



Privateer

NEWSLETTER OF PRIVATEER YACHT CLUB
October 2007 www.privateeryachtclub.org
Peter Snyder, Editor pfsnyder3@bellsouth.net

VIEW FROM THE HELM

October 2007

With the autumn days beginning to cool the mornings and the breezes cleaning out the dry, still, oppressive air of the heated summer days, it's time to savor the final sailing weeks of the year before water levels plummet and frost forces us to winterize boats and clubhouse.

For those of you who have the inclination to 'get out on the water' but who have trouble pushing aside the routines that seem to thwart our best intentions, I direct you to a thought from Philip Larkin's poem entitled Money: "*You can't put off being young until you retire.*"

The message of this line was brought clearly home to me a couple of weekends ago, as I participated in the **Tennessee Valley Challenge Cup** at Joe Wheeler State Park, west of Huntsville, Alabama.

The day **John Rathjen** and I were to leave for the race, I woke with some lower back pain that I knew from experience could incapacitate me if it worsened. And, what could be worse for a gimpy back than to ride for several hours straight in a truck, sleep in an unfamiliar bed, and cavort around on the foredeck of a Catalina 22, a nine foot whisker pole in tow, when John mentioned grudgingly from the helm, "Steve, I think we need to jibe."

When I met John at his boat in the clubhouse parking lot, I explained my plight. He was sympathetic but ended by leaving the decision to me. To go or not to go, that is the question. Because I've become more of a risk-taker in later life, I decided to at least make the attempt. If I couldn't move on Saturday, so

be it, but it wouldn't be because I didn't try.

What I failed to realize in my thinking about the weekend of racing and all the twisting and turning that would be required of my tender back had nothing to do with three races on Saturday or two on Sunday. I had no idea about all the work, physical and demanding, that went into trailering a sailboat to an out-of-town event.

It involves getting the mast down at home and preparing the boat for the trip. After arrival at Joe Wheeler the mast had to be stepped, the boat had to be launched and taken to a mooring, and all had to be readied for the races the next day.

After the last race on Sunday, the boats head back to the launch ramp en masse to wait in turn for trailers to pull them to dry land, where masts are removed and is stowed for the return trip.

Now, in theory, this seems like a fairly simple and logical sequence of events. But, I can tell you that after competing in five races over two days, a sixty-two year old body doesn't feel like doing much of anything that requires more than a modicum of thought much less physical labor. And that would be true if my back were in A-one shape, which it wasn't.

Frankly, I was spent. On the trip to Joe Wheeler John and I talked a blue streak, and the trip was over before I knew it. On the way home, I sat in mostly

continued on page 2

VIEW FROM THE HELM - continued from page 1

stunned silence. I wanted to communicate and not seem boorish, but I couldn't seem to put logical thoughts together. I even got confused with the directions, which caused us to miss a turn and forced us to go through the middle of Huntsville, where we got lost momentarily.

Oh, how did my back do through all these trial and tribulations? Though it stayed sore during the whole weekend, it never 'seized-up' and caused me to pack it in. My experience did, however, remind me that sailing is a young person's sport. So, as Larkin advises, don't wait too long to enjoy those activities that require a young person's physical prowess to pull off. Doing so will provide lasting memories that will soothe the ache of advancing age more than the wistful thoughts of unaccomplished dreams.

If you've been following the process of the **South Cove project** in the newsletter, you won't be surprised by the fact that the metal docks have been removed, floated to the main harbor, hauled out of the water, and then cut up, stacked and removed. This Herculean feat has been accomplished by a small group of men who worked tirelessly on the project

and they deserve our praise and heartfelt congratulations: **Bryson Leslie, Walt Jenison, Fred Koch, and John Rathjen.** We are in the process of ordering new docks for the South Cove, and they should be arriving soon. The docks will be an improvement for the dinghy sailors, as their height will make it easier to board and disembark; yet, they will be usable for larger craft as well.

I'm in the process of forming a **Long Range Planning Committee** and excited about the forthcoming discussions that will take place about the future of PYC. All of us need to be good stewards of the resources with which we've been blessed. It is my belief that our vision needs to be broad rather than narrowly focused. Hopefully, many of you will want to share your thoughts and have input in this important work.

