



Privateer

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NEWSLETTER OF PRIVATEER YACHT CLUB
December 2007 www.privateeryachtclub.org
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VIEW FROM THE HELM

December 2007

Well, we've almost come full circle since Tom Clark handed me the gavel at the Annual Banquet last January. I remember how the feelings of pride and trepidation arose, giving me an excitement about the year ahead, as well as the fear that I could stumble and fall over the yawning precipice before me.

What I didn't realize, as I basked in the glory of the moment and the well wishes from many of those present, was the help and advice I would receive from so many along the way.

I'm reminded of the journeys of most mythic heroes in literature. One such hero was the **Frodo** in J.R.R. Tolkien's epic saga of Middle Earth entitled *The Lord of the Rings*. By the way, I'm using the following example for illustrative purposes only, as I don't want to imply that my life in any way contains anything of the heroic. It's just that the task lying ahead seemed so daunting, that I was reminded of the challenges Frodo faced in his quest.

The first step for any hero is to accept the call. Frodo accepts the task, given to him by the wizard Gandalf, of delivering the ring to Rivendell and then to the most feared place on earth, Mount Doom.

Next, the fledging hero must step out of his comfort zone, in Frodo's case the peaceful village of Hobbiton, and enter the dark forest of uncertainty. Along the treacherous path enemies assail him at every turn.

Seemingly, the weak and unskilled hero has absolutely no chance against the strength and cunning of the forces of darkness set against him. So, what are

the factors that eventually lead to the hero's ultimate victory?

One of the most significant, and often taken for granted by those who fail to see its importance, is the aid the hero receives along the way by those aligned with the forces of good. The hero, of course, is unaware of this assistance until it shows up, usually just at the moment when all seems lost for the hero and his party.

When Frodo and his friends Sam, Merry and Pippen come under the spell of the barrow-wights on the fog enshrouded barrow downs, it's a rhyme that Tom Bombadil taught him that brings Tom to their rescue. Later in the story the beautiful Galadriel gives Frodo an Elven cloak and a phial of the light of Earendil to aid him on his quest.

My journey this year has definitely been a step out of my comfort zone. At times I was troubled and confused about a decision that would affect the future of our club, and I felt the weight of trying to sort out the complexities and come to a responsible conclusion. Yet, there was always someone willing to join the discussion and shed new light on the issue.

So, as 2007 draws to a close, **I want to thank all** those who gave their time, energy, humor, resourcefulness, hard work, perspicacity, and passion for the common good of Privateer Yacht Club. I want to personally thank my **board of directors** who faithfully joined me on the second Monday of each month and skillfully brought me back from the brink of shoddy thinking, who cheered me up each time we met, who allowed me to see the value of working with such a

continued on page 2

VIEW FROM THE HELM - continued from page 1

committed group of volunteers, and who taught me the importance of listening.

I want to thank all those members who did their duties without complaint and without seeking any reward or special acknowledgement. Sure, we had a problem for a while with no-shows on Race Committee, but we should not forget those who were diligent each time their name came up for duty. Or those like **Steve Sherman** who stepped in when there was no RC at all.

I want to thank those members who brought the most delicious side dishes to our social events. Yes, catered events make an easy time of preparation, serving, and clean up, but I think that the best food I've eaten has been when our own members "catered" the spread.

I want to thank the members who willingly gave their time during the critical **PYC work parties**. It's a special treat to work with such a gung-ho group of volunteers. I want to thank those who hosted regattas during the year and gathered a support team to pull them off.

I want to thank the members who sailed in the races and regattas or just sailed for an afternoon or evening on the water. I want to thank those veterans who gave advice to the more novice sailors and exhibited that the "secrets" of being a top finisher are not just for a select few.

I want to thank those who took pride in their sailing craft as well as our club and grounds by picking up trash, tending to the potted plants and flowers, and keeping up with maintenance on their boats. It speaks well of our club and its membership when the clubhouse, grounds, docks, and boats in their slips give the appearance of being well-cared for.

