



## The Starting Line

## December 2014

### Commodore's Report by Clarke Newman

Well, this is my last report as Commodore. Since the beginning of the year, I have felt that my job was to delegate to the best people, to trust them, and to thank them when they did the job.

We have had many challenges this year, and I want you to know that the volunteer leaders who make up the officer corps and the board have one and all done really strong work. They have tackled the hard jobs and difficult choices head-on, and done a great job.

**Ken Wolfe** has done an outstanding job as Vice Commodore of House. Helped greatly by the RCYC staff and the "Commodorables," the club has run wonderfully.

**John Hopper** has done a great job as Vice Commodore of Race. Racing has been difficult given our lake levels, but John has managed to field competent and enthusiastic race management throughout the year.

**Jeff Progelhof** managed the Junior Program through a difficult year of transition and the hire of a new coach. We wish you well as you move on the TSA.

**Melissa Hemker** has done a wonderful job as our treasurer, watch the tight revenue situation so carefully.

**Stacey Christensen** has done a great job keeping the records, agendas, and minutes in an accurate and timely fashion.

**David Warren** kicked off the year doing a great job of surveying the membership, the result of which guided us all year long. He has also produced the newsletter with the help of **Lisa** and **Erin Progelhof**.

**Erich Schloemer** has tackled the difficult task of managing boat storage. It is truly a thankless job, but his efforts helped increase club revenue.

**Jack Kern** did a great job as membership chair while his health allowed. Thanks!

**Al See** has done yeoman service to the club getting the harbor Wi-Fi up and running as well as leading the charge to reconfigure the harbor as the lake level drops. **George Hannan** has assisted ably as have so many others.

All of the fleet captains have really contributed to the direction of the club. **Chris Bright**



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Commodore's Requiem**  
December 6th—12:00PM  
*Check RCYC.org for NOR*

**Annual Meeting**  
December 6th—5:45PM

**Junior Banquet**  
December 7th—2:00PM

**Cookies Exchange and  
Tree Decorating**  
December 10th—6:00PM

**RCYC Christmas Party  
with Santa Claus**  
December 13th—6:00PM

**New Years Day Race**  
January 1st—TBD  
*Check RCYC.org for NOR*

has helped keep the MC Fleet on a strong footing. **Joe Kracmer** and **Larry Seals** have helped keep the club boats working and sailing.

I want to thank **David Hoyer** for chairing the board this year. He has done a great job getting through heavy agendas month-after-month.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank **Lisa, John, and Poe** and the rest of the staff for doing such a good job this year. They have been so valuable to getting the work of all of the board members done.

I want to wish the next board well, and will look forward to serving as Immediate Past Commodore.

---

## Junior Education Report by Jeff Progelhof

### End of Year Regatta

Ten members of the RCYC Junior Sailing Team traveled to Lakewood Yacht Club for the final TSA Circuit regatta of 2014. While the green fleet sailed on Clear Lake, the Opti RWB, 420 and Laser classes sailed out on Galveston Bay. Winds were light most of the weekend with larger lanes and big shifts.

Saturday evening was with annual awards banquet. Congratulations to Natalie Hopper for being awarded a scholarship from the Texas Sailing Association. Sunday, winds filled in a bit later and racing went as long as possible.

#### Final Overall finishes were:

- Opti RWB – Hanna Progelhof finished 12<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Vandling was 26<sup>th</sup>, and Gust Schmiege was 43<sup>rd</sup>
- Opti Green – Isaac Barkley was 11<sup>th</sup>, Carter Calk finished 13<sup>th</sup> and Cayden Vandling was 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 420 – Kate Schmiege and Sydney Calk finished 4<sup>th</sup>
- Laser 4.7 – Katy Hanna was 4<sup>th</sup> and Caleb Shi finished 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Overall in the TSA Circuit, congratulations to the following RCYC sailors:

- Hanna Progelhof – 8<sup>th</sup> Opti Overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Blue Fleet
- Andrew Vandling – 25<sup>th</sup> Opti Overall and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Red Fleet
- Caleb Shi – 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the Laser 4.7
- Carter Calk – 10<sup>th</sup> in the Green Fleet

### Team Racing Regatta

The RCYC team traveled to Austin Yacht Club November 8 and 9 for a fun TSA Team racing event. We had 30 kids from Texas attend on FJs, Opti RWB and Opti Green. Good breeze from the north Saturday gave way to light winds on Sunday. After a long day Saturday most of the team stuck around and cooked “bring your own burgers/steaks” on the grill at AYC. Sunday ended early with the wind petering out and everyone on the road by 2:00 pm.

The RCYC team of Reilly Linn, Skylar Linn and Andrew Vandling were first in the RWB group and the team of Hanna Progelhof, Fiona Froelich (AYC) and Julius Heitkoetter (AYC) were second. Carter Calk and Cayden Vandling sailed very well in the Green fleet were three teams of three boats sailed against each other. On the FJ course Kate and Gust Schmiege sailed great together with a number of race wins in the round robin.

Thanks to Past Commodore Susan Davis and Brad Davis for running the Opti RWB fleet and to Austin Yacht Club for hosting a great event.



## TSA Circuit

Participation by RCYC in the Texas Sailing Association (TSA) Youth grew with 20 different RCYC sailors that attending at least one regatta and seven (7) of them sailed in seven (7) or more regatta. Only Lakewood YC, Austin YC and Corpus Christi YC had more participants. Overall the TSA Circuit is very healthy with the most participants ever – 1,281.

The 2015 TSA schedule has been set with the USODA Mid-America being awarded to Austin Yacht Club the end of June. USODA Nationals will be in Pensacola, Laser Nationals are in Brant Beach, NJ and C420 Nationals are in Newport, RI. RCYC will host the 2015 Chocopalooza May 16 and 17. This will also be the BEMIS Area F eliminations.



