

The Jib Sheet

December 1, 2006

Commodore
James Little
Vice Commodore
Sam Shafer
Race Captain
Wayne Catoe



Secretary
Robert Banks
Treasurer
Kathy Linebarger
Cruise Captain
Bill Murdoch
Member at Large
Not yet appointed

Web site: <http://wlsc.lizards.net> Group e-mail: wlsc@lizards.net Officers' e-mail: wlsc_officers@lizards.net

Meet the New Bridge Officers for 2007

Once again, in the grand tradition of the Republic (maybe a bit grander, considering the lack of contention), an orderly transition of power has quietly taken place within the ranks of the Watauga Lake Sailing Club. On October 28, at the annual fall meeting, six hearts-of-oak formally assumed command of the bridge for the coming year. This year's officer corps is an even mix of old and new blood, led by Commodore Jim Little, and ably assisted by Vice Commodore Sam Shafer, Race Captain Wayne Catoe, Treasurer Kathy Linebarger, Cruise Captain Bill Murdoch, and Secretary Robert Banks.

Commodore Jim Little, Kingsport, TN. – “Wild Blue Yonder”

Aside from sailing as a passenger on a friend's daysailer, Jim's first real sailing experience came under the gentle, guiding hand of our own Clarke Lucas, who, in his own quiet way, impressed upon the future commodore some of the basics of the sport.

“Clarke took me on as second mate that day in a spring race,” Jim explained. “I immediately proceeded to raise the headsail upside down. Clarke yelled to me out on the foredeck, ‘GET THAT ... THING DOWN BEFORE YOU EMBARRASS US ALL!’”

“At the end of the race, as always, Clarke went down below and trusted the crew to pick up a mark and experience the thrill and terror of handling the boat by ourselves. I think that story illustrates the elements that make our club so special. All our members are always willing to share their love and knowledge of sailing.”

Jim owned and sailed a Capri 14.2, for about 10 years, then bought an O'Day 272 in 2005, followed this year, by a Catalina 270. He has served as president, vice-president and secretary of the Eastman Sailing Club, and with wife Sandra and sons Jacob and Matt, has chartered in the BVI, Leewards, Chesapeake Bay, Pamlico Sound, Tampa and San Francisco bays and the waters near Charleston, S.C.

Additionally, Jim has done excellent journeyman's duty in setting up the club's pictorial website. To see a visual history of the WLSC, check out <http://littledomain.com/wlsc>

(Man, when Clarke starts something, he really starts something – the editor.)

Six days shalt thou labor and do all thou art able; And on the seventh, holystone the decks and scrape the cable. – Richard Henry Dana, Two Years Before the Mast

Vice Commodore Sam Shafer, Johnson City, TN. – “Nancy Jean”

A comparative new comer to sailing, Sam has made up for lack of time-in-grade with boundless enthusiasm for the lifestyle - and a flair for winning races. Serving as one of our two race captains in 2006, the East Tennessee State University senior sails “Nancy Jean”, a Morgan 323 owned formerly by his grandfather and named for his grandmother.

Hailing from a long line of power-boaters, Sam only learned to sail after moving to East Tennessee from Virginia Beach.

“Before I even owned a sailboat, the members of this club allowed me to crew on their boats, and actually taught me - not only to sail - but to sail and race competitively,” he said. Sam credits club member Robert English with teaching those first valuable lessons aboard his American 18.

It was, perhaps, in John McMillan’s J22 that Sam was first bitten hard by the racing bug. Eventually, John had enough confidence in the aspiring young sailor to allow him to sail and race without the owner aboard.

“Sam’s in touch with his fast,” said Katie Quillen, a frequent guest and favorite crew member aboard “Nancy Jean”. “When you sail with Sam, you heel over!”

Race Captain Wayne Catoe, Banner Elk, N.C. – “Rest Assured”

Although new to Watauga Lake, Wayne brings a lifetime of sailing and racing experience to the club.

Introduced to the sport by his wife Danielle in Paris, France, in 1961, the former AT&T operations manager served as commodore of the Lake Murray (South Carolina) Sailing Club, and has sailed his way through a virtual fleet of one-designs and cruisers since first purchasing an O’Day Mariner in 1970.

“We traded our Mariner for a Lightning,” Wayne said, “...and raced it for the next 25 years in South Carolina, New Jersey and Dallas, Texas, with our two sons as crew.”

