
THE VENTURING

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February 2001

Commodore's Notes

COMMODORE: *Mike Kmita*

I think I can smell spring is in the air. It only takes a day or two of warm weather; the knowledge that it is snowing somewhere up north and the boat show to get me looking at the boat again. I have begun to plan what changes will make my boat go faster for this racing season. The first is to get the boat wet again! Need to get them done by the Bachelor Cruise. Then correct all the mistakes I made.

Yep, it must be spring. My eyes just started to burn with some allergenic that must have been hiding somewhere in my keyboard! Surely it couldn't be tears trying to write this article instead of being out playing on boat. Sorry Kathy.

The boat show seems to be drawing great interest in the club and the sailing lessons. Thanks to all who worked during the show. Did you see that sand castle? That should give the Briggs, the Cruising Directors,

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IT'S A RACE ...

VICE COMMODORE: *Don O'Grady*

It's a race to see which fleet will be the first to complete membership renewal for 2001 - no prize, but I'm sure your fleet captain would enjoy the bragging rights. As of the February board meeting:

- First place goes to the Associate Fleet with 6 of 10 renewals - 60%
- Not far behind is the 25 Fleet with 8 of 15 renewals - 53%
- In third place is the Multi-Fleet with 3 of 8 renewals - 38%
- And trailing is the 26 Fleet with 8 of 25 renewals - 32%

Remember... your renewal must be in by March 15 to be included in the 2001 directory

BOAT SHOW INTEREST

Interest in sailing classes generated by the boat show is strong as usual. Please call Larry to volunteer for a day of fun on the water with this important fundraiser and recruiting effort.

♣

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something to think about. Thanks to the Rigg Shop for providing us the space and again supporting the sailing classes. We need boats to volunteer for the sailing lessons. Please, call Larry Featherstone (972-247-8869) to get your name on the list. I will do one Larry!

Don't forget to get your membership form into Don O'Grady, Vice Commodore, so we can have everyone in the roster. Take a few minutes and give an old member or two a call to get them back into the activities. The cruising, programs, racing and social directors are all busy looking for plenty of activities to keep us busy. Don't let their efforts go to waste. Get involved! Get some old friends involved!

Sail fast, cruise slow and enjoy the new direction we are moving! See you at the meeting and hopefully on the lake.

25 FLEET REPORT

JIM WALLACE 972-243-0212

E-MAIL: JWALLA@NETZERO.NET

This is actually my second report. My January report was lost on the Internet. I think it has been found, because I received notice I have been nominated for a major literary award in the field of primitive writing. I am at the top of the sixth grade level. I think it's their top level, what with one being a lower number. First prize is a bad speller's dictionary in large print. So keep your fingers crossed.

Reporting on the 25 fleet is like a hospital report. Marshall McKinzie is back on his feet and in Cardiac Rehab. That's where they get you back in shape and tell you what you can't eat. Kay Vaughan is doing well after her back surgery, but is not back as of my 1st phone call. Janelle Schmidt is recovering after knee surgery. Jean Cook is back on her feet and look's great after her surgery. She is still in therapy with little or no ill effects.

After writing this I don't think I feel too good either!

Not much sailing going on. I think Allison has been out and Marshall went out but he said, "They wouldn't even let him pull a line."

If you have E-mail and would prefer to get an E-mail instead of a phone call let me know by E-mail. If you have any fleet news call or E-mail. ♣

26 FLEET REPORT

By: Sam Blake

972-276-0682

Howdy! We are already into the 2nd month of the year and a lot of planning has already taken place. Hopefully everybody got their 2001 calendar and marked the dates so you will not miss anything. The Dallas Boat Show should be over by now and we will kick off the season with the Bachelor Cruise in March. For some of us, the season will start even earlier with the Houston Mid-Winters Regatta on Feb. 23rd thru 25th. At the moment, most of the work by the Board is and has been on planning he details for all the events planned for the year. Maybe by next month, there will be more to report on and stories to tell. Please contact me if you have any questions or have some good sailing stories to tell. See you on the Lake!

P.S. the 26 Fleet has REFRESHMENT DUTY for the February 20th membership meeting. Please remember to bring a treat or refreshment for the meeting. Thanks! ♣

Multi-Fleet News

January meandered slowly past the Newhouse family and majority of the sailing world. Only the most dedicated are on the area lakes, testing their mettle against the frigid elements of the season.

