

OYC

N e w s l e t t e r



COMMODORE SARA'S COMMENTS

Commodore Sara Butler

Greeting and Salutations:

Everyone has heard the ol' adage: "it is a small world". Well, nothing exemplifies it more than what happened to me last spring. (This might be a long story, so brace yourself.) It was one of those few days when I actually got out of the Hospital on time, and I went to NCCSR to pick up my older son, Robert from his afternoon of racing on a 420. I am standing on the dock watching all of the kids roll sails, coil lines, and a lot of what kids do best, goofing off when this very familiar face looks at me, extends his hand and says: "Sara? Sara Floyd-Jones?, St Mary's High School, Annapolis, Md, class of ought 3?, Severn Sailing Association?" As my kids would say: OMG! (That translates to Oh My God). It was Sean O'Donnell, a guy that I went to High School with, I played basketball with one of his sisters (he has three older sisters, the poor guy), he raced lasers, I raced 420s....at that point Annapolis was a small town, and the high school was even smaller, so we all knew everyone's story, so to speak. We spent the next hour or so torturing our wet kids while we took a trip down memory lane filling in the highlights of the past thirty years.

No, that is not the end of the story. A few weeks later I have the privilege of crewing for Sean on a Flying Scott during the Keel Boat Challenge at NCCSR. It was great fun, and we beat Robbie Lowrance one race, which made it even more fun. Made me miss "one design", there is something about knowing exactly where you stand without having to do all of the math. I cleared my call

Continued on page 5



OYC NEWSLETTER

VICE COMMODORE Bill's REPORT

The OYC Racing Committee has made some important changes to our long established racing tradition. The 150 Bridge Race has been moved to March 10th instead of October. It was our belief that the winds would be better and the air and water temperatures would be more favorable in March. Don Corey will be the Race Committee chair for the 150 Bridge Race this year. The "150" is the longest distance race we have and is a lot of fun since it requires staying within the channel all the way to the Highway 150 bridge and all the way back. Because the channel markers conform to the meandering Catawba River, the course is constantly shifting and the winds are almost always brisk.

April 18, 2012 is Race #1 of the Wednesday Night Series. This weekly series, which runs for 18 consecutive weeks, is easily the most successful lake-wide sailing event on Lake Norman. The registration is only \$60.00 for the entire series. Doug Riley does a superb job of running the Wednesday Night Series and 18 different skippers get the opportunity to be a Race Committee Chairman for one race. Doug has not yet revealed where we will have the "after race gathering" but, I firmly believe that he will find a place with lots of beer and good food at a reasonable price while we wait for the results.

Vice Commodore Bill Hartwell





REAR COMMODORE Wade's REPORT

Rear Commodore Wade Miller

Happy New Year!

I hope you are all planning on joining in on the fun at the upcoming social events. The Chili Cook-Off is upon us this weekend, so please join Sara, Doug, and all of the usual characters for some unique food, and fun. Frogmore Stew is next, on March 10th, which coincides with the 150 bridge Race Marathon.

Unfortunately, I will miss all the fun at the Chili Cook-Off. I will be in South America climbing one of the tallest mountains in the world. Aconcagua stands at over 22,000 feet, and if my team and I make it to the top, we will be the highest people on the face of the earth at that moment.

Other than climbing very high mountains, I keep myself busy. In December, you may have seen me on TV....my fifteen minutes of fame. The home building company that I co-founded, Bellamy Homes, brought ABC's hit TV show: "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" to Charlotte. Over the course of one week, Bellamy Homes and the community tore down, built, and donated a brand new home for a very deserving family in Charlotte. Over 3,000 people from the community participated with the show, which will air this holiday season as a two hour special.

I am very excited to be a part of OYC, and I look forward to getting to know all of you during social events, as well as on the water.

Wade Miller
Rear Commodore



OYC NEWSLETTER

Photos from Wednesday Night Sailing



SAILING

Continued from page 1

schedule, and spent the remaining Thursday evenings last spring racing with the Flying Scot group. There were times when I thought I was having a battle of wits with an unarmed person, but for the most part it was great fun, and oh, so easy to put the boats to bed.

And the story continues... One Thursday they needed an extra body to make the 420 group number even, so I had the opportunity to crew for my son, Robert. I promised him that I would not be a “Mom” for the purposes of the exercise, but I would be a very vocal crew, complete with a “sailors mouth” if that made it more realistic. We had a great time, even won a race or two, and he discovered that Mom’s yelling is not limited to messy rooms, and dirty dishes. Later, he came to me and asked me if I would consider coaching him. As I said before: OMG.

Any self respecting mother knows that when your almost sixteen year old son asks for that level of involvement, the window of opportunity is very small, and to grab that bull by the horns. I started thinking about how I could make this happen. NCCSR frowns on parents in the boats with the kids, which is understandable, so I had to formulate Plan B.

The conclusion of the story reads: A J-24 is just too much boat for the two of us to race in a spinnaker fleet, so.... **“Muddy Paws” is up for sale.** I have been thinking about this since late October, and have been in search of the perfect boat for Robert and me to race this summer on Wednesday nights, and for me to single hand all of the years there after.

Until recently, I was deciding between an Impulse 21 and a Holder 20. The Impulse 21 is rigged for single handing with a self tacking jib, and a spinnaker chute, but still has the fixed keel. After a less than pleasant experience with Tim at All Season’s Marina, the Holder 20 with it’s retractable keel is top on the list. I also like the idea that there is another one here on the lake, and I look forward to match racing with Pete.

All of that being said, I am so excited for the 2012 sailing season to get underway, and look forward to serving as your Commodore.

Sara Butler