In a few weeks the best sailing days will be behind us. But that doesn't mean that we can't still fellowship together. Remember the upcoming social events and put them on your calendar. We have a date for the **Annual Banquet: Saturday, January 19** at the **Valleybrook Country Club.** Let's make it the best attended event of our year.



TENNESSEE VALLEY CHALLENGE CUP

October 5,6 & 7, 2007 — Wheeler Lake

story by Steve George - photos by Jack Everett

Privateer Yacht Club hosted the TVCC this year, but the event was held at **Joe Wheeler State Park in Alabama**. **Rob Fowler** took the responsibility of regatta chairperson and did an admirable job, judging by the positive responses from all the participants. The weekend events ran smoothly, even though the preparation and organization were complicated by the fact that we were hosting a regatta at a venue many miles from Chattanooga.

Rob's goal was to have a good representation of boats from the five yacht clubs, so that the race would be

pleasing rum punch (a favorite of Dieter's), and we set up an iced-down pony keg that **Doug Spohn** had brought in the back of his pickup. Since it was my first out-of-town race experience, I didn't know most of the sailors from the various clubs, but the gathering had the feel of a joyful reunion to most of the others.

Being there gave me a clue as to why we might want to host an event some distance from our home club. Joe Wheeler State Park provided a beautiful setting with deer grazing in peaceful meadows and woods,



seen as a viable regatta in the future and not just a competition limited to the few clubs who generally send the most boats. This year's event drew thirty boats, of all shapes and sizes, and the large number is a credit to Rob's hard work and vision.

Boats began arriving at Joe Wheeler State Park on Friday and the launch ramp staging area buzzed with the activity of stepping masts, getting boats in the water, and meeting old friends.

On Friday evening **Stewart and Carol Cofield** provided a scrumptious outdoor buffet in the parking lot that was an immediate hit with the enthusiastic participants. And, though we were in a dry Alabama county there was no problem with the libations carried from Chattanooga. Stewart mixed his crowd-

a nicely laid out marina in the cove, plenty of space at the launch ramp for parking and launching, a golf course for those so inclined, plenty of trails for hiking or biking, and a lodge with rooms overlooking the marina---that included a lighted swimming pool and hearty buffet breakfast.

We woke Saturday to a gorgeous fall day with the wind beginning to build. People were a little less sociable than they were the evening before, as rigging and racing brought a slightly more competitive focus. It was quite a sight to see the harbor filled with boats heading out to the main body of water and the race course following the Skipper's meeting.

continued on page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check the PYC website for most current info on events.

October 27, 2007	Halloween Regatta (Cruisers) Door Prize!!	CSC - TBD
October 28	Halloween Regatta (Dinghies)	CSC - TBD
November 3	Work Party — Everybody Needed	8 am Saturday
November 3	Race - Cruiser & C22	1 pm Saturday
November 10	John's Pig Regatta Door Prize!!	Saturday - TBD
November 12	Board Meeting	7 pm Monday
November 13	CSC Covered Dish Dinner	7 pm Tuesday
November 17	Race - C22 only	1 pm Saturday
	Power Squadron Chili Dinner	7 pm Saturday
November 23	Thanksgiving Day	
November 24	Race - C22 only	1 pm Saturday
December 8	PYC Christmas Party Door Prize!!!	TBD
December 10	Board Meeting - Commodore's Home	7 pm Monday
December 31	New Year's Eve Party	'till...
January 19, 2008	PYC Annual Meeting & Awards -Door Prize!!!	6:30 PM Saturday

TVCC - continued from page 3

Congratulations are in order for the excellent **Race Committee** headed up by **Brainard Cooper**. Assisting him were **Dan Williams and Richard Ralston**. We had good wind for all races, three on Saturday and two on Sunday, except for the last race on Saturday. The wind died mid-race and the Race Committee decided to eliminate one lap. Of course, the wind returned as soon as they set the new finish line.

