

July 2010

The Mainsheet

Grande Maumelle Sailing Club



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Commodore's Corner

Chuck Blair

As June 2010 comes to an end, what a great month it has been at GMSC! A busy, busy month and it just keeps getting better all the time.

The Junior Learn to Sail program started off the month and was bigger and better than ever. It is so wonderful to see all the young people learning the skills of sailing. There will be some great racers in our club coming out of this next generation! Many thanks to Paulette McConnell and Tom Tirrell for continuing to making this Junior program such a smashing success.

This was followed by the Adult Learn to Sail class later the same week. It was also a larger class than ever and Nicole Claas Moore, John Claas, and Jeff Olm who once again set the instruction and sailing for this group of new sailors at a high standard. These potential new crew members and boat owners had a great experience, and like the Junior sailors, had good wind to enhance their learning and test their newly learned skills.

A lot of hard work and cleanup happened around the GMSC clubhouse and grounds in June in preparation for the Y-Flyer Nationals held later in the month. Werner Schwarz led a much needed cleanup and had the grounds looking super sharp. The clubhouse had the much awaited new tile installed for the floor and the showers. A big thanks to Milan Rakich, Andy Huss and Chuck Toland for getting this huge job accomplished. If you have not yet seen the finished product, stop by the clubhouse and admire the craftsmanship. We have some great talent in the diverse membership of GMSC!

The Y-Flyer National Championships was a big and busy week. The volunteers of our sailing club made this a huge success. Without them, we would not be able to sponsor fabulous national events such as this and show off GMSC and Lake Maumelle. The biggest THANK YOU goes out to Linda Moore who organized, planned and executed the Nationals with such precision - she truly corralled the efforts of many members and 'herded the cats' all in the right direction to pull off a major event with huge success. Thanks also to the many, many who helped with the events to include racing, with Race Committee led by David Sample, all the fleets who provided the many great meals with breakfast extraordinaire by the Mulhollands and lunches by Jim Marone and crew, a wonderful Welcome Aboard night coordinated by Nicole Class Moore, Kathy Blair and Chuck Toland with most excellent Cajun food cooked by our Louisiana connection Greg Bradley, and a packed house event at Cothams in the City for the Awards Banquet setup by Mary Michaels. And last of all, a thanks to all the 'supporting actors' for the welcome to the sailors, parking lot and dock masters, trash picker-uppers, and all the other myriad of tasks needed to make this a great show for GMSC. Whew! AND best of all, the 2010 Championship was awarded to our very own GMSC sailors Drew Daugherty and Evan Daugherty!! The Junior National Gold went to Shelby Hatcher from Atlanta and our very own Kyle Dachoda!! If these Juniors keep getting better at this pace, we will have to put them on keelboats to show us old folks how to do it! That reminds me, Kyle, have you ever been on MoFoless?????

Makes you wonder how we find time to sail, race, and just enjoy our lake and club during the regular Summer Racing Series while all these special events are going on. But the racing continues, the weather cooperates and wind happens when the Gods are smiling on us, and we all continue what we love to do the most = SAIL :-)

Now that the big June happenings are history, we are working toward the 2nd Annual Regal Regatta charity races in partnership with Baptist Health Systems. This year's event will be held the first weekend of October with races on Saturday, October 2, and the Friday night social, meet your sailors and 'training' event. If you missed last year's, it was a wonderful time and this one is expected to be bigger and better. Plan on being a part of this opportunity to show off our great club and skills to the local community while taking part in something that not only lets lots of community members have a great sailing and racing experience, but also offers us a chance to give back to the Little Rock area in a very meaningful way.

Hope to see you at the club and on the water soon!

'ADULT LEARN TO SAIL' WARM BUT BREEZY

Nicole Claas Moore

June 11-13 was a great weekend to learn to sail in the 'Adult Learn to Sail' class that was filled beyond capacity with 25 students. We had good wind all weekend – the hottest weekend of the year to so far. We added a fifth instructor and boat this year to better accommodate the added interest we had this year. Friday night, Jon Claas presented the classroom session and taught the parts of the boats and sails, points of sail, and how to read tell tales, among other things. This year, we had several people join GMSC before taking the class and we got a few more new members after the class.



