nathan Schultz – 2015 Junior Champion. Brooks Sullivan – Junior Sportsmanship Award. Erin Schultz – Most Improved Junior. Congratulations and well deserved.

Junior Camp information you need to know:

Registration will be completed online this year. Be watching the WCSC website and the weekly news blast for details.

Camp Dates:

Session One dates and times: June 4 and 25 from 0900-1100. Make sure you plan to attend one of the two sessions.

Regular Camp for Beginners and Intermediate: July 9, 10, 16 and 17. From 0900-1530. Plan on cookouts or pizza dinners on the Saturday nights of camp.

Advanced Camp: April 30, June 4, July 14 and 15, Aug 6. From 1000-1500.

Junior Club Championships: September 3. From 1000-1500.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of sailing. As always, we welcome comments and suggestions. Contact Melissa Kaisner, Hanna Curtiss, Patrick Hopp or Joe Martin.

Centerboard Fleet News

by John Kreidler

Want to learn to race? Need a boat? We have a great deal for you. Or have you wanted to learn how to race but don't know where to start? Maybe you know how to race but don't have a boat? This is your opportunity!

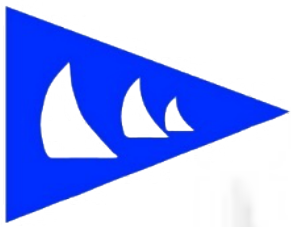
The Centerboard fleet is looking to add new members this year and has boats available to use for the 2016 season. We have several boats available with experienced owners who are available to help kick start your racing program. The use of the boats is completely free and available for you to use.

Here is a list of contact names and boats that are available:

Boat	Contact	Email
Flying Scot 5177	John Kreidler	jakreidler@mindspring.com (No longer available, but contact John if you want on the waiting list)
Lightning 11090	Dennis Baker	dkb_4_98@yahoo.com
Force Five	Brian Hampton	coldnosedave@gmail.com
Buccaneer 18	Ronnie Ashmore	sailtanzer@aol.com
Highlander	Bruce Busbey	sail500@aol.com
MC Scow	Dennis Fisher	dcjfisher@bellsouth.net

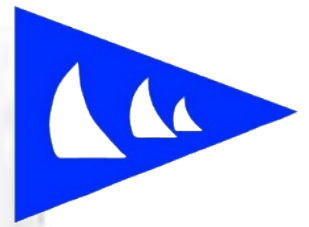
Each of these skippers has multiple years of experience in racing and can help you get up to speed quickly and will mentor you thru the season. How great is that? Free boat? Free advice? Access to the coolest fleet at WCSC? It does not get any better than that!

Contact any of the fleet members above to help you get in a boat and start racing.



WCSC Pet Rules & Regulations

by Will DeHart



- 1) All breeds of dogs are allowed on WCSC grounds with the exception of Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, and Doberman Pincers. Cats will be allowed on club grounds. All other species of pets are forbidden on club grounds.
- 2) To the fullest extent permitted by law, any club member shall defend, indemnify and hold Western Carolina Sailing Club, its officers, agents, insurers, sureties, and subcontractors, harmless from any and all losses, consequential damages, expenses (including but not limited to attorneys', consultants' and experts' fees), claims, suits, liabilities, fines, penalties, and veterinary or medical costs arising out of or in any way related to private club members bringing their pet(s) onto club grounds.
- 3) It is solely the members' responsibility to not bring any pet on club grounds that the member determines, in good conscience, could pose a danger to people or other dogs.
- 4) It is solely the member's responsibility to not bring any pet on club grounds that the member determines, in good conscience, would exhibit excessively noisy behavior.
- 5) It is solely the member's responsibility to ensure their pet's safety and the safety of anyone who interacts with their pet.
- 6) Pets are allowed anywhere on club grounds except in any club building or above the perimeter road, as demonstrated in the Club map on the next page. Members shall not allow their pet within 15 feet of anyone else's camp site without permission of the campers.
- 7) Pets shall be on a leash unless in a closed camper, a closed tent, on a member's vessel, or in a closable vehicle. Members must ensure their pet has adequate ventilation and water if in a camper, tent, or on their vessel.
- 8) Members may not leave a pet anywhere on club property, including vessels, while the member is off WCSC property.
- 9) Members shall pick up, bag, and properly dispose of all pet waste.
- 10) Member must meet with one of the Pet Policy Administrators and sign the Pet Policy Agreement in order to have the privilege of bringing their pet onto WCSC grounds. If members have guests that bring pets to the club, the member is responsible for having the guest sign the pledge for WCSC Pet Rules & Regulations for Non-Members.