After Saturday's races we had a nice buffet dinner in the Lodge's lower banquet room after winding down with the left-over punch and a keg that John and I had toted from Chattanooga and valiantly tried to keep cool for two days. Before dinner there was a rush to see the day's results when Tom Clark arrived with a print-out of the finishes in the three fleets: **Spinnaker, Dinghy, and Non-Spinnaker**.

Sunday proved another great day to sail, and yet I could tell that many of the sailors were moving more slowly than the day before. Or was it just me? The physical and mental stress of three races after a long road trip had taken a toll on my body, but not on my spirit.

The racing had been competitive, especially in the Dinghy and Non-Spinnaker fleets. **Chris Cyrul's Olson, with Pete Duvoisin** at the helm, seemed to have its way in the Spinnaker category, though **Tom Clark and Jack Everett** made a good showing in Tom's fun boat. Yet, there was still a chance for boats to advance in the other fleets with good results on Sunday. **Barry Klein** had the weekend's picture moment, as he scooped up **Chris Cyrul's son Christian**---who had fallen overboard---with a one-armed rescue just before the start of a race.

Walt Jenison and Sandy Vanden Branden had their best race of the weekend---in the Non-Spinnaker group---in the opening race on Sunday, and their first-place finish kept **Bill Robertson** from attaining a sweep of five firsts in the fleet. **Bill and John Rodgers in Blind Hog** really showed their ability to "find acorns" throughout the whole event: a well-tuned rig and some mighty fine sailing. Walt's finish put him ahead of **John Rathjen** with one race left to go, as both battled for trophy contention.

continued on page 5

RACE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

DATE	DAY	TIME	BOAT	PRO	ASSISTANT
10/27/07	Saturday	TBD	CSC Halloween - Cruisers		CSC
10/28/07	Sunday	TBD	CSC Halloween - Dinghies		CSC
11/03/07	Saturday	1:00 PM	Cruisers	Overbeck, Kent	Cofield, Sewart
11/10/07	Saturday	TBD	John's Pig Regatta	Rob Fowler	
11/17/07	Saturday	1:00 PM	Cruisers	Ralston, Richard	Cox, Lloyd
11/24/07	Saturday	1:00 PM	Cruisers	Rasbury, Mike	Crowe, Pat

WORK PARTY!!! SATURDAY 8 AM
 NOVEMBER 3 - EVERYBODY NEEDED!!!
 Call Van Polidoro, 423-870-4467, so he can plan.

NOTE: IF YOU DISCOVER A PROBLEM WITH ANY OF THE COMMITTEE OR CHASE BOATS, PLEASE NOTIFY WALT JENISON **ASAP**. (423-886-5655)



SOME OF THE TVCC WINNERS

TVCC continued from page 4

As you might imagine from the results already mentioned, **Privateer Yacht Club brought home the Cup**, which is a tribute to our fine sailors and to Rob for getting solid participation from PYC boats in the three fleets.

While **Chris' Olson** dominated its fleet, she was a complete flop at the launch ramp. She resisted every effort of her frustrated crew to return her to the cradle, like an unwilling thoroughbred balking at the ramp of a travel trailer. There were shouts, directions, invocations, cajoling, coercion, curses, and cunning stratagems for a successful maneuver, but

the Olson seemed stubbornly unwilling to leave her natural habitat where she had performed so admirably.

You can check out the full TVCC results on our Website. I was proud of our club for more than the trophy we brought back. Our sailors represented our club well, with a spirit of camaraderie and helpfulness. The Race Committee handled all the details with competence and aplomb. It was a delight to be associated with so many fine folks and to come away with such delightful memories.

GOODBYE TO THE OLD ARMORED SOUTH COVE DOCKS
AND MANY THANKS TO BRYSON LESLEY, WALT JENISON, FRED KOCH, JOHN RATHJEN AND
STEVE GEORGE FOR A LOT OF WORK AND A JOB WELL DONE!