During his tenure in Dallas, Wayne raced J22s and J24s, then purchased, raced and cruised a Pearson 30 after moving to Richmond, VA. In search of a wider-ranging cruiser, he moved up to a Hunter Legend 37.5 for cruising Chesapeake Bay and the Bahamas.

Wayne and Danielle moved to Banner Elk in 2004, and acquired “Rest Assured,” a Catalina 25 “...to enjoy Watauga Lake and to do a little racing.”

Treasurer Kathy Linebarger, Afton, TN. – “Obsession”

Kathy remains one of the perennial members of the WLSC that does the hard work so the rest of us can play, serving as treasurer *ten times* since first assuming the office in 1995. Although she took a short break a few years ago, our finances have been once again under her able care since we persuaded her to take charge of the treasury again in 2005.

Service to the club has been a family tradition: Husband Bobby served as commodore in 1991.

“25 years ago, Bobby and I took a sunset wine and cheese cruise in Panama City, Florida, where they motor around with the sails up,” she said, explaining that Bobby used his time aboard to befriend the

captain. "...we were invited to return the next day to sail *without* the motor. We were hooked."

Upon their return to East Tennessee, the Linebargers contacted Skip Green (last year's vice commodore), who, at that time, owned a Hunter dealership on Watauga Lake. Bobby and Kathy traded their powerboat for a new Hunter 26, then traded up almost immediately to a Hunter 28, "Obsession," which they continue to sail with daughter Elizabeth.

"We've never regretted giving up speed for wind power," she said, recalling those early years.

"We've met some wonderful people through the sailing club, and consider many of the members as our dearest friends. It's an honor to give back to a club that has given us so many wonderful memories."

Cruise Captain Bill Murdoch, Kingsport, TN. – "Canary"

Self-described as "...the balding guy with wire-rim glasses; Adair's husband," Bill has served, with the exception of treasurer, in every elected capacity in the club, and with Adair, has kept us fed, rigged, repaired, educated and entertained since joining the club in 1983.

It is, perhaps, in his unelected capacity that Bill most shines. He and Adair, plan, organize and supervise the club's premier social event: The Fourth of July Pig Roast. In addition, Bill and Adair do similar duty for the several "dock feasts" held throughout the year.

And if Bill is losing a little hair, he still has all his boats.

"I've owned three sailboats, all of which I still have," he said. Admittedly, the little 14-foot Flying Fish has sailed the back yard for the past few years, but Bill's Tanzer 22, "Canary", remains a competitive race contender on Watauga, and has sailed the length of the Tennessee River and most of the east coast between Baltimore and St. Augustine. The Murdochs latest addition to the fleet is a Pacific Seacraft Crealock 34, berthed in New Bern, NC.

In 2005, in his first year as cruise captain, Bill was instrumental in revitalizing a long-standing WLSC tradition, the annual salt-water cruise. In that year and in 2006, Bill and Adair shepherded several local members who chartered sailboats on Pamlico Sound, the Murdochs' new home waters. Plans for 2007 include another trip to the North Carolina sounds, or perhaps Chesapeake Bay, with a few other surprises thrown in.

"We need to explore the farther corners of our own little sea," Bill said. "This year, on Watauga Lake, we will have a Voyage of Exploration and an International Cruise...and of course, there has to be Fourth of July Pig Roast."

Secretary Robert Banks, Bristol, TN. – "Susan Bee"

Robert bought his first sailboat at age 14, a \$150.00 yard-damaged, Lockley Sea Devil - little more than a sloop-rigged sailboard.

"Buying that first sailboat is a slippery slope that can only lead to financial ruin," he said.

That little board-sailer, purchased from the proceeds of lawn mowing and a major grant from an indulgent father, was followed in succeeding years by a Merlin Rocket, a 16-foot American Daysailer, a 1966 26-foot Seafarer Meridian, and finally, the "Susan Bee," a Hunter 28 named for his wife Susan.

“Susan and I trailered our daysailer to Watauga for the first time in 1999, renting a cabin at Lakeshore for the weekend,” he said. “We walked out to the sail dock to see ‘the big boats’, and found one of Bill Murdoch’s dock feasts already in progress.”

