

The Writing Line

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



May
June
01

Fleet Meeting: Tuesday, July 3, Lisa's House

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

July Fleet Meeting

The July Fleet meeting will be Tuesday, July 3, 7 pm at Lisa Dutcher's house. Lisa's address is 255 Landings Road. Lisa's house is south of Indiatlantic Beach, on a road between A1A and the River. As you are heading south on A1A south of Indiatlantic Beach, you will pass the 7-11 on right. Keep an eye out for the apartment community on right called Hamptons, there is a beige concrete wall that surrounds it. On the ocean side is a high rise condominium called Versailles. Get into the right turn lane as if turning into the Hamptons Apartment community, but continue to the Landings Row, a dirt road, immediately past the entrance to The Hamptons. Drive down Landings Row almost to the end and look for the grey and pink house with the Tiki mailbox out front, #255. Park on the right side of Landings Row, pull off as far to the side as you can without blocking the road. This is a meeting with a party. Meeting attendees can come at 7. For the party, arrive by 9 pm. Lisa will have beer and hor doevres, bring your own liquor. Lisa's phone number is 768 8813 should you need to call her with questions.

Fleet Race Schedule

for remainder of 2001

M	D	Day	Place
July	22	Sun	Kelly Park
Aug	18	Sat	TBD
Sep	16	Sun	TBD

JPOR

2001 JPOR was a great success again this year, due to good promotion, great sponsor support, great weather, and the event's reputation. Fifty-two catamarans showed up this year, up by about 10 boats from the last few year. It wasn't just numbers: We had 9 classes, including a Hobie Wave class for the first time.

You can read more about it at www.floridamultihullsailor.com.

Melbourne Yacht Club

Several Fleet 45 racers participated in the Melbourne Yacht Club's spring regatta. Results will be placed on the fleet web site. Summarized places are as follows:

For the Yacht Club's results, finishes were

1. Dave and Cathy Ingram
2. Dave Andrews
3. Greg Henry

For the Fleet Race standings,

1. Greg Henry
2. Dave Andrews
3. Not available.

45 x 45

This race-cruise to Vero Beach will be June 30 this year. The intent is to avoid the wetter and stormier weather typical of July and August. The following is information for The Palm Court Resort Hotel where we always stay: 3244 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963 E-Mail: info@palmcourtvero.com 561.231.2800 ~ 800.245.3297

To receive a special rate, mention that you are with Fleet 45 (the catamaran sailors.) Plan for a lot of fun again this year.

Performance Sail's Friday Evening Picnics

Scott and Dior have hosted several Friday evening barbecues on their new deck at Performance Sail. It fully furnished with chairs, a barbecue and a great view. . These TGIF barbecues are informal events. The plan is for you to bring food for your barbecue (or buy it prepared and bring it with you). In some cases, small groups cooperate to bring food for several. But just to avoid confusion, Scott and Dior provide the place, the heat and the view, but not the food and not the organizing effort among those who show up. The folks who show up do so with their food. The last two have been great starts to the weekend, with 15-- 20 people each time. Scott has organized Laser races for the sailors. If you're interested in attending, please call the shop (253 3737). The June 15 was rained out, and has not been rescheduled as of this writing. (For Scott, the evening is for sailing, not eating so sailors with a like mind who show up will be among their own kind: wet, hungry but content.)

Treasurer's Report

As of the first week of June, Dave Foy reported we had \$1265 in the treasury. The receipts for JPOR have not been tallied completely. This year, it appears we've made enough to completely cover costs of the regatta. Dave expects to have a complete accounting during the July meeting.

DS for May

In May, the first nomination was for Bob Hasling. He is very interested in getting a new Hobie Get Away. While at Performance Sail's open house during April, Bob decided to test sail the Get Away Scott had. His next door neighbor was also there, a nubile young lady, apparently. He offered her a ride on the Get Away. While they were out, she commented how great it would be to lean back, and let her tresses trail in the rushing water. As she leaned back, her body arched, hair trailing in the wake . . . something happened. Maybe it was a boat wake. Before it was all over, she did not get completely dragged off the Get Away. But there was water splashing all over the place and much heroic effort towards crew retention. Bob

probably had something to do with what happened even though the girl sounds like a potential Darwin Award nominee. For what ever it was he did or didn't do, Bob got nominated.