Saturday morning, the wind was a nice 8 mph and it was still relatively cool. We got the boats rigged and taught the students how to steer in a straight line. As the heat of the day set in, the pavilion provided a cool haven from the sun while we ate lunch and Jon drew the points of sail on the dry erase board. After lunch, w□ heat. The students got a good feel for the tiller and trimming the mainsail and jib.

Sunday morning the wind was a perfect 6-8 knots. Jeff arranged a small course around which the students steered the boats, learning that you have to tack and gybe to get upwind and downwind, and, thus, where you want to go. Sunday afternoon, we were accompanied by members of the centerboard fleets who came out to give students a sail on different types of boats. Thanks to Chuck Blair, Werner Schwarz, Leland Sykes, Tracy Sykes, and Jim Marone for taking students out on a Hobie 16, Hobie 20, a Y-Flyer, and a Flying Scot.

A special thanks to the instructors: Jon Claas, Jeff Olm, Bruce McMath, Tracy Sykes, and Mark George for volunteering their time to help others learn what we all love so much. Also, a special thanks to Vicki Tuthill for providing snacks for students and lunches for all the instructors. The weekend really wouldn't have been possible without the boats on which we taught. We are very fortunate to have keelboat owners willing to loan these boats. The owners of these boats are brave and loaned them with fearless generosity: Fred Kittler, Max Mehlburger and Jon Claas, Lee Butler Jackson, and David Nigus.

Another June has passed and we have a new pool of potential crew. I have told the students about Wednesday night sailing so, if you're looking for a crew that may be a good time to test them out. I have also encouraged them to add their names to our online crew pool and some of them have already come out to crew. Our new regular member is Jim Hamric, who purchased Bob Wilimzig's Hunter. Philip Buck, Cheryl Avants, and Bill Nowlin are new associate members. Welcome them when you see them at the club!



JUNIOR SAILING PROGRAM

GMSC hosted a Junior Y-Flyer Clinic on Friday afternoon, May 28, prior to the Hawg Wild Regatta. Led by Shelby Hatcher, Atlanta Yacht Club, the clinic introduced the basic principals for sailing a Y-Flyer. Shelby is the reigning Y-Flyer Junior National Champion and Mid America Cup Junior Champion.

The clinic included:

- Rigging
- General sailing information including sail trim, setting the pole down wind, , etc.
- Going for a sail and taking the helm

After the clinic, it was decided to hold a Junior Hawg Wild Regatta. Five of GMSC Juniors participated, along with instructor Shelby Hatcher, with two races being held prior to the start of the Senior Races on Saturday, May 29. Josh Dachoda took first place with Nick Easby Smith taking second.

Eli Guise with Nile Hatcher as crew
 Andrew Daugherty with Tony Pasifume as Crew
 Hamm ? with Greg Bradley as crew
 Josh Dachoda with Ben Guise as crew
 Nick Easby Smith with John Easby Smith as crew
 Shelby Hatcher with sister Savannah as crew



GMSC Anecdotes from History – July 2010



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



By Dr. Fred Kittler

5 Years Ago ~



Commodore Merle Paule was impressed by the Memorial Day Regatta, complete with national champion Y-Flyer and Hobie skippers. He thanked Mary and Chris Michaels, Linda Moore, and Paulette McConnell for arranging the good food.

Nicole and Jon Claas had Adult Learn-to-Sail with a little too much wind, but had helpers Jeff Olm, Fred Kittler and Joe Smith.

The Hawgwild Regatta actually had a hog on the menu, courtesy of Bobby Edmonds. John Lane sent in an article by Phil Nash, the 1978 Mainsheet editor, describing a make-believe yacht club on the city water reservoir in west Little Rock – scarcely big enough to accommodate a few boats, much less turn (tack or gybe) and change direction.

10 Years Ago ~



In July 2000, Commodore Patrick Hollingsworth reported the bad weather of Memorial Day Weekend brought several capsizes as the motorboats herded the sailors ashore before the Saturday storms, but the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette managed a full page photo spread nonetheless.

John Anderson and helpers completed the Junior Learn-to-Sail and the Race Committee will allow any of the young sailors to compete in Flying Juniors on regular race days.