And, though I hesitate to single out any individuals, for so many have contributed to our success this year, and I would be sure to leave out someone if I tried to name them all, I want to note three special people. **Steve Morgan** took over as head cook for the **Pig Regatta** when David Varnell landed in the hospital with acute appendicitis. I was there to watch him do a masterful job: appointing tasks to the helpers, organizing the preparations on Thurs-

day evening, and keeping a watchful eye over the cooking on Friday evening and most of the night. I was initiated into the society of "butt rubbers" on Thursday and hope I'll be asked back for that dubious honor next year.

The second individual is **Jan Shepherd**, who gets my vote for the club member who does more for the club, without having a boat or even doing much sailing herself. Though she is on staff as a "maintenance facilitator" for the clubhouse, she is always on hand to help and willingly gives her time and expertise whenever asked.

Finally, I want to thank **Fred Koch** who is rotating off the Board as PYC's treasurer this year. His balance sheets are clear and precise showing a meticulous mind at work, and he truly cares about the future of Privateer Yacht Club, as he gives his valuable opinion on many issues. When any work needs to be done at the club, Fred is always in evidence, lending a hand and his expertise to the tasks at hand. We are fortunate indeed to have these individuals in our club.

Don't forget our **Annual Banquet** on January 19 at the Valleybrook Golf and Country Club. You should receive the formal invitation, ballot for 2008 officers, and RSVP card in the mail. I would appreciate your sending a response back to me as soon as possible.

It's been a good year. My hope is that 2008 will be even better.

See you on the water!
Steve George, Commodore

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Come celebrate the New Year by gathering at PYC on January 1st for ham, black-eyed peas, turnip greens, corn bread, cobbler, etc. with a big fire, TVs to watch some great football, and 25 cent football pools! Come anytime after 1 pm.

The food and fellowship will be great and maybe even the sailing! BYOB. Please let **Dianne Adams** (877-4722) know if have questions and if you plan on stopping by so that we're sure to have enough food for all! There will be a minimal charge to cover the cost of the food. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



OPTI OUTLOOK

If you like beignets and hot chocolate from Cafe DuMonde and seeing fifty-one Optimist Prams on one starting line, then this was the place to be on November 18, 2007.

The race committee boat blew their whistle in the harbor and immediately all fifty-one boats came over the wall into the water and sailed to the race course. It was quite a sight with a great group of enthusiastic kids. Some had traveled from as far away as Brazil to compete. A moderate breeze placed all the boats on the starting line one and a half minutes before the gun was fired. They seemed to bump and touch each other as they maneuvered for position.

Kohl Killene from the Southern Yacht Club won with two bullets and some other strong finishes during the eight races.

Many thanks to the Southern Yacht Club for the great hospitality shown to all the visitors and participants in this regatta. It was executed in a well disciplined manner and showed a lot of organization and experience, both from the club and the Opti leaders. A great time was definitely had by all!

As a side note, you cannot go to New Orleans without driving past the areas that encountered Katrina's wrath. In some instances, it was as if time stood still after the hurricane, and the devastation was evident.

New Orleans is still a city with a lot of rebuilding left to do and yet many of the homes were either in the process of being rebuilt or were back to the "old south" greatness they once enjoyed.

The Southern Yacht Club committee boat is a twenty-eight foot steel hull boat that was tied between four posts and survived an eight foot rise during Katrina and came out unscathed.

The Southern Yacht Club survived Katrina but burned a few weeks after the hurricane. It is now replaced with temporary buildings, but plans for a new clubhouse are under way. We wish them much success with the rebuilding process.

Submitted by **Bryson Lesley**

EDITOR'S NOTE

Keep an eye on the Opti program. You will see some very interesting developments. Watch everything from our own Opti Dock and storage shed to the calendar — and look for lots of "our" kids to be participating in fun times, including races here and at other clubs.

Click on this for a few fun Opti videos:
www.youtube.com/optisailors

And, while you're at it, here's an another interesting newsletter:
<http://www.optistuff.com/info/documents/NewsletterFall%20Nov%2007.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check the PYC website for most current info on events.

