



Bluewater Bay Sailing Club NEWSLETTER

February 2014

Promoting Sailing, Boating, & Related Activities!

a fun race with some twists thrown into the mix

CHILI DOG REGATTA

February 8, 2014

Bluewater Bay Sailing Club
Bluewater Bay Marina, Florida

RULES

The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2009-2012, by this notice of race, by the entry form, and by the sailing instructions at the skipper's meeting.

ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

All boats and sailors are welcome at this fun race!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 8

10:00am - 11:00am	Registration –Schooner's
11:00pm	Skippers Meeting
12:00pm	Approximate 1 st flag
3:00 (approximately)	Chili tasting competition at the home of Mickey and Pat Duvall, 626 Nelson Point Road, Niceville. Bring your chili in a crockpot early to Mickey's to enter the competition.

ENTRY FEE

Entry fee is a gag trophy. Trophies may be up to the creative imagination of the entrant!

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions and courses will be available at registration. The racing area will be in Choctawhatchee Bay.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS4, Decision to Race. Bluewater Bay Sailing Club will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured by its owner with valid third-party liability insurance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: please contact

Pat Ballasch, BBSC Commodore / race committee, (850)217-4970 or
Zack Kastle, PHRF Fleet Captain, (850)582-2789

BBSC SMALL BOAT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

April 13	July 27
May 4	August 17
June 8	Sept. 14
June 29	Sept. 28

SMALL BOATS RACING

As we have for the last ten years or so, the small boat regattas are scheduled on Sunday afternoons. The standard 1:00 PM start time for the first race and no races started after 3:00 PM will hold again this year. The 2014 BBSC Small Boat schedule is based on six core events with two make-up dates. Based on previous years, we have experienced bad weather, to include no wind, on some of our small boat event dates. I'm hoping to preempt some of the issues by scheduling two back-up dates. The small boat event dates were also coordinated with the FWYC so that we don't have any small boat events which conflict between the two clubs. During the BBSC Spring Meeting I will be actively soliciting the membership for volunteer race committee to execute the race events. I firmly believe that any one who participates in the small boat event should volunteer for race committee during the year. I look forward to any discussion regarding the upcoming small boat season during the Spring Meeting.

Small Boat Fleet Captain, Mark Hunter





VALENTINES COUPON
Come and shop at the Ship Store for a gift for your VALENTINE!

Bring this coupon in for 25% off one single item during the month of February!
 Coupon good February 2014!

Bluewater Bay
MARINA
 290 Yacht Club Dr.
 Niceville, FL 32578
 (850) 897-2821

COMMODORE'S

CORNER



Greetings to all! I am sure all of you have been enjoying our relatively *mild* winter weather (ha ha) and hopefully have taken advantage of the opportunities to get out on the water. We certainly have had some "Chili" weather lately! We are off to a good start with our annual first race of the season the Blue Nose Regatta which was a lot of fun even though the winds were very light. Zack Kastl put together a super fun race with some unusual challenges such as an anchored start, man overboard drills, fun with life jackets, and sailing backward skills tests! Our next event will have a lot to live up to! The Chili Dog Regatta and Cook off is planned for February 8 and will be sure to live up to its name! This has always been a club favorite and this year should be no exception. Chili Chefs better be working on their brews to challenge for top honors in the cook-off as this is your chance to bask in the glory as a chili legend! As always, I encourage everyone to do their best to attend the after race cook off even if you are not able to participate in the race. Also make plans for our March race on March 3rd called the Kick Off Regatta which is a joint race in collaboration with the Eglin Yacht Club and Fort Walton Yacht Club. Please make sure you also keep an eye on our schedule for the cruising events and the start up of the small boat races. I look forward to seeing you around the docks!

Wishing good wind to all of you!
 Pat Ballasch, BBSC Commodore




SPRING MEETING

& Membership Drive

February 28, 2014

6:00 pm @
Schooner's Ship Store

Beer & Hors d'Oeuvres Provided

For More Information Contact:
 Pat Ballasch
commodore@bbsc.com or
 Visit: www.bbsc.com

MY RECENT TRIP — OBIE OLDS

I just recently made a sailboat trip from the Chesapeake to the Virgin Islands. The purpose of the trip was to help Duane Metcalf take his 50' Beneteau 'Sense' to the Virgin Islands to spend the winter on it there. The Boat's name is "Saxonia", after the name of the German state where his wife was born.

The reason I made the trip was to work on my tan which had started to fade.

I have made two previous trips with Duane. One trip was from The Chesapeake to Bermuda in 2007, the other was from the Virgin Islands to the Chesapeake in 2008. Those trips were on Duane's Catalina 38.