Chuck Harndon received the second nomination. He has a wave he keeps on the beach near his house so he can sail in the ocean. On one calm day in April, he and Lucy were getting ready for a sail. Lucy made a prescient comment about risk. Chuck tried to explain how the rudders make her concerns groundless. So off they went on the Wave. Just beyond the surf line, Chuck had problems with his rudders as Lucy on the boat watched. (We'll probably never know if Chuck got a card mentioning this on Father's Day.)

This time, the multihulltude at Floyd and Linda's house had a decision to make. After a couple of rounds of voting, Dave Hasling won. Congratulations, Bob. (Bob is in the throes of decision to buy a Get Away. He was at Performance Sail on Father's Day still looking. This time he wanted to see how the Get Away sails with its wings in place.)

June DS

DS nominations for June started off slowly. Everyone knew Brian would win because he married Tammy the first weekend in May. In spite of Brian's overwhelmingly favored qualification for the DS, fleet members made additional nominations.

Eric Makepeace was nominated for 'trip planning with amnesia'. He and two of his friends took a 3 week ocean trip on a 23 ft sailboat. Before it was over, they sailed from Ft. Pierce to the Bahamas, down the Islands, crossed to Cuba, back to Bimini, returned to the Keys and then came home. Wednesday morning before he left, Brian stopped by Roy's and asked, "Do you have any spare life jackets?" Like most of us, Roy has the coast guard approved \$6 issue that are good for the river and coastal water. These will not be much use in the ocean, however. Postscript: The trip went well but Eric never mentioned where he got life jackets.

Fleet members nominated Dave Andrews for sailing with excess weight in the last fleet race. In the last Fleet Race, he had Bill Bookhill

as his crew. Dave in his defense made some comments about weights of 160 -170 lbs of crew weight. (These number are about as far below actual as a rocket scientists' 1990 estimate of Space Station costs.) Because of the extra weight, Dave was ready to fly a spinnaker on the 16, but all to no avail. The end result, the cause of his nomination, was that he sailed so slowly, it delayed race starts due to waiting for him to finish. (If you're looking to Fleet 45 for self esteem therapy, you're apparently looking in the wrong place, it seems.)

Chuck Harnden received a nomination again this month. Those who read *The Writing Line* regularly recall that Chuck receives nominations for being late. For May's fleet race, he was early. But he showed up without his sail. Luckily, Mavis was there to return home to fetch it. The nomination specifically acknowledged both forgetting the sail and having Mavis fetch it.

But now to the winner. Brian Karr was, of course, nominated first as if nomination were important under the circumstances. The mood was that of a Saturday night lynching. Facts didn't matter, he was gonna get it, and whatever 'it' was, he deserved it. When his nomination came up for vote, an unidentified advocate asked how Brian could be held accountable for asking Tammy to marry him. She's attractive, intelligent, talented, good company, sensitive, sails occasionally, and is gainfully employed. What did he do wrong by marrying Tammy? Tammy, on the other hand, said 'yes' even though it was Brian. Brian's advocate noted that if anyone deserved the DS for reasons it is usually awarded, it was Tammy. After carefully and completely evaluating all relevant details, Fleet 45 members decided instead to unanimously confer the Fleet's highest recognition to Tammy Karr. Congratulations, Tammy. Hope the pink panties are comfortable as this is about the only way Fleet 45 can wish Brian and Tammy all the best in marriage.

(In checking the accuracy of the balloting a few days after the vote, seems there were about twice as many votes tallied as there were people in attendance for this 'unanimous' vote. The Bush ballot effect is with us still.)

More Entertainment

From Florida Today, August 27, 2000 A12.