January 1, 2008
January 19, 2008

New Year's Day Gathering
PYC Annual Meeting & Awards - Door Prize!!!

1 pm til...
6:00 PM Saturday

2007 CHRISTMAS PARTY

photos by Dave Varnell - report by Peter Snyder

This year's Christmas Party was another *roaring* success, which could be recognized by the uproarious laughter during the Chinese Auction as Bobby Thompson lost about five favored gifts to others and Bob Ives tried bribing potential gift grabbers to pick up his.

The clubhouse was decorated very festively. And, the FOOD! How can you imagine better food? It seems that each PYC meal is even better than the last, especially the covered dish ones.

Joe Alfred did his fun reading of "The Night Before Christmas" and invited all to join in who remembered a line or two. Marcia Jenison recited practically every line with him, and a few lines were recited by all. Santa was in "clined" toward generosity with the gift giving, and Cindy assisted ably.

Many thanks to Jan Varnell and Jan Shepherd for their work in organizing the party and preparing the meat. A merry time was had by all, and to all it was a good night!





VISITING QINGDAO — 2008 OLYMPIC SAILING VENUE

story and photos by Jack Everett (Ask him to show you photos of his first grandchild!)

Question: How do you get past Communist Guards at the Olympic Center?

Answer: Show them a (Bodacious) Wheeler Regatta shirt logo!

I was in **China** to visit my first grandchild and took a side excursion to **Qingdao** to go see the **2008 Olympic Sailing Venue**. The International visitors center told me it was closed but I could go and ask the guard to allow my entry, which I did but was promptly turned back and told to leave.

Not being one to accept failure (I have a habit of getting into unique places, like taking a rental car for a spin around the Infineon track in Sonoma) I opened my jacket and presented the Logo from a shirt I bought after crewing on **Bodacious** in the Wheeler regatta. It has a nice sailing look to it and the guard immediately granted me entry with a smile.

While walking along the marina area and noting the few sailboats there, I spotted some people work-

ing on a nice blue boat and to my surprise as I got closer I saw it sported the logo of my employer, **EMERSON Motors**. The boat, **NINA-Qingdao**, is privately owned, but has been hired by my company for advertising and I presume, client cruises. After meeting with the owner, I was also able to meet with the **Commodore of Qingdao International Yacht Club** who is a high level government official managing development around the venue. He has agreed to ship an exchange burgee to our own Privateer Yacht Club in Chattanooga.

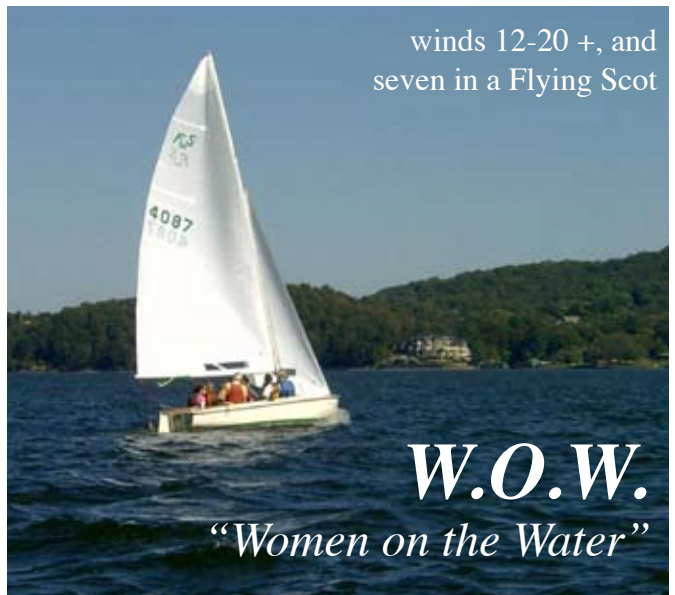
All this is to say the sailing world is small and you can meet people with connections around the world. On my second day to the venue the boat owner Enrico introduced me to Thomas from Belgium. Thomas happens to work with an investment company promoting Yachting with support from our own Steve Sherman, owner of McLaughlin Boat works (OPTIs) in Chattanooga. I was able to sail a short spinnaker trial on the Emerson boat and take some amateur shots of the facility.



