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# THE VENTURING

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Volume 31, Issue 3

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## Commodore's Notes

**Mike Kmita**

*Commodore, Venture/MacGregor Yacht Club*

The weather in Texas always seems to change from year to year. When I moved here in 83 they said that it hardly gets to cold in the winter. Of course we set records and went into the single digits for the first time in so many hundred years and had a couple of ice storms to make it interesting. Now the second month I was here, I heard this saying, "if you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes and it will change." They didn't say anything about tornados or ice storms though. It sure is true about the hourly changes but they failed to say that if you didn't like last years weather, just wait until this year. So now I have written this paragraph to cover all the weather conditions for all the years. Just think I may never have to write another February article again! Here goes.

It seems that the weather was too cold / warm to go sailing this winter. And the rainy / dry weather has caused the lakes have too much / little water to launch / sail our boats. Just think, we have not gotten into the rainy / dry spring weather yet. And don't forget about the hot / hot summer months that are just ahead. With the rising / falling fuel costs, we may need to let the house stay hot / cool and spend more evenings / days on the lake. Oh well, just a thought.

*continued on page 2*

## Vice-Commodore

**Don O'Grady**

*STATS .....*

Membership renewals are great. Almost everyone has paid their dues for 2001. Those of you who haven't know who you are - and so does your fleet captain!

This month I thought I'd look through the membership renewals and applications and see what you had to say...

The activity that received the most comments was Racing. Of those that indicated a preference, nine members favored Saturday racing while four asked for Sunday. The short race (90 minute) format is still the favorite - but there was also some interest in weekend regattas and longer races.

There were only a few comments on the monthly meeting and social activities - but just about everyone seems to be satisfied. As far as favorite lakes go - there's a lot of 'em. Most lakes of any significance were mentioned - but there was no overwhelming demand for change, and Texoma continues to come out on top.

But one thing that stands out is everyone needs to wish the following group of March babies a Happy Birthday: Bryan Atwood, Bruce Barker, Beth Hardin, Lee Howard, Rick Newhouse, Janelle Schmidt, Michelle Starkey, and John Vaughan. ♣

## Programs

*Alison Robertson*

The February Program, from what I'm told, was wonderful. Unfortunately, I missed the meeting as I was at the emergency room with my daughter until 2:00am, only to find I had a flat tire on my car when I tried to go home. Believe me, I would rather have been at the meeting! Thank you very much Al Barboza for a job well done. Besides for all the great information Al gave everyone, I'm told everyone that attended now knows all there is to know about Tohatsu engines.... ♣

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Commodore's Notes; Vice-Commodore Report; Programs
- 2 Race Chairman; Associate Fleet
- 3 Calendar of Events; 25 Fleet Report; Social Committee
- 4 Cruise News



I have lived in New Jersey, Illinois and Maine. There always seemed to be weeks when the sky was overcast and all the precipitation that usually accompanied it. Days and days of that disgusting, depressing drizzle, fog and rain, maybe snow or sleet. I moved here to get away from that and after a few of those days around here I begin to develop "cabin fever." Last Sunday, I began to do an indoor project, wallpaper the kitchen. I had to get something from the shed and found that it not only stopped raining but the sun had come out or my neighbor had turned on that huge lamp again. Anyway, while searching the shed, I noticed the outboard sitting there. Forgetting what I was there for, I pulled it out, got some fresh gas and started her up. Not bad. After sitting for almost 2 years it started within 3 pulls and I didn't even attend Al Barboza's program last meeting. Then I went out and did some measuring on the boat, went to the lake and stole some hardware from John Molsted's 22. I will be ready to race this year, maybe. Needless to say, the indoor project is on hold until the next bad day or next year. Which ever comes first. No wonder my yard always has weeds.

The boat show was a great success this year and we have several pages of people interested in our club and the sailing lessons. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to work the show. And a special thanks to the Rigg Shop for again, supporting our club and the sailing lessons.

Next up is the Bachelor Cruise on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Its time to complete those changes to your boat and see if they really work. Get your crew lined up early. This should be a good cruise. I don't believe Ron has been on one before, so we can tell him anything and he will believe us. Think up some good ones for him.

See ya at the next meeting or the lake. Hopefully the lake first! ♣

## Race Chairman

Al Barboza 972-270-1048 [hummer431@home.com](mailto:hummer431@home.com)

Although the race season starts next month (April 14<sup>th</sup>), I just wanted to say that I am looking forward to a good year, good sportsmanship, good turnouts, aggressive sailing and no protests.