Adult Learn-to-Sail went well on the first day, but Sunday was a washout that was rescheduled by leaders Jon and Nicole Claas. Bobby Edmonds and four other Hobie 16 sailors competed on Richland Reservoir in Texas in the Mid America regatta. The seventy boats had mostly light air except Saturday afternoon which proceeded into a storm that cancelled the evening party and almost the campsite.

And Jeff Rodgers, Lee Butler Jackson and Larry Cook returned to Oriental, North Carolina to sail Sihiba to the Abaco Islands.

15 Years Ago ~



In July 1995, the Laser Fleet was re-established. Chet Hight, Richard Martin and others fostered the growth of the fleet. Ben and Sherri Jo Guise were chairpersons for the Hawg Wild Regatta on Memorial Day.

On June 10 and 11, seventeen Thistles raced the District competition with rain, big winds, and bunches of waves. The first Saturday race saw capsizes right at the start line. Bill Bruce managed three 1st places, our own Larry Wagner had a string of 2nd place finishes, and Darlene Hobeck rallied for 3rd overall with one first place in the rain on Sunday morning. Roy Slocum with Robbie Keopple helping, fed everyone barbecue, beans, and apple pie which made up for the miserable weather.

GMSC started at Jim's Landing, later called Jolly Rogers. After nine years, the club moved to Maumelle Harbor where the club members themselves cut a road to the parking lot, constructed a launch ramp, T-dock, and a pavilion just to have the first regatta, no less than the Y-Flyer Nationals. The Flying Junior Nationals have been at Maumelle and numerous other prestigious competitions, such as the Regional, District, and Inter-District Thistle races, Hobie regattas, and the Champion of Champions.

Dr. Clark Gillespie has the record for five terms as Commodore. Hal Daugherty served four, and then a fifth term later. And we were rather unusual among the GYA for having had lady Commodores.

20 Years Ago ~



The Y-Flyer National Competition in Little Rock had just concluded with boats coming from as far as Massachusetts. The YMCA enlisted GMSC to help with a fund raising regatta. An issue of *American Sailor* talked about safety. A crewman was killed in the Isle of Wight race. Twelve people were hospitalized for other injuries, and 51 were rescued in heavy weather. Steve Brighton and several other of his co-workers were in Louisiana and found a sign advertising Bear Wrestling (that's B-E-A-R, not the other one). The bear was apparently declawed, but Steve was not.

The GMSC ladies prepared to go to the Knost Cup races. Only five years before, three dauntless adventurers went to sail the Knost cup, with little prior information: Linda Sexton, Kryss Veirs, and Jo Renshaw. A total of eight ladies were prepared to campaign at the Pass Christian Yacht Club with the able assistance of "Boat Daddy" Bud Thurman.

Dr. Slo Joe Whitesell composed an article about the dreaded chigger, which at one time was thought to be the larval stage of mites, but it turns out that dinosaurs became extinct except for one group that became smaller and smaller, and we are left with the chigger with a jaw like a bear trap, with barbed incisors. Painting the skin with kerosene was supposed to be helpful, but for anyone living north of Blytheville, it was recommended using rice whiskey which helped one ignore the itching, but also ignore everything else. Chigardid was thought to be made from bad batches of fingernail polish. Painting this on kills the chigger, and then when you peel it off, the pain of pulling out the hair on your body makes one forget about the itching.

The following limericks were included:

A young Swedish man had spars,
constructed from old racing cars,
With that kind of mast,
He really was fast,
but pit stops lost races for Lars.

There was a young sailor named Kane,
that hated to sail in the rain.
He would turn his boat over,
To make it a cover,
But got awfully wet just the same.

Meanwhile, the Thistles had sailed the Memorial Day Regatta (Saturday and Sunday), with heavy air. The next weekend, the Thistle Districts started with heavy air, gradually fading. Steve Ellis was re-elected District Governor, and Steve Atherton and crew Ron Carman received the Mid-America Circuit Trophy for 1989. Ed Grubbs and Gary Hestir were Race Committee chairpersons with Regatta

Chairman Phast Phred. The very next weekend, a regular race day turned out to be a double also with another Saturday blowdown. Lots of racing.