Penalties for Infractions of the Rules:

- a) For not properly disposing of pet's waste, not properly leashing pet, excessive pet noise, or allowing pet in buildings or on porches, the member will get ONE written warning. A subsequent infraction, of any rule will result in all pet privileges being revoked.
- b) For any dog's aggressive behavior toward another dog, the member will receive ONE written warning. A subsequent infraction, will have THAT DOG's privileges revoked.
- c) For any pet's aggressive behavior toward any person, THAT PET will immediately lose privileges at WCSC and shall be immediately removed from club property.

WCSC Pet Privilege Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge my understanding that bringing my pet to WCSC is an individual privilege, and not a right of membership; and, I have read, understand, and will follow the above Rules & Regulations regarding my pet; and, should the Board of Stewards alter the Rules & Regulations regarding pets I will adhere to the changes after being notified by letter or email of any changes.

Member Signature

Date

Pet Policy Administrator

Date



Rear Commodore of 2016

By Ed Sherman

He was correct who said the pen is mightier than the Ford, and the good thing is, one needs no license to drive one. Writing is dark and lonely work but somebody's got to do it if something needs to be said in a forum -- such as the Windsong. Despite visions of being keelhauled for ten minutes, under our work barge, then buried at sea under our Breakwater, and in spite of my parapraxis, this pen pushes on.

My first view of WCSC occurred in 1978 while in another guy's sailboat in the cut between Apple and Andersonville Islands. He was trying to sell his Venture 17 and we had launched on the other side of Apple. The owner couldn't get the boat to move because his skills were C-. However, I was raised on Blackwater Bay near Pensacola, the grandson of a boat-builder, so my lacustrine interests are inherited. I began scoping out the lake from adrift. Soon a hazy cove to port (east) began to focus about a mile away. All I could see was a passel of tall masts looking like toothpicks in hors d'oeuvres. I asked Kent what lay off our beam and he dropped his head and shook it, "You don't want to go over there! Those are big boats owned by guys who are John Wayne crazy! They go out in high winds and even storms, in all sorts of weather, and they even race those sailboats. Very dangerous!"

I bought his Venture with trailer and immediately made calls to get leads on how to visit the toothpick farm where all those "crazy" sailors kept their boats. That's how I discovered the little piece of heaven called WCSC. Those WCSC guys were/are "crazy" -- sailing crazy. Before I arrived, they had acquired over 5,000 Michelin, reject-tires, piled them on the hard, and were crazy enough to think they could build, and float, and maintain a Breakwater made of car-tires to protect the harbor.

A year later I was launching my Venture from WCSC's main ramp when I noticed a guy with a beauty of a new boat on a first-class trailer. It was past Commodore Mike Miros and his new Tanzer 22. Couldn't sell the Venture fast enough and ordered a Tanzer 22, probably the most sea-worthy 22 ever built. My T22 sail # 1700 arrived in WCSC's main parking lot in June 1979 on a low-boy, flat-bed truck along with Tanzer 22 sail # 1701. Wow, without my knowing it, someone else had ordered the same make boat, at the same time. It was someone I did not know -- Ronnie Ashmore!

By this time I was just as "crazy" as all the other racing sailors at WCSC --- maybe crazier than some. We would go out during the coldest days of winter, with decks frozen and icicles hanging from booms and lines so stiff they wouldn't bend. On race days we would race to the dam and back. We had night races under full moons, starting at sunset near the Point and sailing all night, finishing off the Point at day break. Ronnie, Mike and I became friends and started a small Tanzer 22 Fleet which soon grew to five boats.

Not long into racing campaigns, I noticed something special about Ronnie Ashmore. He was always courteous, kind and mannerly, but tough as nails. He could endure anything and come out on top. He was helpful, honest and hard-working. I learned he had earned Eagle Scout as a young man. As a graduate Georgia Tech Engineer, he took over maintenance of the "impossible" Breakwater and I was his SCUBA diver, jobs we have maintained for years. In a boat, I discovered Ronnie had the ability to calmly visualize angles, calculate wind velocity and boat speed and put it to use on the racecourse. His temperament was/is calm, calculating and determined. I'm hard-working too, but my temperament is excited, rambunctious, impetuous and bouncy. I talked him into teaming-up on my Tanzer (Dove); him at the helm and me rail-meat-deck-hand. How many times did Ronnie have to say, "Ed, cool it! I've got 'er in a groove so calm down and go below and just lay there and be quiet. Ronnie, his then ten-year-old son Walt and I, won the annual Hot S'Yacht regatta over-all in the Tanzer 22 Dove and Ronnie and I won the over-all B Class Keelboat Championship.