Man recalls ordeal on Lake Erie

Pair stranded for hours after craft runs out of gas
Associated Press

SANDUSKY, Ohio-Pointing his binoculars just below where Lake Erie meets the horizon, Matt Cetin spotted what looked like two white flags in the water. "Fishing nets" thought the Coast Guard petty officer. Cetin steadied the binoculars as the white objects vanished with each rise and fall of the 3-foot waves. "It took me about five seconds to realize what I was looking at," he said.. He had spotted Nick Sostaric and Matt Stookey-two men who survived a terrifying 14 hours floating in Lake Erie, and fighting doubt, depression and hypothermia. "God carried us through what we went through;" Sostaric said. "How else ran you explain it?"

They had set out July 18 for an evening ride on Sostaric's personal watercraft. He topped off the se, seven gallon gas tank, and by 5 o,'clock, Sostaric 33, add Stookey 31, were cruising through Sandusky Bay. The weather was near perfect. Sunny and 80 degrees. Even better, there were few boats on the lake, which covers an area the size of New Jersey and Delaware combined They rare at fin throttle about 35 mph. "We went out a lot farther than normal;" Sostaric said °I think we were having too much fun."

Somewhere near the south side of Kelleys Island. Stookey asked, "Where are we going?"

Sostaric wasn't sure And on a 1990 model personal watercraft with no fuel gauge he realized he

had to get out of the waves and return to a dock to check how much gas was left. But which way should they turn?

Sostaric spotted a barge that he thought he had seen earlier that afternoon near Cedar Point Amusement Park. As they got closer, he realized it was a different one and that they were moving away from land. They turned around again, but it was too late. The engine sputtered. They were out of gas, five miles from shore

without a flare gun or radio. "We never panicked. We never argued," Sostaric said. Swimming in hopes of reaching the shore, they took turns pulling the Personal watercraft. We realized we weren't gaining any ground, " Sostaric said. "We just kept going farther out. The waves were just pushing us . "We decided to dump the Jet Ski. It wasn't worth our lives."

They started swimming toward trees in the distance. Then they watched the sun disappear behind fine water. That's when they knew they were in trouble. °We both looked at each other and thought, 'Nobody knows we're out here, " Sostaric said. He had told his wife hen' be out on the lake, but she was at work and wouldn't figure out until later that he was missing. They kept swimming and floating in their life jackets, a full moon guiding them. During the night, they saw lights from Cedar Point and the top of its 310-foot roller coaster. But mainly it was quiet. Just the waves slapping them in the face. They talked about overcoming problems in their lives and how it would be a waste to give up now.

"Every time we came close to giving up, we'd pray," Sostaric said. "We were asking God to take us if he's going to lake us now.' They were freezing in the 71-degree water. Sostaric had on shorts and T-shirt Stookey only shorts. Sostaric's wife Trish, returned from work to find an empty bed. She drove to the marina and saw the Personal watercraft gone, "I knew right then he was in the water," she said. Her call to the

Coast Guard set off a search that began before daybreak using patrol boats and a helicopter.

Soon Trish Sostaric got the call saying the Coast Guard had found the personal watercraft with no sign of the men. "My heart about stopped," she said. Sostaric and Stookey were alive, but doubt and depression began setting in. They heard the helicopter flying around them. They pulled off their life jackets and waved them frantically above their heads. But the waves were hiding them. Another helicopter came from the Detroit air station along with a boat from the Coast Guard's Marblehead Station. "All of us had a gut feeling they were in the area,' said Coast Guard petty officer Jason Gale. The 41-met boat took to the water at 9:18 a.m. It hadn't even reached the search area near where the personal watercraft was found when Cetin made his sighting. Gale and Cetin, gave each, other a high five. Stookey was pulled out first. Sistaric about 20 feet away, was next in the boat.

Both were pale, their skin was shriveled and clammy. They were in later stages of hypothermia - so cold they had stopped shivering," said Petty Officer Mitchell Robida. Both men spent only a few hours at a hospital and regained their strength within days. The personal watercraft was sold a day after their rescue. Sostaric said the ordeal renewed his faith in God, and he promised not to miss a Sunday in church again.