Meanwhile, the Hobie sailors were preparing to do a 100-mile around the island race at Deston, Florida. The word was the winner the year before took 13 hours. That's a long time on a Hobie 16.

25 Years Ago ~



Randy Jordan went to Lake Keystone where the winds were above average, and won the Thistle Inter-District races. The first race was a drifter, but from then on the winds were up around 30 miles per hour. On Saturday night, a tornado touched down close by where the Jordans were staying and they were so tired, they didn't even notice. Larry Wagner took the Mid-America Circuit Trophy for 1984, plus he became the new District Governor-Elect.

Mainsheet Editor Drew Daugherty and the Y-Flyer fleet bid adieu to Jim and Carol Hunter who were moving to Iowa. Meanwhile, Ed Grubbs with a ringer of a crew (Martha) proceeded to beat the fleet in two of the races of Hawg Wild Regatta.

Seven Hobie cats went to Lake Texoma north of Dallas with light air and chop on Saturday, and strong wind on Sunday. Janis Keeton had the best showing in the A-Fleet. David Stahl questioned whether frozen pizza should be cooked on a grill. Did Janis try to sleep on her boat (Hobie trampoline), and how did David Nigus lose the Park Ranger? The next move would be to McAllister the following weekend. The Riverfest Regatta with Laser competitors saw Chet Hight leading with Ralph Wolfe 2nd, and Buster Jones in 3rd place.

Max Mehlburger and crew Randy Oates, James Vaughtner, Nick Nichols, Jeff Arsburger and Andy Redell, the last three men from out of town, managed to win the Marion to Bermuda 650-mile race.

30 Years Ago ~



In the Flying Junior Fleet, The Mystic family forged well ahead for the Capsize Trophy. Burt Mann got Susan Hestir's attention by rolling their boat over, but it didn't count toward the trophy since the races were over. Dudley Rodgers and a group of young eager teachers and Easy Joe Whitesell and Doug Buffalo put on a fine Learn-To-Sail week.

Phast Phred and phast crew Karen, and also the Buffalo family went to Topeka, Kansas for the FJ Midwest Regional races. Lyle and Mabel Phillips won three races, and the Phast One won two. Paul and Linda Moore won a race at the Y Nationals in Atlanta, only to have the race disqualified, I guess because Paul sailed too fast. John Anderson won the first two races he ever sailed in a Flying Scot. It has been downhill ever since.

Carolyn Dodd and Nellie Lanphier capsized a Flying Scot right in the bay. While Nellie stood on the centerboard, Carolyn served a glass of wine and the Scot righted itself.

Chet Hight had just returned from Memphis where he won four straight races in the Thistle Districts. The Sunfish fleet was devastated by scout camp, volleyball injuries, and other non-sailing problems. The GMSC Board split the keelboat fleet in two, and there it has remained, sometimes divided by length, sometimes experiences, sometimes by whim.

35 Years Ago ~

Commodore Oates impersonated the Emperor on July 4th. He had his name misspelled several times after that in the Mainsheet. Flying Dutchman Region 5 Championship Regatta was handily won by Chet Hight. The Mid-America Thistle Districts at Windy Crest in Tulsa was won by Big Tom Richards, while Gary Hestir was leading the pack in the home series followed closely by Tom, and more closely, by Mark Richards and Buster Jones. Rollo Ingram and Max Mehlburger were tied for 5th place. Fourteen Y-Flyers were racing pretty even, nose to nose, though it is hard to tell which is the nose end of a Y-Flyer.

Hal Daugherty, Ed Grubbs, Dr. Dudley Rodgers, and Leroy Nelson all went to the Y-Flyer Nationals. The Mallory Cup races were sailed in Thistles on Lake Maumelle. All went well until Max and the Race Committee ran out of gas on the Committee Boat.

40 Years Ago ~

The Thistle and Dutchman fleets combined for the Memorial Day Regatta, with Big Tom Richards and his Thistle and cigar 1st, Chet Hight 2nd in a Dutchman, and Bill Richards close behind in a Thistle. New skipper Ed Grubbs had brought a Flying Dutchman from New York. In the Sunfish fleet, Mark Richard and Steve Willey were tied for first place; and Karen and Tracy Hight tied for second 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.**