Ronnie Ashmore is one of the best men I have ever known and it was no contest for "Best Man" when Bev and I married. His magnanimous attitude is infectious and his only weakness -- chicken livers!

Here's where I get keelhauled: Thirty eight years later, and after recently retiring as President of a Civil Engineering firm, after three, fine, grown boys and a dear wife Gloria managing a sprawling home on our lake, Ronnie became your Rear Commodore. Rear Commodores are responsible for maintaining everything at WCSC which is not in the water. The club year 2016 had hardly begun when in January Ronnie decided our clubhouse kitchen needed renovating. The room needed baseboards; new electric ranges were a must and the entire wall behind the old range was completely damaged. All alone, with his typical energy and determination, Ronnie, using his own tools, set up a carpenter shop in the clubhouse and went to work...repairing and dry-walling holes, cutting baseboards and painting. He spent all day every day the week of February 14th. On one night he worked in the WCSC kitchen until midnight. You're probably looking at over 60 hours of volunteer work on that kitchen.

On Saturday, February 6 he arranged a workday (WD #1) and personally arrived at the main parking lot before 0730 to set up a table with power saws, clippers and chain saws. Around 0900, 8 or 9 WCSC volunteers showed. The task was to cut small trees and clear vines and briars off the bank separating the road to the clubhouse and main parking lot, a steep, rocky, slippery grade. The job was half finished that Saturday and Ronnie left the club at 1800 (10 ½ hours later). He was back on duty, serving Fair Share volunteers for another workday the next day (WD #2), working with another group another 12 plus hours to finish.

Early Saturday, February 20th, Ronnie voted in the Republican primary, but was on station in the WCSC main parking lot for another day (WD #3) of bush axes, chain saws and hatchets. He was in the middle of briars and brush all day. Sometime late that afternoon, he concluded the work parties and picked up where he left-off in the clubhouse kitchen. He was there when I left after 1730. Sunday, the next day, I arrived at the club around 0800 to work on my boat. Guess who was already in the clubhouse working on his kitchen project! I finished around 1600 and Ronnie Ashmore, our Rear Commodore was still hard at it. And for the rest of the week, Ronnie was at work in WCSC's kitchen cooking with wood and paint.

Wednesday, February 25th, another email appeared announcing WD #4 for Saturday, February 27th. By this date Ronnie had completed his WCSC "Kitchen" project and said he had over 80 hours of his personal time wrapped up in our NEW kitchen. He said this workday (February 27th) will be a "day-off" for him. What a joke because he cut trees and underbrush along with everyone else -- all day! This was a banner day for the "Under-brushing" project. Around 20 people showed up, including Vice Commodore Will DeHart. Several members returned after having satisfied their Fair Share requirement weeks ago. With power and hand tools, the volunteers finished clearing underbrush and small trees between the main launch ramps. A water-filled harbor with sailboats soon began to appear adjacent to the main lot. All debris were hauled by the "carrying" volunteers to the Boneyard. Ronnie set yet another WD #5 for underbrush on March 5th and another (WD #6) on March 13th all day in pouring rain.

This little piece of heaven did not drop from the sky! Your Rear Commodore is a rare man. He is one of the most likeable people at WCSC, an active racing sailor and with limitless energy he rolls up his sleeves and works alongside volunteers doing heavy underbrush clearance as well as many other needed tasks. This underbrush project is worthy of maximum effort by every member who loves the club. There will be plenty to do on into the summer. An active member once said, "If you belong to a club or organization, if you do MORE than your share, then you are doing your fair share."

As for me, I guess you can soon find me somewhere under the Breakwater.

Annual Corps of Engineers Lease Compliance Inspection

by Ronnie Ashmore

On March 2, 2016 we had our annual Corps of Engineers lease compliance inspection of our property. The inspection went very well, with compliments from the Corps about our docks and the general upkeep of the grounds. The only items noted on the report requiring correction within 30 days of the inspection were:

1. Destroy broken/unrepairable picnic tables (already on our own to do list)
2. Repair the north launch ramp (also already on our own to do list)
3. Properly store gas containers.

We will need the help of the membership with item number 3, "proper storage of gas containers". The Corps noted several instances where gas containers were under campers, boats, just sitting outside on the ground. The Corps indicated that these gas cans need to be inside some sort of containment such as a ventilated job box or ventilated/lined containment shed such as our fuel shed. They cannot be left sitting outside on the ground.

