



Bluewater Bay Sailing Club NEWSLETTER

March/April 2006

Promoting Sailing, Boating, & Related Activities!

SPRING MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Bluewater Bay Sailing club held its first of its biannual general membership meetings at the Bluewater Bay Marina's Ship's Store. Prior to the meeting, all BBSC members present enjoyed the heavy hors d'oeuvres and keg of beer provided by the club. Door prizes—mostly T-shirts—were handed out at varying intervals throughout the meeting. Commodore Brad Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted the presence of Walt Ruckel. Secretary Scott Pursell then took the floor to and noted that the minutes of the Fall Banquet had been printed in the January/February Newsletter. A motion was quickly made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes on that basis. Treasurer Marilyn Ostrominski reported the checking account balance of \$4,040.13. She also noted that the building fund CD, now over \$3,000, expires in May. She wrapped up her report with a reminder that BBSC members get a 50% discount on Boat US membership dues, so this is a good time to join. Treasurer's report was followed by the two fleet captain reports.



First, Fleet Captain Pat Ballasch emphasized the need for race committee volunteers, and passed around the racing schedule urging club members to please sign up. Then Small Boat Captain Mike Stoughton welcomed three new small boat sailors for this year. He presented a information on small boat scoring

for the upcoming season. The scoring for each racing participant will be based on his/her highest-scoring 75% of all the series races. The first BBSC small boat regatta is scheduled for April 30th. Meanwhile, the Portsmouth Regatta will be at the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club on April 7th.



After hearing from the fleet captains, Commodore Davis requested a vote for permission to use the building fund CD for purposes other than originally intended, mentioning the bridge members' desire to promote sailing among the younger population.

Brett Hinely expanded on Brad's request, making a pitch for the BBSC partnering with the Emerald Coast Sailing Association to promote sailing among high school students; mainly providing racks for small boats here at the BWB Marina. Brett emphasized that there is no plan to restore the walkway to the beach any time soon, although there is the possibility of setting up some sort of shuttle raft to provide access.

Pat Ballasch repeated the pitch to develop the sport by bringing in young people, initially by bringing some of the high school sailors from Fort Walton Beach to here stating the he felt small boat storage racks would bring this about.

Bill Deming made a strong request to do something about restoring the walkway to the beach, indicating that club activities are being curtailed by not having the beach access. He suggested that club members might be willing to provide

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some of the labor and using the building funds to purchase the supplies for the beach bridge.

Mickey Duvall suggested including a newsletter notice of bridge meetings where building fund CD spending decisions will be made, to give members the opportunity of attending.

Fred Reichstetter made the motion to allow the building fund CD to be spent for purposes other than a club building. The motion was seconded and approved. The bridge agreed to pin down the exact costs of 1) building a bridge and 2) installing a ferry to help in the decision making process.

Rear Commodore Charlie Mauck's report followed the building fund discussion. The first event on the schedule is the upcoming Marker 50 Cruise is scheduled for April 1st and 2nd. The following week sees the start of Wednesday night races beginning April 5th. The start time will be 5:30 PM until May, then changed to 6:00 PM for the summer, then 5:30 again starting in September. The extended Cruise is scheduled for June 4th through June 10th, with the destination not yet decided (maybe Pensacola, or possibly all destinations within Choctawhatchee Bay). The Shrimp Boil, scheduled this year for July, was a big success last year being held here at the Marina. He is still looking for a venue accessible by land as well as by sea.

Commodore Davis then wrapped up the meeting with some final awards and thank yous. He presented the award for the best chili at the Chili Dog Race to Kevin Wildt, thanked Patty Deming for her work with the club Newsletter, and presented last year's Blooper Award to Ridge Nye who had not been present at the Fall Banquet. He then announced the details for Startpalooza to be held on March 25th.



An "around-the-room" brought a few comments from the crowd. Scott Bedenbaugh stated that there are already two contenders for this year's Blooper Award. Doris Deming said that she would like to have a "pizza night" on Wednesday nights right after the races, at least once a month. Don Gresko asked if there were any bids on the old trophy case, and bought it for \$100. The Meeting was Adjourned at 7:05



New Orleans Marina after Katrina Clean-up

Don and Kathy Gresko were in New Orleans recently to transfer a boat to this area. Kathy took several photos of the area including this marina. This shot was taken in January "after" the clean-up. Kathy said there was a heavy National Guard presence protecting this area which was still without utilities at the time.



Crusin' Around



The time for the first BBSC Cruise for 2006 is rapidly approaching. Please plan to join us for an overnight cruise to Marker 50. For those with the taller sticks, the East Pass tide predictions are: 3/31 1110 .6 ft high tide; 3/31 2358 -.16 ft low tide; 4/1 1157 .67 ft high tide. (From the link on the BBSC web site.)

Other cruises and events planned for the year include:

April 1 - 2: Marker 50 Cruise.

