



# Bluewater Bay Sailing Club NEWSLETTER

June 2015

Promoting Sailing, Boating, & Related Activities!

Hello all cruisers. Here's a recap of recent activities and announcement of upcoming plans.

## Crusin' Around

### 5/16-25 Spring Cruise

The Spring Cruise, which ran from May 16-25, was a great success! We had a total of fifteen boats, with some getting late starts or having to depart early. Weather for the cruise was mostly perfect, except for a 30 knot blast during a thunderstorm one afternoon.

On the first day we encountered strong 20+ knot winds from East, with small craft warnings. Several boats decided to delay one day, but five boats made it to 331 bridge and happy hour at The Bay Restaurant, with nine people joining by land. After most boats made it to Shell Island the next day, the fleet went in separate directions with Hiemstra's, Mauck's and Olds' going to Crooked and Hodges' and Lauderbaugh's going down to Port St Joe. The rest of the fleet stayed at Shell. Later, several boats moved from Shell Island to Redfish Point which is better protected. Near the end of the week, ten boats rendezvoused at Panama City Marina, where we had a fun dock party, joined by former BBSC members Tom and Judy Pendergrast. PC Marina also provided a great vantage point for watching the North American A-Class Catamaran Regatta. Check out <http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2015/05/22/matt-struble-wins-2015-a-class-catamaran-north-americans/>. On the return trip we had five boats at 331 bridge again, with Gresko's and Kennedy's joining. The following day we had nice ride home in 15-20+ knot winds going with us for a change!

It was great having such good participation, but keeping up with everyone became a bit of a challenge. Hence the theme for the cruise – herding cats. Pirate's Dream became known as Stray Cat.

Tow Boat US was used 4 times on the trip! Think we need to negotiate a better group discount. Also, a number of boats required

repairs enroute, but were able to continue. Island Time required a new gear shift cable. Christina needed a water pump replacement. Tranquil had an issue with the oil lift pump, and needed three tows to make it home. Another Dawn had a pre cruise repair to prop, and joined the cruise a few days late. Kudos to Dennis Phillips who worked tirelessly to get Free Bird underway but was stymied by engine issues.

Thanks to Susan Hiemstra for the fun craft activities, and a hearty aargh to all who hosted the many happy hours. Please see all the pictures and commentary on Facebook. Thanks much to Patty Deming for posting pictures enroute. For those who missed the cruise, look for the "Bay Cruise" scheduled for middle of October.

### 6/19 Friday Raft Up #2

Next event is our second Friday raft up. Location will be decided the week of the event and will be announced via email. Stay tuned. Probable locations: either Rocky Bayou or Boggy Bayou.

We'll use the Cruising email list to contact cruisers for last minute updates, so please contact me if you want to be included, and haven't yet done so.

Cheers,  
Pete Hodges  
Rear Commodore







The Demings invite everyone to enjoy Niceville's annual fireworks display on Boggy Bayou on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Come by land or sea. There are plenty of places to tie up at the dock. We'll be grilling hots and burgers about 5 with all the fixings. Beer, wine and pop will be provided. Bring a dish to share and chill out for an evening of Americana.



Boat Name	Race 1	Race 2	Total	Place
<b>Spinnaker</b>				
Shenanigan	1	2	3	1
Untamed	3	1	4	2
Avocet	2	3	5	3
<b>Non-Spinnaker</b>				
Kahlua	2	1	3	1
Pandemonium	1	3	4	2
Victoria	3	2	5	3
Vixen	5	4	9	4*
Maverick	4	5	9	5
Push It Up	7	6	13	6*
Raconteur	6	7	13	7
Free Bird	8	9	17	8

\*Place determined by tie break rule



## PHRF FLEET CAPTAIN REPORT

BBSC crew who supported this effort: Marilyn Ostrominski, Patty Deming, Mindy Barrett, Jeff Blackburn and Pat Ballasch our resident commodore/artist. The regatta was officiated by Tom and Lynne Whittemore.