Talisman remains untouched for the New Year - she continues her hibernation through the winter months under elephant gray skies,

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2001

FEBRUARY:

20TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARCH:

5TH - BOARD MEETING

17TH-18TH - BACHELOR CRUISE

20TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'
SUPPER

APRIL:

2ND - BOARD MEETING

14TH - SPRING RACE SERIES 1 & 2

17TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

27TH - BASIC SAILING; CLASSROOM

28TH - SPRING RACE SERIES 3 & 4

29TH - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER

MAY:

5TH - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER

5TH -6TH - WOMEN'S CRUISE

7TH - BOARD MEETING

12TH - SPRING RACE SERIES 5 & 6

15TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

19TH - SPRING RACE SERIES 7 & 8

26TH - 28TH - MEMORIAL DAY CRUISE, LAKE
TEXOMA

JUNE:

2ND - SUMMER RACE SERIES 1

4TH - BOARD MEETING

19TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

30TH - SUMMER RACE SERIES 2

JULY:

2ND - BOARD MEETING

14TH - SUMMER RACE SERIES 3

17TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'
SUPPER

28TH - SUMMER RACE SERIES 4

AUGUST:

6TH - BOARD MEETING

11TH - SUMMER RACE SERIES 5

25TH - SUMMER RACE SERIES 6

SEPTEMBER:

1ST - 3RD - LABOR DAY CRUISE; TEXOMA

14TH - BASIC SAILING; CLASSROOM

15TH - FALL RACE SERIES 1 & 2

16TH - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER

18TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'
SUPPER

22ND - BASIC SAILING; ON THE WATER

29TH - FALL RACE SERIES 3 & 4

OCTOBER:

1ST - BOARD MEETING

13TH - FALL RACE SERIES 5 & 6

16TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING

27TH - FALL RACE SERIES 7 & 8

NOVEMBER:

5TH - BOARD MEETING

20TH - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 'POT LUCK'
SUPPER

DECEMBER:

8TH - Y/MYC HOLIDAY PARTY

Social News: from Juanelle

Looks like we're off to a good start for year 2001! The first meeting went well. I'd like to THANK everyone who brought refreshments last month. (Kudos' to the 25 Fleet!)

The refreshment schedule is:
February will be the 26 Fleet
March will have a Potluck Dinner
April will be the 17-24 Fleet
May will be the Associate Fleet
June will be the 25 Fleet
July is Potluck again!
August will be the 26 Fleet
September will be a Potluck Dinner
October will be the 17-24 Fleet
November will be a Thanksgiving Feast

In case of any small Fleets, we may need to team up. I will know more after the application for memberships are turned in.

Look to future articles for fun things that are being planned. If you have any ideas...call me...email me.. ANYTHING! ♣



Ladies! Mark your calendars for May 5th & 6th and plan to attend our second "**Ladies only**" cruise! The first year we did this it was a great success and we had some serious fun! You don't have to be a big sailor to come; you don't have to bring your boat. You won't want to miss this year so be sure to sign-up early as space is limited (unfortunately) as we've got two boats committed.

Here are the details: We all meet at the Collin Park Marina on Lake Lavon at 5:00 PM Friday, May 5th. We'll have dinner (& if you like, drinks) at the Harbor Restaurant (the floating eatery at the Marina). After dinner, we'll climb aboard and take a nice, evening sail out to our anchorage site. We'll raft up, have drinks, games, eating

News From La Cavale

Jim & Margie Hutchinson

Just a little update as to our whereabouts. It's hard to believe another year has passed. We are still living aboard and loving it. There is just enough maintenance work to keep us busy. No time schedules though, we're on "Island Time".

We spent Christmas of '99 in Gulfport, MS and New Year's in Pirates Cove, AL (a very quaint place). We sailed from Pensacola to Panama City, FL. Panama City is a very nice town with easy access to most necessities without a car. While we were there, we enjoyed a "Blessing of the Fleet" boat parade that was very impressive and had many participants including local shrimpers, military and private boats.

April 1 we took off for the lower west coast of Florida. Sailing offshore in the Gulf of Mexico to Port St. Joe where we continued on the inland waterway to Apalachicola. We ate some delicious fresh shrimp and oysters in Apalachicola. We headed offshore again but had engine problems nearing St. Petersburg making it necessary to sail into a marina with no auxiliary power. That was a great "experience".

MEMBERSHIP IN BOAT US

The Boas US Cooperating Group Program has proven so popular with V/MYC members that club officers are renewing our "partnership" for another year. Because of this special arrangement, you get 50% off when you join the nation's largest association of recreational boat owners. You pay one-half of the regular Boat US dues of \$19.00 - only \$9.50 a year.

If you're already a Boat US member, you can now renew your membership at the low \$9.50 rate.

Boat US membership benefits include: a 704 page discount equipment catalog, a year subscription to Boat US magazine, plus special discounts and member rewards with purchases. Also, low-cost, high-protection boat insurance, including special programs for trailerable boats, discounts on fuel, overnight slips or repairs at more than 500 marinas. And, as if that wasn't enough, you get \$50 (per incident)

After getting the engine going we followed the protected inland waterway (ICW) to Sarasota. (Some gorgeous homes & huge yachts parked in front all along the way). Anchored in Sarasota harbor, then off the next day stopping Venice (a very nice little town) where we bicycled to the grocery store. That was a sight!

We have had a pleasant year and have met many nice people along the way. We are looking forward to more adventures and interesting sights and people in the future. We'll be taking off to the Bahamas as soon as the weather is right.