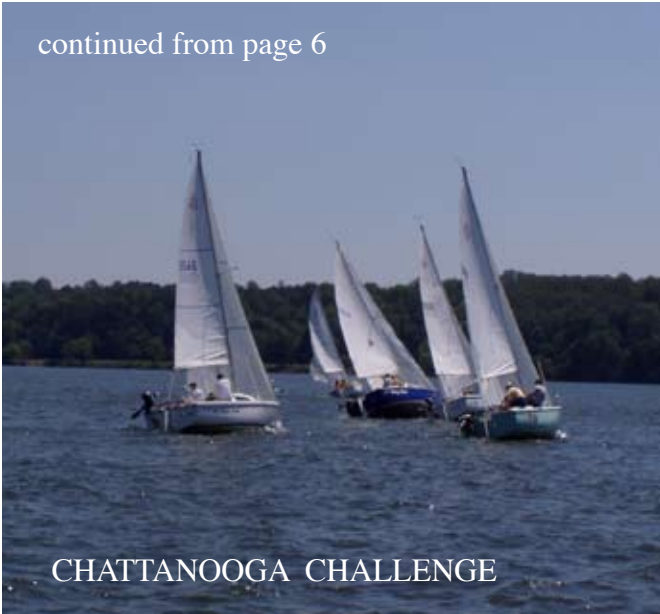
SCOWABUNGA



A LOOK BACK AT PYC 2007



continued from page 6



CHATTANOOGA CHALLENGE



continued on page 8

continued from page 7



continued from page 8



EDITOR'S NOTE

Many thanks to all those who contributed photos and stories for the newsletter this year. It's been a pleasure working with you all. Most of the photos in this retrospective were taken by **Mike Rasbury**, photog extraordinaire. **Fred Koch** has a way of slipping in a few once in a while, as do **Guy Campbell**, **Jack Everett**, **Steve Sherman** and a few oth-

ers. Some have asked about deadlines, and there's a large gray area there... I would like to have everything by the Monday after the Board meeting, the third Monday. But, I try to be flexible and still get the news out before the end of the month. Just keep in mind that the *Private Ear* can only be as good as the material you send. It's your newsletter, so send me your best! Thanks to all who have helped this year. *You* don't get enough credit!

PYC BOARD MEETING

Minutes — December 10, 2007

Meeting called to order 8:10 PM by Commodore George.

Members present: S. George W. Jenison,
F. Koch T. Clark
P. Healy D. Kuberg

Observers present: P. Snyder

Minutes of November meeting approved. Jenison moved, Kuberg seconded.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Fred Koch, Treasurer:

- Currently PYC has \$34,212 cash on hand and \$5,989 in receivables. Cash flow looks good.

- **Kuberg** moved that future associate members would be required make payment in the amount of the quarterly dues when submitting their associate member application. Any overpayment of the quarterly dues (ie if the associate member did not join in the first month of the quarter) would be reflected as a credit on the next quarterly billing. The net effect is that the new associate member will not be paying dues for time prior to becoming an associate member. Quarterly dues are \$100 now. Jenison second. Passed unanimously.

- Capital project expenditures so far this year total \$40,695.

- Based upon income and expenses of socials and regattas this year, and not counting the year end trophies, the year's net cost was only \$214. It's been a good year!

Walt Jenison, Vice Commodore:

- **The Junior sailing program** is reactivated, and we have also had women's sailing lessons - WOW (Women on the Water). Hopefully, these will continue again next year.

- Walt is looking into repairing the leak in the small aluminum rowboat that's been kept near the boat ramp. After it's fixed, he will mount the small Johnson outboard that goes with it and see if that can be revived for working with the Opties. This will save gas and be a much more maneuverable boat to work with the kids.

