



August 2010

The Mainsheet

Grande Maumelle Sailing Club



Photo credit by Richard Cook

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JR. RACE PROGRAM – WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUN SAILING

Paulette McConnell

GMSC has held two Wednesday Night Fun Sail this summer with at least 25-30 adults and kids attending. John and Kelly Bryan are in charge of the games for the kids to play while they are sailing and several adults go sailing as well. Jerry Carter, GMSC Social Chair, provides the main dish for the potluck supper held after we finish sailing.

There are two more Fun Sail Nights scheduled so come out and join the fun!

- August 4
- August 11

Be at the lake between 6-6:15pm to get the boats ready and on the water by 6:30pm.

BAPTIST REGAL REGATTA 2010

Chuck Blair

Fellow Sailors, Last year was the inaugural Baptist Regal Regatta hosted by GMSC. It was a great success. This year's event will be on Oct. 2, 2010. If all the boats that volunteered themselves last year would do so again, it would be another hit! Baptist will be sending out the commitment forms this week I think. Please take the time to complete and return them ASAP so we can get a count on available spots. More to come.

TILLER TIME

Madelyn Blaine Davis

Earlier this summer, Sherri Jo proposed that some of the women of the club get together and brush up on our sailing skills. Many of us had crewed for others, but not taken control of the tiller. Sherri Jo suggested we take advantage of the long summer evenings, meet at the club after work, and take out the Sunfish. To learn more about controlling the boat, it's best to spend some time with your hands on the tiller! Tuesdays worked well for almost everyone, so we determined to meet after work, rig up the Sunfish, and get some TILLER TIME!

Our first meeting was on what turned into a "dark-and-stormy night", with lightning and thunder abounding. Beautiful wind, but the better course of valor seemed to be staying safe under the pavilion, snacking on chips and salsa, planning our next meeting. The first group consisted of Sherri Jo McLemore, Kate Althoff, Vicki Tuthill, Misty Borkowski, Leslie Vickery and me. We had a far-ranging conversation,



some of which even included sailing...! The rest is confidential. Ha ha!

Last week we met again (it's a changeable group – and all women in the club are welcome to join us!). This time it was Sherri Jo, Paulette McConnell, Eileen Kelly, Misty, Vicki and me. The weather cooperated and by 7:30 we had gotten six Sunfish rigged & into the water (see the picture Misty took). A great spirit of cooperation and encouragement prevailed ~ Paulette with rigging (and un-rigging!) lessons, Sherri Jo for matching boat bits together, and

Tiller Time cont.

for rescuing my floating-away tiller (I now know there are TWO fastening pins to attach). I am sure the Sunfish are a lot more stable than I mentally give them credit for, but really appreciated Vicki and Misty for holding my boat still so I could get in without MUCH fear of falling out (what a hoot!). None of us had to look too far for a helping hand when needed. Eileen (Queen of Highway Clothes Changing) reached into the rafters for sailbags and later located bailers for everybody. Misty searched for missing daggerboards. We all toted, lifted, fetched, set masts, ran rigging through cleats, checked that the drainplugs were in place, bailed the boats, lifted them into the water and 'walked' them around the dock. The learning process being what it was for most of us, it took about an hour to get into the water, but then we happily sailed out around the tires, out to "X-marks-the-spot", and even ventured a bit further. The birds, a few distant fishermen, and a slight breeze kept us company as we quested for that elusive wind, steering and tacking. And then a great splashing and snorting arose, and here

came T-Bone, swimming hell-bent-for-leather!! He was looking for Vicki, and what ensued next was an exciting few moments, punctuated by calls of "Here, T-Bone!" "Go back, T-Bone!", and a fine rescue-at-sea involving Vicki, Sherri Jo, one big wet tired dog, and a lot of pushing and pulling! (He's fine, by the way; just doesn't yet know he is not a distance swimmer!) We returned to the docks as the wind dropped, and reversed the rigging process, everybody pitching in to help one another. We learned it DOES take a village to put 6 women into the water in Sunfish, and that we all absolutely love having our hands on the tiller!! And it was beautiful on the water of our little lake ~ wind sparkled ripples, rainbow-sailed Sunfish moving merrily about, the sunset a golden path on the water; pure peace...! We ended the night at the pavilion, slapping mosquitoes and enjoying the good tiredness that comes from great companions, healthy physical exertion, and the joys of teamwork. We look forward to many more next-times!