---

## 2014 MC National Championship by Kenny Wolfe

Two RCYC boats and crews (Kenny Wolfe & Virginia Hannan, and Bill Drehiem & Mary Anne Hopper) traveled to Augusta, GA for the MC National Championship held on September 25th thru the 27th. The regatta venue was beautiful. Imagine sailing in the middle of an evergreen forest with no visible houses anywhere on the lake and minimal (if any) power boats. The sailing conditions ranged from light to medium breeze, which made it very difficult to decide whether or not having a crew member on the boat was the best plan of action. In the end, everyone got to sail, and RCYC had a fantastic showing, with both boats finishing in the top 3 overall with Kenny and Virginia in 1<sup>st</sup> and Billy and Marry Anne in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Billy and Mary Anne also finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the Masters division. One other really neat thing was that RCYC was 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the first weather mark, and the finish of the first race..... pretty cool.



The sailing was some of the most challenging that I've sailed in a very long time. In addition to the light/medium velocity, the shifts would range 40 degrees, with little, to no pattern or consistency. As with most events of this caliber, consistency, and sailing conservatively was the key to doing well at this event. Virginia and I didn't win a single race, but we were consistent enough that we didn't even have to sail in the last race..... certainly a nice feeling.

This event was great, and RCYC is clearly the leader of the pack in the MC Fleet, nationwide. For the past two years, every major championship trophy in this fleet has come back to RCYC. I'd like to thank Jack Kern for his leadership and drive in keeping our fleet going, and wish Chris Bright the best of luck as the baton is passed.

I hope to see each member of our MC Fleet pick one out of town regatta to attend this year.

---

## Wet & Dry Storage Policy

In 2014 the RCYC Board of Governors updated the Wet & Dry Storage policies. These updated policies can be found on the RCYC website at: <http://www.rcyc.org/uploads/storage.pdf>

PLEASE NOTE: That all boat moves, arrivals, and other storage-related changes must be reported to the Rear Commodore of Wet and Dry Storage, Erich Schloemer ([eschloemer@gmail.com](mailto:eschloemer@gmail.com)) prior to the event to ensure appropriate storage assignments can be made and billing is accurate.

## 2014 Melges 24 National Championship by David Warren

The 2014 Melges 24 Nationals held at Davis Island Yacht Club in Tampa, Florida in November was attended by three boats from RCYC.: Gringo, Rocket Science and Drunk' N Donkey.

DIYC is tucked away in the northeast end of Tampa Bay and hosts very similar conditions to that of Lake Ray Hubbard during spring time with temps between 60 and 75 degrees and winds averaging 6-10 knots.

The 31 boat regatta was sailed over four days with the first being practice races. Winds ranged from 0 to 18 knots and presented relatively flat water. The fleet was made up of pros and amateurs mixed together in racing between two divisions (Open and Corinthian). All three Rush Creek boats were registered in the Corinthian division, but consistently mixed it up with the Open division boats, many of whom hosted Group III class sailors.

### Results of RCYC boats (Corinthian / Overall)

- Gringo (2nd / 8th) - Ryan Glaze
- Rocket Science (5th / 18th) - David Hoye
- Drunk' N Donkey (9th / 25th) - Paul Calce & Dari Esfahani

With boat crews coming from Australia, Chili, Canada and every point in the US, this was a great showing for the Rush Creek Yacht Club Melges 24 Fleet, from Texas!



---

## December Events

**Saturday 12/6 @ 12PM:** Commodore's Requiem Regatta – Check [RCYC.org](http://RCYC.org) for NOR

**Saturday 12/6 @ 5:45PM:** Annual Dinner

**Sunday 12/7 @ 2PM:** Junior Awards Banquet

**Wednesday 12/10 @ 6P:** Christmas Decorating and Cookie Exchange – Members are invited to bring an ornament they would like to hang on the tree – RCYC will serve eggnog, hot cider or similar

**Saturday 12/13 @ 6PM:** Christmas Party with Santa Claus

**Wednesday 12/24: CLUB WILL BE CLOSED**

**Wednesday 12/31 @ 6PM:** Club open for dinner. May close early depending upon turnout of membership.

**Thursday 1/1 @ TBD:** New Year's Day Race  
Check [RCYC.org](http://RCYC.org) for NOR

## Wednesday Night Specials

**Wednesday 12/3:** Beef Enchiladas w/ Rice & Beans  
Dessert: Banana Pudding  
Soup: Seafood Chowder

**Wednesday 12/10:** Salisbury Steak w/ Mashed Potatoes & Veggies  
Dessert: Gingerbread Cake  
Soup: Chicken & Wild Rice

**Wednesday 12/17:** Chicken Fried Steak w/ Gravy  
Dessert: Black Bottom Peanut Pie  
Soup: Broccoli & Cheese

**Wednesday 12/24: CLUB WILL BE CLOSED**

**Wednesday 12/31:** Beer Brats w/ French Fries  
Dessert: Fruit Cobbler  
Soup: Black Eyed Peas

### December Hot Bar Drinks

- Irish Coffee
- Hot Buttered Rum
- Hot Chocolate & Peppermint Schnapps
- Hot Chocolate & Fireball Rum

---

Rush Creek Yacht Club  
320 Rush Creek Drive  
Heath, Texas 75032

Web Site – [www.rcyc.org](http://www.rcyc.org)  
Facebook Book Page – Rush Creek Yacht Club  
Junior Facebook Page – Team RCYC

Phone: 972-771-6500  
Fax: 972-722-3508  
Email: [office@rcyc.org](mailto:office@rcyc.org)