SOUTH COVE AT LOW
WATER LAST WINTER



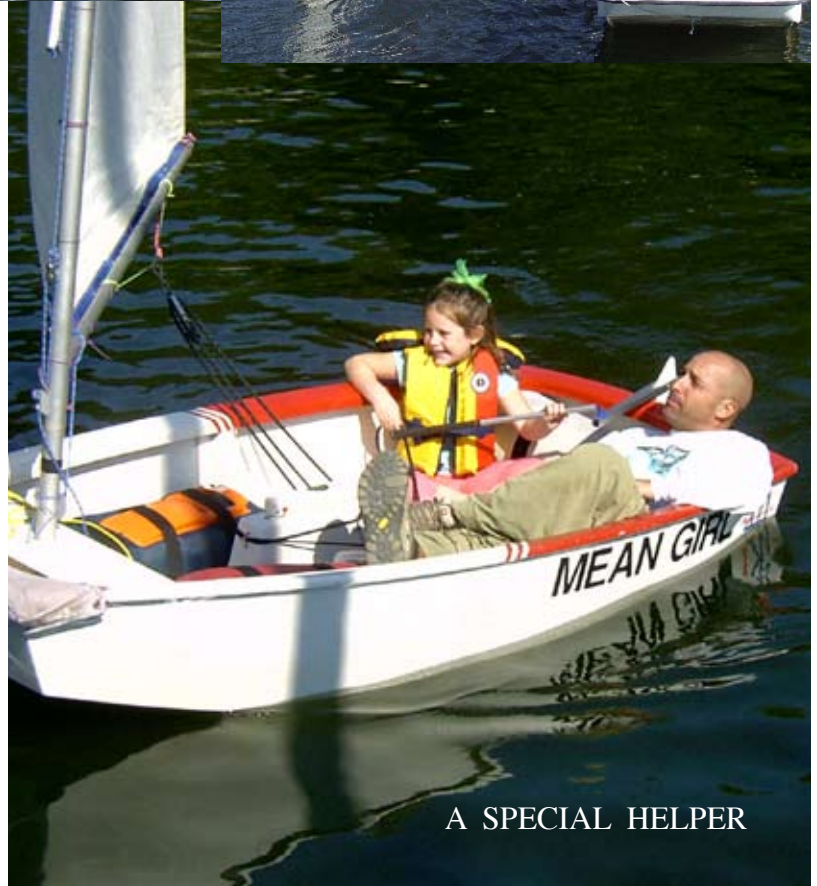
ONE OF MANY LOADS!



PYC *OPTI* DAY **OCTOBER 13, 2007** **YOUTH SAILING**

We were really excited with the turn out Saturday. 14 skippers and 5 others that wanted to come but had scheduling problems. WOW! It was really great to see these young sailors out on a day other than Sail Camp. What they learned at Sail Camp had not been forgotten. We are now planning to sail on **Saturdays 9 AM to 3 PM.** weather permitting for 5 weekends.

Call **Bryson Lesley 706 375 8750**, if there are questions about whether we will be sailing or not. If we decide not to sail, we will try to get an e mail out early enough that you don't waste the morning. Lunch will be served at no charge.



A SPECIAL HELPER

FALL GULF COAST CRUISE

October 6-14, 2007



Story by Eddie Graham

Photos by Graham & Overbeck

The week of October 7th **Kent and Jane Overbeck** on **Jeremiah** and myself on **YeeHaa**, had the pleasure of sailing with five other Catalina 22s from **Panama City** (not to be confused with Panama City Beach) to **Port St. Joe** and back.

Some of you may have seen the pictures in the news of the **twin water spouts** off Panama City Beach. I am glad to say we were there the preceding week and the weather was marvelous with clear to partly cloudy skies and 10 to 15 knot winds from a favorable direction every day. What a difference a week can make.

We sailed in the Gulf by day and anchored behind barrier islands at night. This area is one of, if not the last remaining stretches of undeveloped coast with white sand beaches in Florida. Several of our anchorages were behind islands barely 100 yards wide. A short walk would put us on a pristine deserted gulf beach without a sign of development in either direction.