BREAKWATER NEWS

David Nigus

Thank you to everyone that showed up for the Breakwater work party on July the 10th. The work party was able to re-connect the broken sections, place over 100 flotation pieces into the existing tires, and even recovered tires from shorelines and put them back into service. Please help me thank the numerous workers that showed up that included:

Woody Whyte
Jack Myers
David Sample
Chuck Blair
Jim Marone
Marc Hirrel
Leland Sykes
Dudley Meadows
Dan Cook
Garry Roberts

Kirt Simmons
Elton John
Steve Tribbett
David Kelley

I apologize if I left someone off the list above.

Also, thank you Nicole for feeding us the great sandwiches!!!

Although great progress was made on the 10th, more work needs to be done and another work party has been scheduled for August 28th beginning at 8:30 at the pavilion. Robert Halstead issued a Club-wide email message regarding the last work party. However, several people told me they did not receive the message. Please make sure Robert has your correct email address for future important updates and other club related information.

GMSC Anecdotes from History – August 2010



5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40
YEARS AGO



By Dr. Fred Kittler

5 Years Ago ~



Five years ago, GMSC was especially proud of Drew Daugherty and crew Nicole Claas who had just won the Y-Flyer National races for the second year in a row. Mark Barton with Tyler was 4th and Ben Guise with Linda Moore 11th. Commodore Merle Paule was pleased to have wind at GMSC for all the race days including Wednesday nights.

Bill Brierley and crew Jon Claas were first in the Flying Scot first series, Craig Parins second, Dan Donahue third. The Y-Fleet brought a “spec” boat from Dallas complete with a dead snake and bad odor, but Drew and a gallon of Clorox took care of it.

Gary Hestir’s report of an early keelboat race of January 1972 curiously appeared describing two knockdowns (Coronado 27 with spinnaker up), a Santana 21 floundering with jib, main, and spinnaker up but no rudder, and Tom Richards with cigar puffing taking 1st and 2nd under working sails only. The fleet had a party with slides by Big Tom and Don Renshaw to the tune of “Jeremiah was a Bullfrog.”

10 Years Ago ~



Jon Claas and Commodore Patrick Hollingsworth were lining up skippers and crew to go to New Orleans to compete in the Lipton Cup Regatta. Wednesday night racing was successful at GMSC .

Bob Edmonds announced the completion of the electric front gate. Chris and Dana Durney said the libations for Mainsheet Night would be Cavit Collection Pinot Grigio from Italy, Rosemount Estate Grenach Shiraz from Australia, and the featured beer was Red Stripe from Jamaica.

Jeff Rodgers continued his report of the Voyage of Sihaba. Beginning in Fisher’s Bay off Great Guana Cay, they sailed under spinnaker to Baker’s Bay, then Green Turtle Bay, but the J-30 keel would not clear the entry to White Sound except at high tide, and the boat did run aground necessitating severely heeling the boat and reverse on the diesel engine.

15 Years Ago ~



Commodore Trish Brierley noted that, in spite of the heat, Adam and Cindy Engleman had been working on their Thistle, Gary Hestir was further revising his keelboat, Chris Durney had launched his new J/80—without any sails—and Joe Whitesell had put a trellis and rose bush right next to the launch dock area, giving the club a little class.

Dan, Cindy, Mary, Hal and Bettye Jane Daugherty treated the membership to watermelon, Bud Light and a silent auction that brought in \$276.00 to apply to the docks and break-water budget. Marc and Suzanne Hirrel brought the Board a \$100.00 check from the sales of aluminum cans collected on the grounds.

The starting order of the Centerboard fleets was changed to put the faster boats later in the order. Chet Hight brought the Board suggestions about keelboat racing (windward-leeward courses).

Jon Claas led the Hobie first series, followed closely by Keith Newton and Bob Wilimzig. John Lane complimented Bud Thurman for his expertise in setting race courses under trying conditions – from bad weather to no wind to super hot days.

20 Years Ago ~



The Y-Flyer Fleet had 49 registered for the Nationals from 14 different states, including Massachusetts. Carl Garner and Tony Mays were the Race Committee Chairpersons. On Thursday morning the fleet came screaming for shore in gale force winds to escape a storm. Nolen Buffalo and crew Jeremy Bishop did well in the Y National Junior races.

Vice Commodore Doug Buffalo complained of a stomachache and was escorted to the hospital, only to find he needed to have several of his coronary arteries repaired. At the time, he looked none the worse for wear.