We have asked that any member with gas cans outside of their camper, boat, or just sitting on the ground to remove their gas cans from the club or put them inside a properly ventilated containment box/shed prior to March 23rd so that it gives us time to report the corrections to the Corps within the required 30 days. However this must become an ongoing best practice for each one of us. Please do your part by complying by the guidelines we have been given from the Corps. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Ronnie Ashmore
2016 Rear Commodore
sailtanzer@aol.com

WCSC 2016 BOARD OF STEWARDS

OFFICERS:

COMMODORE	PAUL ROCK paulrock61@gmail.com
VICE COMMODORE	WILL DEHART wpdehart@yahoo.com
REAR COMMODORE	RONNIE ASHMORE sailtanzer@aol.com
TREASURER	TED SAUVAIN tedsauvain@att.net
SECRETARY	SUSAN RUARK wcscsecretary@gmail.com

STEWARDS:

2016	RICK FONTENOT cowardlylion@charter.net KEAT PRUSZENSKI mississippiwildcat@excite.com
2017	CURT RUBINSTEIN sloopy5336@gmail.com DENNIS FISHER dcjcfisher1@charter.net
2018	TIM CRANE tcrane29664@gmail.com RON SANGA ronsangasr@gmail.com

Apr	02-03	WCSC Springboard Regatta	W.DeHart, E.Mitchell, D.Kosa, R.Moede, L.Moses, T.Blaskovic, D.Tegel, J.Stumpff, P.Rock, J.Weithop, S.Smith
	05	1900 Board Meeting	
	09	1200 Cruising Fleet Beach Adventure	
		1300 Centerboard Race #3	
	10	1300 Keelboat Spring Race #3	
	15-17	Charleston Race Week	
	16	0800 Work Day #2	
	21	1900 Learn to Sail Class	
	23	0830 Learn to Sail Class	
	23-24	1000 Club Championship	
May	28	0830 Learn to Sail Class	Ron and Martha Sanga S.Kiemele, M.Hellstrom, R.Bannister, M.McDonald, C.Rubenstein, J.Kathe B.Busbey, J.Yarbro, F.Mendenhall, D.Boyer, B.Gibson, W.Bowler Rear Commodore Ronnie Ashmore Ron Moede at Anderson University Ron Moede at WCSC B.Lacher , C.Wilkes, T.Jacob, M.Rayneri, D.Kafsky, C.Poole, S.Finley, J.Marsh Ron Moede at Anderson University Ron Moede at WCSC W.Cheser , D.Harder, G.Lyons, S.Smith, B.Christoffersen, C.Beckman Ron Moede at WCSC S.Mathews , F.Acevedo, T.Belfield, M.Brinn, J.Snowden, E.Dewitt, A.Gates
	30	0830 Learn to Sail Class	
		1300 Centerboard Race #4	
	01	0830 Learn to Sail Class	
		1300 Keelboat Spring Race #4	
	03	1900 Board Meeting	
	05	1900 Keelboat Sailing Class	
	07	0830 Keelboat Sailing Class	
		1800 Derby Day Party	
	12	1900 Keelboat Sailing Class	
Jun	14	0800 Work Day #3	Rear Commodore Ronnie Ashmore Ron Moede at WCSC Ron and Martha Sanga R.Ashmore , Y.Ivanov, B.Chasteen, S.Alley, J.Sivori, J.Cridland-Hughes Ron Moede at WCSC M.Harrison , C.Hunter, J.Culwell, A.Hippensteal, J.Greene, M.Nichols, T.Leavitt Bob Knapp , Hosted by C&E Docks K.Chiswell , R.Linville, H.Roemer, H.Hamilton, J.Gwardiak, A.Wesolek Rear Commodore Ronnie Ashmore D.Marett , T.Bowman, L.Williams, B.Bolt, M.Chewning, H.Vantleven Ron and Martha Sanga B.Hicks , J.Jordan, L.Nagimova, M.Bowling, M.Holcome, M.Madden, C.Stokes, S.Wells B.Freese , G.Mitchell
		0830 Learn to Sail Class	
	21	1300 Centerboard Race #5	
		1800 Memorial Day Party	
	04	1300 Centerboard Race #6	
	07	1900 Board Meeting	
	11	0800 Work Day #4	
		1300 Keelboat Spring Race #6	
	12	1200 Cruising Fleet Pirate's Day	
		1300 Centerboard Race #7	
	25	1000 Around Andersonville Island	