I would like to take this time to invite all the new skippers in our Club to come to the races and hone their sailing skills, learn to set your boat rigging to optimum settings and have a better understanding of the sailing rules. Win, lose or draw, the experience gained will last forever!

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the new Spring racing season starts at East Fork boat ramp and the Skippers meeting will be at 9 AM

and Committee Boat duties will be set at that time.... so lets get the boats out of winter storage and get them ready for the year ahead.

If you know you will be racing this year, please give me a call or E-mail me, so I will get some idea as to the Committee Boat assignments and to the number of trophies that we need to purchase for the year. This would be a great help to us!

FYI.....Marshall McKenzie, Carol and Randy Gilbert and their boat " S Cape", an Evelyn 32, won Boat of the Year at Lake Ray Hubbard for the year 2000!!!! Congratulations to them and their crew!!!

Sea Ya on the water, ♣

## Associate Fleet

*Larry Featherston*

Now that everyone is stress free or at least on your way to recovery, it's time to get out there and get in the sailing mood. For some of us, we're always in the sailing mood. For others though, this wonderful rainy weather that we've been having might have you thinking that you're never going to get to see the lake anytime soon. (a very depressing thought). If you use my advice from last month, you can change this thought into "Hey, if it keeps raining, I'll have lake front property. Cool!!!" (a much more positive thought). Some of us have already gotten to enjoy a little sailing this year. You know who you are you lucky bilge-rats. But even better, some of us have gotten to race this year (nanny-nanny boo-boo). Houston Mid-Winters was a blast (of 20 to 25 knot winds and 4 foot swell's) like usual. Aminal and Wind Dancer were the only two who got to enjoy the racing though. Houston really sets a new meaning to the term 'racing'. Being put in a class with 37 to 40 foot fixed keel sailboats, all with a handicap less than 165 also gives a new meaning to the word 'underdog.' But that's why those who love sailing, especially racing, love it so much, It's to have that chance to play with the big guys, with all the odds stacked against you, and you're on your boat with your friends thinking, "Hey dude, if we drink some more, the boat will go faster." Hope ya'll get a chance to play in the water soon! ♣

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2001

### MARCH:

5<sup>TH</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
17<sup>TH</sup>-18<sup>TH</sup> - BACHELOR CRUISE  
20<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'  
SUPPER

### APRIL:

2<sup>ND</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
14<sup>TH</sup> - SPRING RACE SERIES 1 & 2  
17<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
27<sup>TH</sup> - BASIC SAILING; CLASSROOM  
28<sup>TH</sup> - SPRING RACE SERIES 3 & 4  
29<sup>TH</sup> - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER

### MAY:

5<sup>TH</sup> - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER  
5<sup>TH</sup> -6<sup>TH</sup> - WOMEN'S CRUISE  
7<sup>TH</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
12<sup>TH</sup> - SPRING RACE SERIES 5 & 6  
15<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
19<sup>TH</sup> - SPRING RACE SERIES 7 & 8  
26<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> - MEMORIAL DAY CRUISE, LAKE  
TEXOMA

### JUNE:

2<sup>ND</sup> - SUMMER RACE SERIES 1  
4<sup>TH</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
19<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
30<sup>TH</sup> - SUMMER RACE SERIES 2

### JULY:

2<sup>ND</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
14<sup>TH</sup> - SUMMER RACE SERIES 3  
17<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'  
SUPPER  
28<sup>TH</sup> - SUMMER RACE SERIES 4

### AUGUST:

6<sup>TH</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
11<sup>TH</sup> - SUMMER RACE SERIES 5  
25<sup>TH</sup> - SUMMER RACE SERIES 6

### SEPTEMBER:

1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> - LABOR DAY CRUISE; TEXOMA  
14<sup>TH</sup> - BASIC SAILING; CLASSROOM  
15<sup>TH</sup> - FALL RACE SERIES 1 & 2  
16<sup>TH</sup> - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER  
18<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'  
SUPPER

22<sup>ND</sup> - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER

29<sup>TH</sup> - FALL RACE SERIES 3 & 4

### OCTOBER:

1<sup>ST</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
13<sup>TH</sup> - FALL RACE SERIES 5 & 6  
16<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
27<sup>TH</sup> - FALL RACE SERIES 7 & 8