We had a total of 11 boats entered. Three boats entered the spinnaker class and eight in the non-spinnaker class. The course was a straight windward-leeward, one-nm legs. The course was setup just south of the Rocky 1 mark. With two laps, each race covered four nautical miles. We ran two races. The fleets enjoyed separate starts that for the most part kept them apart as they raced around the course.

The forecast for the day predicted a sunny sea breeze that turned out to be slow to develop. The first race had relatively steady breeze at 3-6 kts from the south. In the interlude between the first and second race, the southwest sea breeze kicked in at 10-12 kts. For a point of reference, the first race took about 75 minutes to finish while the fleet for the second race generally finished in less than 50 minutes. Checking the results, the spinnaker fleet finishes where not that close. However the non-spinnaker fleet saw some very close finishes with some races determined by less than 10 seconds.

Congrats to Shenanigan for the win in spinnaker and Kahlua for the non-spinnaker fleet.

Now for the next regatta, the Round-the-Bay West regatta was scheduled for 30 May with the Bermuda start registration the evening of 29 May. Due to some unforeseen circumstances those dates have been slipped to the right one week. So, registration is 5 June and the race will be 6 June. The NOR will be forthcoming shortly. BBSC is a volunteer organization and we need your support. Specifically, I need help to run our regattas. I don't have a committee for the Night Race on 1 August or the Ladybug Regatta on 29 August. Please find an event and volunteer to be the committee. This is not as daunting as it may seem at first and I will walk you through all the duties until you are comfortable with the process.

I hope to see everyone out on the water.

*PHRF Fleet Captain, Mark Hunter*

Date	Regatta	Committee
Sat., June 6	Round the Bay West	Zack Kastl
Sat., June 27	Round-the-Bay East	Pat Ballasch
Sat., July 11	Double Handed Regatta	Buzz Clarke
<b>Sat., August 1 Night Race</b>		
<b>Sat., August 29 Ladybug Regatta</b>		
Sat., Sept. 12	Challenge Cup	FWYC
Sat., Sept. 26	Race to the Park : Club's 50th Anniversary	Mark Hunter
<b>Sat., Nov. 7 Grande Finale</b>		
Sat., Dec. 5	JAM #6	Bill Deming



## BBSC Store

All prices include the cost of adding your boat name.

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Brenda Crabbe at  
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Men's, Ladies;  
White, Light Blue, and Navy.

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### Pullover Hoodie: \$30

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### Zippered Hoodie: \$45

Light Blue

### Baseball Hats: \$18

### Boat Bags: \$30

Royal, Navy, Hunter

### Provided Article: \$30

Add logo & boat name  
to your own article

### License Plates: \$10

(without name)

## My Bee Story

On Wednesday April 8, I went for a singlehanded sail in Choctawhatchee Bay on my C&C 29.

I sailed for about an hour into the wind and then turned downwind to return to the marina.

For the downwind run I launched the spinnaker.

I sailed merrily along under spinnaker for several minutes. Then I noticed a few honeybees around me. I have a non-violence approach to bees, I figure if I don't bother them they won't bother me.

But I soon realized that the number of bees was steadily increasing.

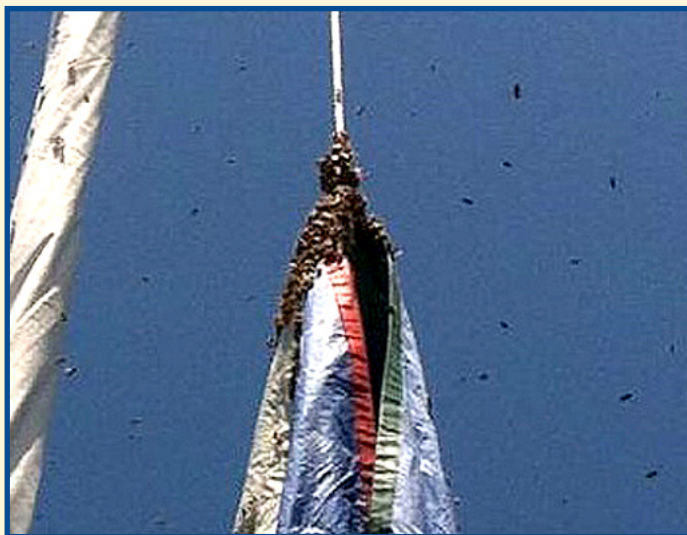
I started looking around to try and determine where the bees were coming from. I had spent the night in the boat so I knew they were not coming from inside. I could not find a source. Meanwhile the number of bees kept increasing. They were flying around me and a few were walking on me but none seemed interested in stinging me. I was alarmed and puzzled but ok so far.