Jane Overbeck always comes on these cruises bearing gifts. The gift is always useful and everybody gets one. This time it was a fly swatter. Now, sailing a boat the size of ours on the Gulf is always interesting, if not exhilarating. As a newbie to this

area, I was advised to be prepared for the dreaded black flies, not on the beach, but a mile or more offshore. As predicted, I ended up sailing with the mainsheet and tiller in one hand and the fly swatter in the other.

In a 15 knot wind those devils would dip into the lee of the cabin and stay low in the cockpit. From the knees down, the battle was on. They think *Backwoods Off* is an appetizer. It takes the military stuff for these babies. But just when you thought you had had enough of Florida wildlife for the day, a pod of dolphin would surface and blow not 10 feet off the rail.

As with every Gulf cruise I have been on (three for me and the Overbecks have probably lost count) there were times of great joy and a few of great anxiety (I'm not talking here about the realization that you've run out of beer); the joy of sailing on one tack at max. hull speed for hours, not minutes; the unnerving sound and feeling of your new oversized plow anchor you knew was bomb proof breaking free in a 20 knot wind at 5 am.

I had issued strict orders that the Captain was not to be disturbed before dawn and that the crew was to deal with all emergencies during their watch. Then I remembered. I don't have a crew!

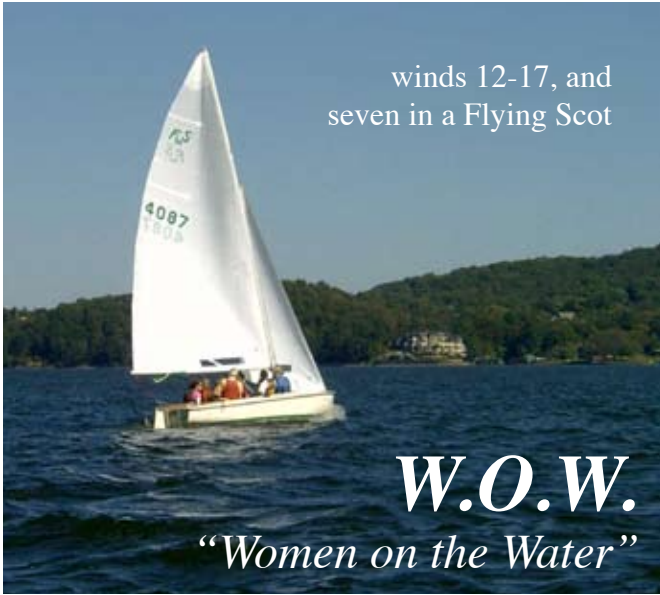
YeeHaa!



Yep, that's Eddie, singlehanded, or single "footed" on the tiller, taking pictures of the beautiful Florida beaches.



Wee Haa, below, enjoying the solitude.



winds 12-17, and
seven in a Flying Scot

W.O.W.
“Women on the Water”

For our first class, did it actually help to hear everybody’s fears before we took our feet off solid ground and into rocky waters? For now, I not only carried my fear with me, but five others *added*—way out of my comfort zone. And speaking of rocky—**WOW!** Our sailboat was ever so rocking this afternoon. At one point, things went wrong and sails were noisily flapping every which way and our instructor, Tom Coleman, had to quickly do everything himself. After he got it all under control, I asked him if it made him nervous to be in a sailboat with 6 women who had no idea how to sail? He said calmly, “Not at all.”

I said, “Good answer for an instructor to say, even though he might be terrified on the inside.” Did I hear silence? Oh, dear, add yet another fear to my list—just the thought of the instructor being terrified. (WOWOW! — “Wailing of Women on the Water”) Well, nobody knows my sense of humor yet, so I don’t know what they were thinking... But, all in all, we did have fun and learned a lot!

Barbara Snyder, October 21, 2007



PYC BOARD MEETING

Minutes —October 8, 2007

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM by Commodore George.

Members present: S. George W. Jenison,
 F. Koch P. Duvoisin
 P. Healy V. Polidoro
 B. Cooper T. Clark
 D. Kuberg D. Mullen

Observers present: B. Lesley P. Snyder
 R. Ralston

Minutes of August meeting approved as published.
Motion by Koch, second by Healy.