June 4 - 11: Extended Cruise. I have a suggestion that we spend Sunday Evening at the 331 Bridge, then Monday and Tuesday at Shell Island (Panama City), then cruise to Destin on Wednesday then to Baytown (Sandestin) on Friday. I will entertain any other suggestions.

July 8-9: Shrimp Boil. Place TBD. We had such a good turnout in 2005 at the Marina that I am looking for a place that will be accessible by both land and sea.

July 22-23: Alternate date for Shrimp Boil.

September 16-17: Fall Cruise #1.

October 14-15: Fall Cruise #2.

Don't forget that our Wet Wednesdays begin on April 5th. For the month of April, we will start the race at 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our cruising schedule, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Fair Winds and Seas, Charlie Mauck - Rear Commodore
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CHILI DOG REGATTA

As usual the Chili Dog was a popular and fun event. Much of its success was due to the volunteerism of Marilyn Ostrominski who not only ran the race but made sure we had cups, plates, spoons and Frito's!! We again had threatening weather and all reports were that we were in for a real soaking but the Gods of sailing prevailed and we had really nice wind and weather. As far as the racing goes; we can all look to Startpalooza to cure some of the fleets starting woes (very few were at the start in a timely manner). We ran a Wednesday night style race with a twist. The first leg was to grass leg and then off to Boggy #1 the rule being that when the first boat rounded Boggy, the rest of the fleet would turn and head for home which was the start finish at the beach. This turned out to be a pretty good plan as the majority of the boats finished within boat lengths of each other. We all need to raise a glass to toast Mark Hunter's team on Untamed for rounding Boggy first and then catching everyone from behind to win the race! We had a great time following the race on the deck with most of the participants sticking around to judge the chili and poke fun at all of our various racing antics. There seems to some controversy brewing over the third straight win of Kevin Wildt as the Chili Champion (he must be putting something a little extra in the sauce) next year we may have to implement a new chemical analysis to ensure there is no doping going on! Thanks to all who helped make this a super fun event!

Pat Ballasch, PHRF Fleet Captain



BLUENOSE REGATTA

Well, is no news good news? Or is it no show is a good show? Perhaps it is no weather is good weather? Well in the case of the blue nose it was bad weather is no race. Not because it was cancelled but because of a lack of participation. We should all applaud the crew and skipper of Untamed for at least showing up. I was lucky enough to be invited to go out with the team and witness the practicing that has made Mark Hunter so hard to beat. I learned that he runs a great ship and is calm under all conditions. We wound up with really gorgeous weather after all, the 15 - 25 knot winds gave us the opportunity to really test the J-29's speed. Thanks Mark for letting me join your group! Next year we hope to have full attendance!

Pat Ballasch, PHRF Fleet Captain

★ COMMODORE'S CORNER ★

What a great two races we just had! The chili dog was a surprise with 7 boats participating, we capitalized on the two hours the race took, then joining on the deck for some awesome chili and fellowship. Startpalooza was a beautiful windy day. After two great speakers, Matt Schwab and Brett Hinley, lectured on starting techniques and race committee protocol we went out and had 8 great starts. After the sailing we joined up at Schooners for some hot gumbo and cold beer.

We encourage everyone to come out to these events and join in the fun. If you don't have crew, jump on someone else's boat or help out with race committee, which I assure you is just as fun as racing and a vital part of our organization.

Sadly this may be your last newsletter if we have not received you dues, which are critical to our existence. Next year we are changing our billing format to avoid having the commodore beg you!

Our next events are sure to be a blast, and I highly recommend you coming out, even if just to socialize after the race!

Brad Davis, Commodore

Blooper Nominee of the Month

We going to try a new section to this year's newsletter, called "Blooper Nominee of the Month". Any club member can nominate any other member. The bridge will decide any tie-breakers. And if they can't manage, the newsletter will choose whoever she wants. Since there wasn't a newsletter last month, I including a nominee for February and March. February's nominee is Kevin Wildt. He gets the nod for sailing the Chili Dog in a laser and ending up with an ear cast (see photo). His sailing ability isn't the problem, but apparently his ducking ability leaves much to be desired. March's nominee is Greg Gattis who had to be rescued after taking a laser for test drive. Wearing a wetsuit for warmth, Greg wasn't able to haul both himself and half the bayou aboard. So, he played storm anchor while Mickey Duvall towed him back to shore where he preceded to damage his toe on the dock (again see photo).



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1-2	Spring Cruise to Marker 50
April 5	Wednesday Night Racing Starts
April 8	Spring Series #1
April 22	Spring Series #2
April 30 (Sun)	BBSC Small Boat Race #1 & Small Boat Bay Series #1 at BBSC
May 6	Sailfest

2006 BLUEWATER BAY SAILING CLUB BRIDGE

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*For general information please contact any Bridge Member.
For race information please contact the Fleet Captain or
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