Invited to stay for the picnic, Robert and Susan accepted, and later purchased a mid-60s classic-plastic Seafarer from the late Bill Kibler, a long-time club member who had recently retired from sailing.

In the intervening years, Robert and Susan earned American Sailing Association cruising certifications, and have bare-boated several times in the British Virgin Islands and North Carolina’s Pamlico Sound. Robert continues to develop his boating skills through the United States Power Squadron, recently earning the organization’s Educational Proficiency Award.

“I love cruising on the ocean, but those trips tend to be a bit few and far between,” he said. “Watauga Lake is where we’ve really honed our cruising and racing skills. And the old local adage is true: If you can sail well on Watauga Lake, you can sail anywhere.”

2006 Racing Season One of Best on Record

With the possible exception of sandstorms and plagues of locusts, the 2006 racing fleet sailed in everything from flat calms to full gales and everything in between (sometimes, all on the same day).

There were some returning favorites among the winners this year, with several new faces bringing home coveted and hard-contested trophies in both Club and PHRF racing series.

Annual PHRF Series: First Place – John Middaugh, “Slippery II”; Second Place – Clarke Lucas, “My Love II”; Third Place – Jeff Arnfield, “Windward”.

Annual Club Series: First Place – Lucas; Second Place – Middaugh; Third Place – Robert Banks, “Susan Bee”.

Spring PHRF: First Place – James Little, “Papillon”; Second Place – Lucas; Third Place – Middaugh.

Spring Club: First Place – Lucas; Second Place – Middaugh; Third Place – Ed Lockett, “California Son”.

Fall PHRF: First Place – Middaugh; Second Place – Richard Hallier, “Puffin”; Third Place – Wayne Catoe, “Rest Assured”

Fall Club: First Place – Hallier; Second Place – Banks; Third Place – Arnfield.

Congratulations to these fine skippers and their hard-working crews, and to the rest, and in the immortal words of Charlie Brown: “JUST WAIT ‘TILL NEXT YEAR!”

Tip: *Before removing the compass from a binnacle to work on it or store it, place four strips of tape across both compass and mount at about 90-degree intervals. Slit the tape to remove the compass. When it’s time to remount, the tape will show exactly how to position the compass.*

-Sailors’ Secrets, Badham, Robinson

Treasurer's Report

2006 ended with a closing balance of \$805.10. The 2007 account opens with 15 members having submitted their dues (one, a new member), bringing our balance to \$1,040. That leaves us about 60 of us out there who haven't answered the call. If you haven't paid your dues for 2007, send a check to:

Kathy Linebarger
5600 Snapps Ferry Road
Afton, TN 37616

True to form, the club voted not to raise dues for 2007, so if you're a current member: \$15.00. New members, tack on a \$10.00 initiation fee: \$25.00. Send your check in today; it's the best cheap thrill on the market.

Welcome Aboard!

Welcome to new members Dave Bryson, wife Jan and children Hunter and Becca. The Brysons, of Kingsport, TN, sail a Merit 22 which Dave is in the process of fitting out to Bristol fashion. The racing fleet should take note: Some of us have sailed in company with Dave, but all we saw was the stern of his boat.

A Request from the Secretary

Please keep me apprised of new members, upcoming events, boats or equipment for sale or trade. As long as a small classified section doesn't increase the postage, there will be no charge to advertisers. Send any interesting tidbits to: rtbanks10@earthlink.net. Please use the word Jibsheet in your subject line.

Jib Sheet Classifieds

For Sale: 1975 Cherubini-designed Hunter 30, "J Mags". Yanmar Diesel, main with roller-furling Genoa. David or Karen Ford: (828) 963-4063; (423) 791-1888; or tackcollector@yahoo.com. Lying Lakeshore Marina, Hampton, TN. \$7,500.00

Do business with men when the wind is in the northwest. – Ben Franklin

On the Horizon

Don't miss the annual Frostbite Race, New Years Day. Be on the dock by 1100 (that's 11:00 a.m., to you lubbers); skippers' meeting to follow shortly; staggered start from the dock +- 1200. No marks to round, no crowd starts. This is stress-free racing for those still suffering the New Years Eve jitters. If you can sail, you can race. Bring a hot beverage or a snack to share. This is one of the WLSC's favorite events, and one of the few where we can usually count on press coverage.



Watauga Lake Sailing Club
Jib Sheet Publications Dock
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