After a good downwind run I started to think about taking the spinnaker down. That is when I found the source of the bees. When I looked up at the head of the spinnaker I saw a mass of bees. This mass was at the center of a swarming hoard.

Those bees were not there when I hanked the spinnaker halyard to the head of the spinnaker. Those bees were not there when I pulled the spinnaker out of the spinnaker bag. Those bees came to the head of my spinnaker while I was sailing downwind.

The fellow sailor bee experts I consulted later speculated that a honeybee queen landed on the head of my spinnaker and her pheromones brought the swarm.

My problem was that I had to find a way to get the spinnaker down. It is very difficult to deal with a spinnaker on any point of sail other than downwind. Taking the spinnaker down means bringing it down and securing it on deck. That meant I would have to get my hands into or near the swarm, I did not want to do that. I was running out of



downwind space and I could not see bringing that swarm onto the deck.

After some thought, I lowered the spinnaker about halfway. That was as low as I was comfortable with. In order to control the spinnaker (keep it from catching wind and further complicating the takedown) I tied a couple of lines around the girth as high up as I could reach.

Taking pictures was not my highest priority but at this point I took a picture. That picture is attached. Without the picture would you believe this story?

I kept the boat pointing downwind and even put the propeller in reverse to increase the apparent wind. That was to try to keep the wind pushing the bees forward and away from me. I then eased the spinnaker halyard and lowered the sail into the water.

I hope the SPCA doesn't read this but the bees went into the water. I know that bees are in decline but I saw no bee friendly options. Clusters of bees floated away. Maybe they can swim.

After a while enough bees were gone that I could deal with the sail and I pulled the sail aboard. That was when I got stung. I must not be allergic.

*Obie Olds*

## COMMODORE'S

## CORNER

Welcome summer! We have officially exited the spring time weather and have safely made it through Memorial Day so it is indeed officially summer time! I am always amazed how quickly the warm weather arrives and along with it the afternoon thunderstorms and the warm wonderful sea breeze. Some people despair the heat of the summer, but I for one find the weather a great excuse to get out on the water and even in it. I love the smell of suntan lotion and I certainly love the sunsets that summer brings. So I for one and happy, happy, happy! I hope you are too. Well, the sailing season is in full swing and we have already had several fun events including some Friday night social gatherings, Wednesday night races "sponsored by L. J. Schooners!!", Sailfest is in the bag and so has the spring cruise. As usual Sailfest was a great race with cool shirts and trophies which again were made possible by our generous

sponsors Debbie and Craig of Gulf Pool Service and Gulf Performance Sailing! I believe that the cruisers had a blast on the extended cruise. Wednesday night sailing is again the most popular event with consistently 14 or more boats in each race. In addition, the small boats have also already had some fun races. Keep an eye on our schedule for the events that interest you whether it is racing, cruising, or just socializing. There should be something for everyone! Thanks again to all of you who volunteer your time for this club whether its running a race, helping with trophies, bringing friends to our events, tending the grill, or hosting events at your home. We can't do what we do without everyone chipping in and your help is truly appreciated!

I look forward to seeing you on or around the water!

*Patrick Ballasch, BBSC Commodore*



# Upcoming Events

Fri., June 5	Round-the-Bay West Registration
Sat., June 6	Round the Bay West
Sun., June 14	Small Boat Regatta #3
Fri., June 19	Friday Night Raft-Up #2
Fri., June 26	Round-the-Bay East Registration
Sat., June 27	Round-the-Bay East
Fri., July 10	Double Handed Registration
Sat., July 11	Double Handed Regatta

## 2015 BLUEWATER BAY SAILING CLUB BRIDGE

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