I started the trip by flying to Hampton Va on November 29th. Luckily we didn't leave the states until the 30th so I was able to watch the Iron Bowl in a marina bar in Hampton Va.

We departed on Saxonia about 8:30 AM on November 30th. We crossed over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel about 10:30 AM (2 hours later).

We went out about a hundred fifty miles crossed the jet stream and then turned south to the Virgin Islands.

There were three of us onboard for this trip. Duane, me and Bodo Wolters. Bodo has a German passport. We divided the 24 hour day into eight four hour watches (like the Navy). We stood our four hour watch and then eight hours off. For example Bodo had noon to 4 PM then midnight to 4 AM for the eight days.

Duane purchased Saxonia in 2012. She is one of the new style monohulls that tries to emulate a catamaran. It has a beam of 16 feet with a lot of light in the open saloon. The cockpit is only four short steps higher than the saloon. The downside of this layout is that there is not space under the cockpit for sleeping quarters. All sleeping is forward. In a seaway sleeping forward is difficult if not impossible. While sailing upwind in waves Saxonia pounded so hard I thought she would break apart. Those thoughts didn't help my effort to sleep. My berth was about midway the length of Saxonia. Duane had the V berth. He at one point deemed it "unsleepable".

Saxonia has a cutter rig. She has a roller furling genoa, a self tacking roller furling staysail and an inmast furling "gutless" main. We deployed both headsails together only briefly. We tended to use the Genoa in lighter air and the staysail in heavier air. We saw 30 knot winds occasionally. 20 to 25 knots was the norm for the couple of hundred miles above the Virgin Islands. I don't think we saw above 30 knots.

I packed two bags for the trip, a cold bag and a warm bag. It was cold in Virginia when we departed, and we were in shorts and tee shirts when we arrived at St. John. The water temperature in the Chesapeake was in the mid 40s. In the Virgin Islands it was 78.

We had three incidents of note:

Keep in mind that we had to leave the relative security of the cockpit and go forward to deal with them. We were always tethered to the boat with our lifejackets even in the cockpit. We had a jackline running down both sides of the boat to which we were tethered if we went forward.

Two of the incidents occurred on Dec 7th. (Pearl Harbor Day)

A shackle that connected the staysail sheet to the clew let go. The pin backed out. We went forward and jury rigged a replacement connection.

A couple of hours later the starboard genoa sheet snapped. Of course the sail flailed madly. We rolled it up and brought

the lazy sheet from the port side to the starboard side so we could redeploy the genoa. Bodo surmised that the sheet broke because of all the "green" water that the sail was taking. It unmistakably added considerable load to the sheet but I would have expected something else to give way first, not a 1/2 inch line.

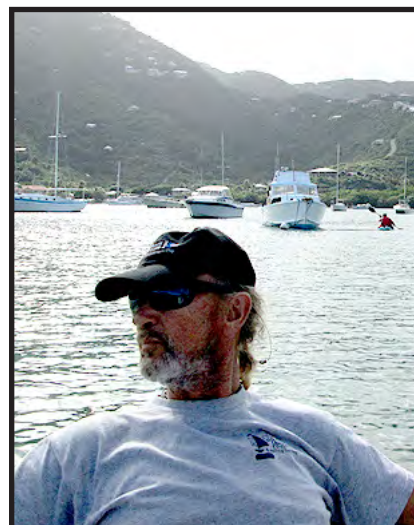
On Dec 8th, late on my watch Duane came up and said he thought the bow anchor was loose. It was banging with every bounce the boat made. We woke Bodo up and Duane prepared to go forward. He crawled up there with the boat bouncing under him. At one point he was bounced up and then fell face first on the deck. He had a headlight on and it made a serious impression on his forehead. He came back bleeding but he came back after securing the anchor.

The trip took eight and a half days. We covered 1350 miles. We tied to a ball on St. John Island about 8 PM on December 8th

I stayed with Duane on Saxonia for another week to work on my tan. We made a trip to Foxy's on Jost Van Dyke and a side trip to Skinny Legs on St. John.

I've been back now for a week and have just about recovered.

I have a glorious tan.



Upcoming Events

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|-------------------|--|
| Sat., February 8 | Chili Dog Cook-off & Fun Regatta |
| Fri., February 28 | Spring Meeting |
| Sat., March 1 | Kick-Off Regatta with Eglin Yacht Club |
| Wed., March 12 | Unofficial Wednesday Night Races Start |
| Sat., March 15 | Spring Regatta |
| Wed., April 2 | Wednesday Night Races Start |
| Sat., April 12 | Pick Your Poison |

2014 BLUEWATER BAY SAILING CLUB BRIDGE

Commodore: Pat Ballasch
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Vice-Commodore: Jeff Blackburn
Vice-Commodore@bbsc.com

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