### NOVEMBER:

5<sup>TH</sup> - BOARD MEETING  
20<sup>TH</sup> - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'  
SUPPER

### DECEMBER:

8<sup>TH</sup> - Y/MYC HOLIDAY PARTY

## **25 FLEET REPORT**

JIM WALLACE 972-243-0212

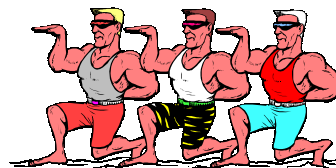
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First, the 25-fleet hospital report. Kay Vaughan and Janelle Schmidt came to the last club meeting, so I can say they are doing well. Kay said she isn't having any problems, but Janelle said she still has some pain and still uses crutches occasionally. Marshall McKenzie went back to work the last of February and is still in cardiac rehab. He said he walks a couple of miles a day.

It looks like spring is about here so it's close to boat time. I got all fired up and went out to look at my boat. Yep, it's still in the driveway, a dirty gray with only one flat tire. I crawled on top and looked inside. The snakeskin is still in there. I tried to get Sandra to crawl in the back of the boat to locate it, but you know how wives are. She wouldn't do it. Hopefully the mold and mildew killed him.

One thing for sure, after three abdominal operations I have lost most of the upper body strength I had, so raising the mast without help is beyond my capabilities. I have been looking at alternate methods. I talked with several club members that are looking at a new process also. But, so far I haven't found a method within my cost range. Alan Cook is presently installing a system using a pole on his boat, so I am waiting to see how his instillation comes out. Alan sails very often, so he should give it a good workout.

Several members of the 25 fleet said they are thinking about sailing or have been some, so I can say, "So am I!" But there still is that snake problem - - - - ♣



### **Social News**

Juanelle Barboza

[juanelle431@home.com](mailto:juanelle431@home.com)

March is a Pot Luck meeting. YUMMY-I know this club has the world's best cooks. The club will supply drinks, paper goods and utensils. (the throw away kind, of course!!)

The refreshments for the April meeting will be provided by the 17-24 Fleet. If you have any questions on what to bring, call your fleet Captain or me...

Along with the social part I am also the Sunshine committee person. If someone you know has, or has recently had, reason to celebrate, or commiserate, please give me a call. It's always nice to know that someone cares what happens to our club members.

One special note for the month of March: Dave and Jennie Taylor will now have their son and daughter-in-law, along with the Light of their Heart-OWEN, the first grand baby closer to home. They have just found out that Houston will be home base now. Hey Dave, it will take at least 3 tanks of gas to get there!!!! ♣

Ladies!

Mark your Calendars for May 5-6 women's cruise! This is truly an event you will NOT want to miss! We will be meeting for a pre-sail dinner at the restaurant at Collin Park Marina. Have a lovely evening cruise out to our anchorage. Swimming, cards, stories, snacks, and more fun than the men will have had on their bachelor cruise. Watch the sun set. Breakfast in the AM and a lovely sail back to the marina. You do not have to be an experienced sailor to participate as you will have two qualified women skippers leading this adventure. Hurry, participation is limited. Call either Kathy Peele 972-423-4603 or Alison Robertson 972-480-8165 to reserve your spot.

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### Cruise News!

*Ron and Jeanne Briggs*

The bottom line is that there is none, at least that I know about! Just remember to come to the St. Paddy's Day Bachelor (male) cruise March 17, 18. Details are in the February newsletter. Drinking green beer will not be a requirement; green tea will be an option; green complexions will be dependent on the weather (or the green beer or the green tea). However, I am totally confident that the weather will equal or exceed Sunday's, when Jeanne and I had a very pleasant sail at Joe Pool. (Of course, I am similarly confident that the stock market will go up this month.) The lake is up about 10 feet.

Because of the club's many other activities in April (racing, sailboat lessons, Ladies cruise in early May, etc.), we've decided to forgo a Spring Fling cruise and focus on our traditional Memorial Day event at Texoma. If you haven't attended this in a while, put it on your calendar this year! If you've never been, plan on going this year. We'll make arrangements to have a member meet you at the launch ramp and help you out if you'd like. Look for details in the April and May newsletters.

Provisionally, we've selected Lake Ray Hubbard as the destination for the July 4<sup>th</sup> cruise. Since the fourth is a Wednesday, we've scheduled the event for the following weekend, from Friday July 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>. ♣

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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