

The Writing Line

Aug 01

Hobie Fleet 45 Newsletter
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA'S,
SPACECATS



Fleet Meeting: Tuesday, Sep 4, Marlene and Dan Sassman's

Frank Rodrick, Commodore 433-2677
Don Eldridge, Vice Commodore 242-8524
Dave Foy, Treasurer 254-1868
Roy Laughlin, Secretary 690-0137

September Meeting

Marlene and Danny Sassman's, 500 S Shannon, Indiatlantic will host our next meeting. Brief instructions are: Go over SR 192 causeway. Turn right at *Michael's Men Store* and drive south to the Sassmans'. Marlene's number is 768 0046 should you have any questions. Marlene says to look for the catamarans in the yard. The following map may help with navigation to the meeting. (Note that the star at 9th avenue does not necessarily show the actual position of Sassmans'.)



2002 Elections

Annual elections for fleet officers will commence after the next meeting. This is a departure from past protocols. In order to increase participation in this important process to choose fleet leadership, members at the last fleet meeting decided to use the following process in the upcoming election

1. Nominations for all fleet officers opened at the August fleet meeting. See below for nominations accepted so far. Nominations for fleet commodore will be closed by vote during the September meeting. Officers will be elected by email ballots sent sequentially to fleet members, starting with the Commodore's position. An Email ballot with instructions for voting and returning it will be sent to

each fleet member soon after the September meeting. Fleet members will have a couple of days to return the ballots. Deadlines will be included with voting instructions. When they are tallied, the commodore will be announced. Unelected candidates in any prior race, if they wish to nominate themselves, may run for any position to be voted subsequently. Vice commodore, treasurer and secretary positions will be put up for a vote in that order with an email ballot. When you receive your ballot, please return it promptly. Members without email should contact Roy Laughlin for alternative voting.

2. Nominations for all positions will be open until closed at the September meeting. Please feel free to nominate any fleet member you believe qualified and interested in serving as a fleet officer. If you are interested in serving as a fleet officer, please feel to nominate yourself.

3. Our intention is to increase participation in the election process. Many more members participate in fleet events than are able to make the monthly meetings. We encourage their participation. Email election seems an effective way to accomplish this goal.

The following describes major duties of each officer and fleet members nominated for the respective positions as follows:

Commodore

The commodore presides at meetings or arranges for someone to stand in his/her place. He/she coordinates actions of other fleet officers and fleet activities. The following members are nominees:

Kent Cooper

Lisa Dutcher

Vice Commodore

The vice commodore runs fleet races or arranges for someone to stand in his/her place at specific events. He/she organizes the fleet race schedule and is responsible for fleet equipment. He/she officially keeps the fleet race scores and hands out trophies at the Christmas Party. He/she may also develop initiatives on behalf of the fleet. The following member is nominated for vice commodore:

Mark Herendeen

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for collecting and banking dues and other fleet monies such as proceeds from fleet races and regattas. He/she works closely with other officers and fleet event coordinators to provide payments on a timely basis. The treasurer is responsible for coordinating with the bank where our account lays. The treasurer makes a monthly report at the fleet meetings. The following fleet member has been nominated for treasurer:

Dave Foy

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for the fleet newsletter. He/she also keeps a roster of fleet members and contact information for them. He/she is responsible for circulating fleet race schedules and other information significant to fleet function. The secretary should plan to attend monthly meetings to provide an account of meeting activities to fleet members. This account is the only information that is essential in the newsletter. The secretary provides the tally of DS winners during the year for *DS of the Year* at the Christmas Party. The following fleet member is nominated for Secretary

Roy Laughlin

[Phantom Editor's Note: We declined Secretary of State Harris' offer of assistance in this election process. We decided to talk to her at length to learn all about counting ballots and how to avoid all those unpleasant pratfalls.]

Treasurer's Report: As of Aug 8, \$1481.65 was in the treasury

Aug 18 Fleet Race: The August Fleet race was rescheduled to Sept 30 due to lack of participation. Seems everyone in the fleet waited until August to take a vacation. It was too hot that day anyway. And it rained, too.

Chases' Beach Regatta. Talk of a late August or September regatta at Chases' Beach restaurant in New Smyrna Beach is in the air Will this happen? Depends on a lot of conditions, including the hurricane season. Watch the forum Brian Karr's web site, www.1design.net, for news as it develops. This may be the substitute for the St. Augustine regatta, cancelled because of high seas and poor weather.

Dunnedin Race: If you're looking for a Labor Day regatta, try the Dunnedin regatta on the west coast. There is no better place for a regatta. The price is right, too. Only \$10.

July Fleet Race



The July 22 Fleet Race at Kelly Park was a break with the usual. Due to uncertain weather, race organizer Dave Andrews decided to have a distance race from the shore at Kelly Park, around the bombing ring, down to the channel marker by the SR 520 bridge and then back around the *Manatee Zone* sign to the beach. In the uncertain weather, if the race had to end early, there would be no fleet marks to retrieve. The law of unpredictably acted predictably: Preparations for poor weather obviated need for those preparations. The boys and girls

sailed all afternoon, completing 3 distance races. The area around Kelly Park may have been one of the few areas that had little/no rain. But they did get plenty of breeze from the surrounding storms.