- In opening remarks, George asked that Bryson Leslie and Richard Ralston be allowed to present new business early in the meeting.

Bryson Leslie is planning an **Opti-Laser program for 2008** in addition to the **Opti Days** program currently scheduled. He offered to repair the Opti docks for the cost of materials (\$350). He has been appointed PYC’s **Liaison with Youth Sailing**.

Richard Ralston reported on plans for the **Halloween Regatta** October 27 and 28. Cruisers to race on Saturday (11 AM start), dinghies on Sunday (Noon start).

OLD BUSINESS:

- George asked for more recommendations for members of the **Long Range Planning Committee**.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Dick Mullen, Dockmaster/Dry Storage Director:

Reports that trees overhanging the South Cove are to be trimmed Friday (10/12).

continued on page 11

continued from page 10 — October Board Mtg.

Tom Clark, Past Commodore:

Reports he has been contacted by **SHOCO** offering PYC an additional 5% discount on the docks to be purchased for the South cove if the order is placed this month, 50% down, 40% to be paid when shipped (before 12/31), and the balance (10%) when accepted.

Paul Healy, Membership:

- no new associates

Van Polidoro, Building & Grounds:

- Clubhouse roof fixed by Kirby Sweatt. He has also been asked to look into the light in the “J Lot” to see what can be done to fix it.
- There will be a work party on 10/13 for dock removal of the old docks in the South Cove and to clean up the driveway and do some dock repair.

Pete Duvoisin, Rear Commodore:

- no reports of Race Committee problems.

Fred Koch, Treasurer:

- Currently PYC has \$54,000 cash on hand and \$24,000 in receivables. Past due dues of \$1214 (over 180 days) currently on the books.

Walt Jenison, Vice Commodore:

- Tilt mechanism for the outboard on the Whaler is inoperable. Repair estimated to cost \$1000 for parts plus labor. Jenison to check into replacement power for the Whaler.

Dieter Kuberg, Social Director:

- Motion (Polidoro second) to allow Scott Irwin to reserve the Club for a private party on December 15.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Polidoro:** Plans to remove the old docks from the South Cove and one section of the Opti Docks on 10/13. Opti Docks to be replaced in the Spring. Koch motion/Healy second. Passed.
- **Koch and Snyder:** Presented a proposal for re-contouring and improving the launching ramp for use while the water is low during the winter. They presented cross section elevations of the existing ramp with the improvements delineated. Consensus approval.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM

Brainard Cooper, Secretary

CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

- Steve George, Commodore: 423-667-2493
- Walt Jenison, Vice Commodore: 423-886-5655
- Pete Duvoisin, Rear Commodore: 423-894-5191
- Tom Clark, Past Commodore: 423-870-1243
- Fred Koch, Treasurer: 423-877-3140
- Dick Mullen, Dockmaster/Dry Storage Director: 423-875-9998
- Van Polidoro, Building and Grounds Director: 423-870-4467
- Dieter Kuberg, Social Director: 423-842-6714
- Paul Healy, Membership Director: 423-892-1838
- Brainard Cooper, Secretary: 423-622-6081

“For will anyone dare to tell me that business is more entertaining than fooling among boats? He must have never seen a boat, or never seen an office, who say so.”

Robert Louis Stevenson
—from *The Mariner’s Book of Days*

Privateer Yacht Club

was organized on July 25, 1940, in order to promote sailing in the Chickamauga Lake area and particularly in Chattanooga; to teach its members to talk the language of the sea and build up a marine tradition for "The Great Lakes of The South"; to help promote water safety and a code of ethics for the waterways; to form a social and activity nucleus for people in the area interested in sailing; and to develop an active relationship with other sailing and boating organizations to promote racing and other boating activities.



Kent & Jane Overbeck beach anchored off Crooked Island, Florida, on the 2007 Fall Gulf Coast Cruise

Catalina 22 (below) in front of Panama City, Florida, on the Fall Gulf Coast Cruise, October 6-14

Privateer NEWSLETTER

www.privateeryachtclub.org

Privateer Yacht Club

Privateer Rd.

Hixson, TN 37343



October, 2007