Captain Sam printed the following comments from his favorite book, “How to Sail Different”:

- “Real sailors don’t use water.”
- “Tuning a boom bang,”
- “Starting fast with a fast stopwatch,”
- “Pitch poling your Flying Scot,”
- “Caulking your luff,”
- “Hobie Sailing: Two starboard tacks beats one of a kind” and,
- “Starting backwards on a starboard tack.”

25 Years Ago ~



Drew Daugherty had his first experience in the Hawg Wild Regatta, which he says is the most fun you can have in your top siders. A moonlight race with seven-eighths of a moon was very successful. Randy Oates volunteered that the best place to watch a sunset is from the deck of a sailboat on Lake Maumelle.

The worse way to prepare for a race is by watching the sun rise from the deck of a sailboat on Lake Maumelle.

The best new drink (and insect repellent) was a Highway 10 Cooler. The bugs still bite, but you don’t care any more.

The following letters were recorded:

Dear Sir:

Please tell me what you can about sail trim. Signed, Ernest.

Dear Ernest:

Never trim your sails, they come at just about the right size and any trimming will make them not fit your mast and boom.

Dear Sir:

My new Flying Junior came in yesterday, and has a bow on both ends. It looks like a big canoe. Do you think there is probably a Flying Junior somewhere that was sent to someone else with a stern on both ends? Should I advertise to try to get together with this person to try to exchange a stern for a bow, and vice-versa? Signed, Confounded.

Dear Confounded:

Are you sure you have not bought a kayak? Did it come with a mast and boom? And, if so, do you know which end to put the boom on?

30 Years Ago ~



John Anderson joined GMSC with a Flying Scot and Bethel LaVonne Thurman joined with a Flying Junior. Ed Grubbs and Gary Hestir led the work parties to rebuild the badly mangled keelboat slips. A new T-dock was designed by Dr. Dirt Grubbs.

Lew and Jonnie Dobbs, and fearless crew, sailed the Sugar Blues to first place in the Fairfield Bay Gold Cup Regatta in reasonably heavy air.

The Thistle Fleet hosted the Inter-District competition with overwhelming winds and many capsizes. Carl Garner managed a 3rd in that competition with Mehlburger 4th and Hight 8th – sailing with a bent mast. Five masts were broken at last count. That was all of the wind for that Spring series, the rest of the races were in light air.

The Hobie fleet entertained at Lake Ouachita and had 49 boats turn out for a drifting first day – the third and fourth races were blowdowns. Pepper Paulson and Ted Holder each capsized and turtled twice. Jeff Olm did an internationally famous stunt by forgetting to put the plugs in his Hobie hulls. Carl Garner and Randy Oates tried Hobie sailing, made spectacular by Carl chewing and spitting tobacco over his shoulder where, of course, Randy was trying to steer.

35 Years Ago ~



Commodore Randy Oates accepted the resignation of a club founder and former Commodore Kiko Villalon who was moving to Florida. He left his name behind on Kiko's Corner. The Y-Flyer fleet issued a formal invitation for the 1976 Nationals.

At the "Holiday In Dixie" in Shreveport, the sailors celebrated Max Mehlburger's 1st and Gary Hestir's 3rd, who was followed closely by Chet Hight, Big Tom and Mark Richards, Buster Jones, Tom Lovett, and Phil Pederson. Tom Bonner took Night Train to Dallas and, with two supercrews, placed well for his first out-of-town competition. Don Renshaw and Phast Phred took their Flying Juniors to Beaver Lake and tied for 3rd at the Beaver Lake Championship.

On Memorial Day, the Annual Flying Junior Frisbee Throwing and Beer Drinking Excursion on the Arkansas River saw a fairly calm start since Phast Phred spared everyone an exciting trip to the gas dock. Meanwhile, Burt Mann found 1st place in the Spring Series, with Randy Oates and Don Renshaw close behind.

40 Years Ago ~



The Thistle and Dutchman fleets were so small that they combined for races. Tom Richards and his Thistle managed 1st for the Memorial Day Regatta, with Chet Hight 2nd in his Dutchman, and Bill Richards 3rd in his Thistle. In the Sunfish series, Mark Richards and Steve Willey were in 1st place, and Karen and Tracy Hight were tied for 2nd place with Jane and little Drew Daugherty.

**And that's how it was
5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 & 40
years ago this month.**



BREAKWATER UPDATE

On August 28th, a workparty led by David Nigus will make additional repairs to the Breakwater. Additional modules will be assembled and positioned on the Eastern end. Work will commence at 8:00 am. Old and new members alike are asked to contribute their time and talents in this project. Newly joined members, this is a great opportunity to make new friends at the club and get involved on an important project.

Sailing Fun Night 2010