Results are as follows:

Racers	Race Score			
	1	2	3	Overall
<i>A Fleet</i>				
Chuck Harndon	3	2	1	1
Greg Henry	2	4	2	2
Brian Karr	4	3	3	3
<i>B Fleet</i>				
Brian Bielefeld	2	1	1	1
Kent Cooper	1	2	2	2
Bill Kidd, Kris Van Nostran and Dave & Cathy Ingram joined us for the race, but were not scored for fleet standings. Thanks for racing with us.				

Bill Kidd had a real problem during this race. Approaching the bombing ring down wind, the shallow water on the east side of the ring knocked his rudders up. With no steering control, his new Hobie 16 continued over the top of the metal plates forming the ring and settled down on them just ahead of the trampoline. Sixty years of rust has corroded the tops of those plates to something resembling a saw blades—jagged and sharp. Both hulls were extensively breached and damaged. The hulls on Bill's boat may be a total loss, but at least neither he nor his son were injured.

St. Augustine Race: It was a great party weekend in Crescent Beach in spite of no racing. A late season cold front, almost unheard of in July, stalled over Florida's upper peninsula. Except for warmer temperatures, the usual cold front conditions arrived with the air mass: gusty winds and high seas. A few sailors were able to get off the beach, including John Casey. Just for good form, he busted another rudder casting, reprising his Worrell performances during the Florida legs. The event may be rescheduled, and it may be at Chases' Beach restaurant (see note above).

Conch Cup : Mark and Lisa went to this race. It was a great race overall. One of the legs of the race is through the mouth of Government Cut (the main entrance to the Port of Miami). Currents in this area are *challenging*, to be diplomatic and boat traffic makes you wonder if you updated you will properly. Mark described a great day of racing except for the boat traffic. He was surfing breakers through Government Cut (the entrance to the Port of Miami). As they cruised through the main channel, they encountered a shrimp boat (or maybe it was a lobster boat) that would certainly to yield right of way as the two boats approached. Well, they are supposed to yield right of way. As they got close enough for voice contact, a sailor on the fishing boat hailed Mark with 'Ahoy'. Or, was it 'Aloha'? Maybe it was the second, because the fishing boat had not intention of following rules of the road. Mark avoided a crash miraculously. Later that same race, as they approached the end of the course near the Miami Yacht Club, and then . . . *see the rest of the details in the DS section.*

Summer Sizzler

The Sizzler was a great weekend in Daytona Beach. The winds were moderate, but they blew from late morning through the end of the day. The surf was entirely manageable. Races went without a hitch both days. For lots of photos and a story, see www.floridamultihullsailor.com.

[Phantom Editor's Note: It is hard to understand why only 2 Fleet 45 teams raced the Sizzler. What a deal and a party. People are conspicuous by absence and people start talking. When Brian and Tammy didn't show (this is their anniversary regatta), certain people started publically asking the question, "Is Brian's boat for sale?" Who knows who will be the focus of gossip next year. . .]

Hagar's New Dog

Hagar the Horrible asks the Phantom Editor to announce that in his travels, he acquired a new dog. Her name is *Whipper*, as in *whipper snapper*. This makes the poor dog's full name *Whipper S Horrible*. Perhaps the rest of us should be the judge of how bad the mutt really is. The accompanying photo shows Whipper's response the question, "Where can I get a beer?" She was pointing to the kitchen door, where the beers were cooling in the refrigerator. We all look forward to meeting Whipper when Hagar returns in February.

Another dog related story: Dave and Janet Andrews also got a new dog. It is a mostly white hound dog with black markings . . . what a coincidence and so enigmatic.



DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS

Bill Kidd received a sympathetic honorable mention for hull distress resulting from trespassing on the federal government bombing ring in the Banana River (see account of Fleet Race above).

Mark Herendeen and Lisa Dutcher received the Jon Cruden self incrimination nomination. Mark described their experiences in the final moments of the Conch Cup Race. Mark chose a course through the moored boats off the club. There is an art to flying a spinnaker through such densely moored boats. Part of the art is to have the spinnaker under control so as to facilitate a leeward drop when necessary to avoid collision. When the spinnaker isn't under control, the leeward drop maneuver isn't

much use. Mark wanted Lisa to pull the tack. She was trying to do that, but it was more like *kneeling and praying*. The lines wouldn't come undone. In the end, the only damage was a tear in the spinnaker and realization that after a year of practice, they were still weren't getting it right. Gives a whole new slant to the concept of "Agony and Ecstasy."

Greg Henry received the *deja vu* nomination. Once again, while in the act of trapping out, he fell into the water. Jaded fleet members are used to this maneuver. But Greg was unavoidably nominated because someone picked him up and took him to his boat, which was on its side and making its way down wind too fast for him catch it by swimming. In Greg's defense, someone at the fleet meeting tried to explain how a hook or line on the trapeze was . . .it's hard to visualize, or maybe it's impossible to explain if you weren't there to see how it happened. And maybe Jim Novak can figure out how to fix it . . . so it really wasn't Greg's fault that he's been falling off the boat so much.

Fleet 45 member's risibility seemed to overwhelm Greg's lone defender and quickly ended the DS nominations. Once again, Greg won unanimously, except for those 2 votes someone (probably mistakenly) cast for Mark and Lisa.

[Phantom Editor's Note: Daisy Mae says she's been sailing more often this summer than fleet members who voted for Greg. Daisy Mae wonders if a person's vote for the DS should be weighted in proportion to hours on the water during the month. She would have voted for Greg anyway, but only because she wouldn't want anyone to know what happened . . .never mind, Daisy Mae.]