- **The large committee boat** needs to be pulled this winter for work on the pontoons. The starboard tank is leaking badly – looks like barnacles on the pontoon, possible electrolytic corrosion or aluminum reacting to the paint that's been used last. Steve Morgan may be able to help with some welding. Need to find a trailer to pull it out. Jenison and Rathjen will work on this.

- Tilt mechanism for the outboard on the Whaler is being checked by a friend of Bryson Lesley down in Chickamauga. He may be able to be rebuild it fairly inexpensively.

Paul Healy, Membership: No report

Dieter Kuberg, Social Director:

- Scot Irwin and Marilyn's reception will be on Saturday, December 15th.

- Nobody won the \$50 drawing at the Christmas Party. Coleman Keane's name was drawn.

Tom Clark, Past Commodore:

- Tom requested a recap of the **South Cove discussion** from the last Board meeting.

- Fred brought out his model and paperwork and started the discussion. Tom mentioned that when a sailor in a boat like a Flying Scot is entering South Cove with a following wind and sea condition, he needs to have enough room to turn around once he's adjacent to the dock. In the past, that room has barely been there, especially when boats are tied to the dock. That was the reason for proposing the new dock move north. Discussion went to the need for docking space during a large regatta, when both

continued on page 11

continued from page 10 — December Board Mtg.

sides of the dock might be useful. Tom related how boats were rafted up to the docks, some four deep, at the Gone With The Wind Regatta at Lake Lanier this year. Fifty boats were there for that Regional Competition, and we will be hosting that in April of 2008. It's conceivable that we could put 32 boats on one side of a 200 ft. dock. It was decided to table the discussion until the February Board meeting, when the new Board can make a decision. Also, it was noted that it will be easy to move the new dock system if ever the need arises.

OLD BUSINESS:

• **Pete Snyder** brought up the discussion of dredging the harbor bottom beyond the end of the boat ramp. He had looked up permitting on the Army Corps of Engineers website and on TVA's. He called TVA and found that TVA has a joint application form and they coordinate with the Corps as required. He downloaded the form after speaking with a lady in the permit office. The usual person who handles the permits was not in her office this week, but will be back Monday.

• **Kuberg** reported that he called a contractor about doing the dredging work, and found that it might cost in the neighborhood of \$1000 based upon equipment rental and operator costs for a track hoe and dump truck. But the contractor said he won't even look at it until we get a permit.

• Snyder also had spoken with a contractor, but he also directed us to get a permit first. The type of equipment to use was discussed: a track hoe with a laser to control the depth, since the bottom won't be visible when the mud is stirred up, or possibly a type of "Gradall" with a wide bucket on a telescoping boom which would be easier to control. Kuberg had seen one of these on Airport Blvd. and will check with the owner to see if it might be available. The reach needs to be close to 30 feet, if possible.

• The Board directed Snyder to apply for a permit – one step at a time. Jenison commented that it would be good to have the bottom of the ramp

cleared out in time for the Chattanooga Challenge in April, when the lake level may not be high enough for launching and retrieving Catalina 22's with our current situation. Kuberg commented that if we could get it cleared out, you might not even need a trailer extension at low pool.

NEW BUSINESS:

• **Steve George** brought up the slate of nominees for the new Board of Directors. This is how it is shaping up:

Walt Jenison	Commodore
Brainard Cooper	Vice Commodore
David Bergevin	Rear Commodore
Steve George	Past Commodore
Carol Cofield	Treasurer
Peter Snyder	Secretary
Paul Healy	Director
Dieter Kuberg	Director
John Rathjen	Director
Bryson Lesley	Director

• **Dick Mullen** will be asked to stay on as an honorary member of the board.

• **Walt Jenison** and the rest of the Board thanked **Steve George** for all his good work as Commodore.

• Meeting adjourned 10:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted for
Brainard Cooper, Secretary
Peter Snyder





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.

HEADING FOR THE SURF ON THE FALL GULF COAST CRUISE

Privateer NEWSLETTER

www.privateeryachtclub.org

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