We with everyone FAIR WINDS & FOLLOWING SEAS. ♣

Cruise News!

St Paddy's Day Bachelors Cruise March 17-18

Here's the skinny (relax, ladies, just a phrase) on the Bachelor's Cruise scheduled for March 17-18 at Grandpappy Point Marina. (This is the one for males; the females are having their own in May. I wonder which is the wiser sex?)

Meet around 8:00 a.m. Saturday for breakfast at the Drivers Restaurant Truck Stop on Central Expressway, US 75 North. It's at Exit 48, Mile marker 228, NE corner of Hwy75-Hwy455 at Anna, just north of McKinney. There is ample parking for our boat trailers just north of the truck stop. Then we'll caravan up to Texoma.

We will base ourselves at the guest slips by the gas dock at Grandpappy Point Marina. The launch ramp just south of the Point Restaurant should be fine this year since lake levels are about normal (618 feet as of Feb 6; normal is 615). If you plan to meet us there, rather than the truck stop, aim for around 11:00 am. Bring a packed lunch or grab something at the Point Restaurant. Sailing activities will begin around 1:00pm.

If you've never been on this cruise before, then join me. I haven't either! But I'm assured, even by the saner members of the club, that it's lots of fun- as well as fertile soil for the growth of war stories for the future. You don't need food or drink since we patronize the restaurants. Just get out your long johns or shorts,

ASSOCIATE FLEET

Larry Featherston

Stress!!! We all got. None of us want it. So what do we do with it? For some of us it's rather easy, we go sailing, work on our sailboat, listen to music, go dancing, etc. But for others it's not so simple. So, being the nice guy that I am, I thought I'd pass a widely used counseling theory along (At no charge, of course). Most counselors' today use a technique called Cognitive Behavior Therapy to help clients with everyday problems such as "stress". The technique is rather simple and can be done without the help of a counselor. In fact, author David Burns has a great book called *The Feeling Good Handbook* (\$19.95) that I recommend. The theory is that your attitudes and feelings are caused by your thoughts and beliefs. Simply put, if you have negative thoughts about something your doing or something you're about to do, then you will most likely feel uneasy or stressed during the course of the event. In the majority of cases, when you're feeling upset, anger, anxious, or stressed out, it's because of unrealistic or hypothetical thoughts that you're having. These thoughts usually include some of the following: I should have..., I or they will never..., They're going to think I'm..., etc. These thoughts are unrealistic because your trying to read the thoughts of others, or foresee the future, or set high standards for yourself that can't be met immediately. So, by changing these unrealistic thoughts into more positive/realistic ones, you can decrease your anxiety or stress level ten fold. This does take a little practice and the desire to change, but it is something that can be done by anyone. If you'd like to find out more on this, let me know. Hope to see all of ya'll in Houston for the Midwinters.

♣

Editor's Note: Thanks to our guest columnist, Tom Stockwell (a Mac 26 owner) in California, for sharing his experience with us. I know we have all been there and can relate. Read & enjoy!

However, my family was so thrilled with any movement at all they immediately cranked up the stereo with a rendition of Nine Inch Nails that blasted across the lake, frightening a school of fish towards the awaiting hooks of quiet fishermen who watched with curious, if not comprehending, appreciation.

Meanwhile, the ballast tank valve was only partially opened, due to a seal that was partially stuck to the hull. This created a series of resounding "Ga Lunk! Ga Lunk! s " that were slightly asynchronous to the pounding beat of the NIN bandwidth. Indeed, it was this strangely hollow Ga Lunk that brought the problem to our attention.

At the same time the steep rocky shoreline was fast approaching on the port, with jagged teeth smiling at the pristine whiteness of our jell coat. As my teenage daughter and middle son were in the middle posing lasciviously on the deck, fighting for the honor of being first on my wife's camera, the moment of danger seemed certainly the farthest thing from their minds. So, quickly disrobing, I jumped into the cold water to fend off the rocks. "Hey!" One of them said. "What's Dad doing in the drink?" I immediately pointed out the significance of the evolving disaster, to which they all responded by jumping in as well. In the blink of an eye, there we were all swimming around our lovely new boat, sails still up, no ballast, heading for the rocks, and -- yes hard to believe -- no one on board to man the tiller. NIN still blaring, ballast still galunking, the boat caught the next sudden puff of wind, and our ghost ship was launched on its maiden voyage.

By chance, I caught the rudder and yanked down the ladder and scrambled aboard, doused the sails, while the

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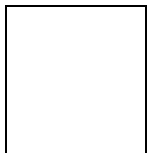
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Kathy Peele, Editor
V/MYC
1504 Westlake, Dr.
Plano, TX. 75075



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DON'T MISS THE FEBRUARY 20TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

Everything you need to know about engine and trailer maintenance. Now is the time
To de-winterize your engine and check your trailer. Do you know how? Come ask the expert!

