



The Starting Line

February 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TIDay Regatta
March 1-2

J24 Circuit Stop
March 22-23

Chocopolooza
May 3-4

Spring DinghyFest
May 10-11

Founders & IC24 NAs
May 24-25

MC Scow Masters
June 11-14

George Griffith
September 27-28

Fall DinghyFest
October 11-12

IC24 Nationals
October 25-26

Commodore's Requiem
December 6

Commodore's Report

by Clarke Newman

This month, I want to focus my column on describing what I think will be one of the most important activities the RCYC Board will do this year. At the 2013 Annual Banquet, I promised in my remarks to get the pulse of the RCYC membership by doing a comprehensive membership survey.



I enlisted the help of a Rear Commodore of Communications, and that person has expertise in doing this type of member data collection and analysis. Fellow member, David Warren, took this project, and did a great job and on time.

As a result, you will each be asked to fill out a detailed survey to obtain your perspective and input on a variety of areas from docks and harbors to the clubhouse operations to race management. It is preferred that you complete this survey online; however, paper versions are available at the club.

Please complete one survey per household: <http://www.rcyc.org/survey/>

Obviously, the greater the participation, the better data we will have for improving your Rush Creek experience. I encourage all of you to take a few minutes to complete this important survey. Be candid and detailed in your responses. The survey will only be open for a short time so that we can get the data, analyze it and address any concerns.



When we get the results compiled, I promise that we will develop an action plan for moving forward based on what we find.

I want to thank each of you in advance for helping the Board provide value for your membership dollars. Anything we can change that will improve our collective and individual Rush Creek experiences will make RCYC an even better club than it already is today.

US Sailing Race Management Seminar

Rush Creek will be hosting the seminar on Saturday, February 22.

This course is designed for people who have some race committee experience, but newcomers are also most welcome. The seminar will be held in the Doolan Education Center from 0800 to 1730.



The topics covered include Race Committee (RC) objectives, RC responsibilities, sailing instructions, RC jobs, RC equipment, setting the course, starting system, starting penalties, before the start, during the race, finishing, and scoring. The changes in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2013-2016 that affect race management will also be discussed.



Registration is \$45 and includes course materials from US Sailing, continental breakfast, and lunch. The class is limited to 25, so please sign up early to reserve your place. This course will equip you with the knowledge to proficiently run races and is required to be certified as a Club Race Officer.

At the seminar you will need your own copy of The Racing Rules of Sailing 2013-2016 ("RRS"), which you received with your US Sailing membership. If you have not received your copy, please contact the US Sailing office at membership@ussailing.org.

More information is available online at: <http://www.rcyc.org/2014/raceman/>

Member Spotlight – *Kenny Wolfe*

Kenny Wolfe grew up in Fort Myers, Florida where he learned how to sail in an Opti, and continued his youth sailing in Lasers, before attending the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

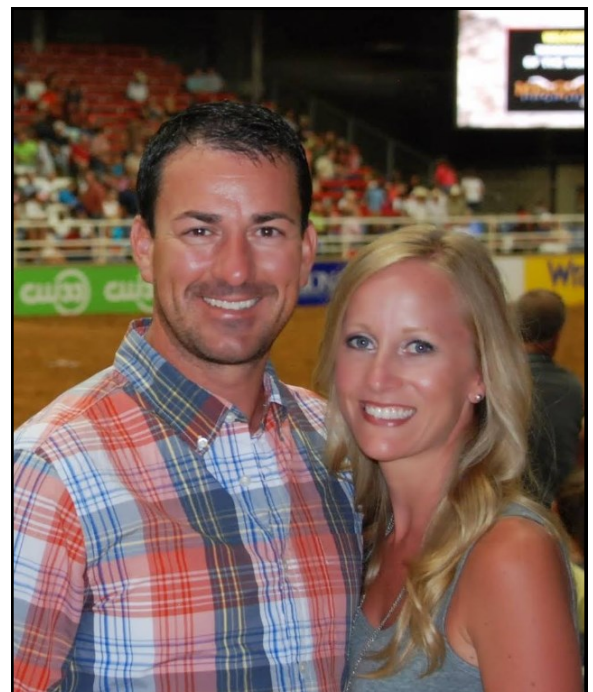
While at Kings Point, Kenny was a part of multiple National Championship winning teams and was selected as a Collegiate All American.

Kenny (Jake Scott & Jamie Rabbit) represented RCYC at the 2005 Mallory Championship where they tied for first, and Kenny was awarded the US Sailing Sportsmanship award.

Since joining RCYC Kenny has owned a J/22, Vanguard 15, and is currently actively sailing the MC Scow, where he has won both the MC Midwinter Championship and the MC National Championship in 2013.

Kenny has held board positions as the J/22 Fleet Representative, and Chairman of the Board in 2013, and is now the Vice Commodore of House.

It should also be mentioned that Kenny will be marrying the wonderful Melissa Venegoni at RCYC this Spring.



Key West 2014 – *Breaking the Curse*

by Rod Favela

The word across the crew of "Rush," a J/109 based in Annapolis - owned by Bill Sweetser, was that for the last four years in a row, *Rush* has been leading Key West Race Week—until the last day. Unfortunately, never bringing home the gold. The crew of *Rush* began to feel cursed.

The 2014 Key West Race Week was a different story. The crew of *Rush* practiced the weekend before the first race; specifically working on maneuvers such as a "Texican Hoist" (gybe set), time on distance at the starting line, pre-start scenarios and most importantly having a game plan every day.

Monday and Tuesday were light to medium air days allowing the two J/109's on PHRF 2 to sail well through the fleet with the exception of a nicely sailed Farr 30 (former Mumm 30) which became the usual suspect on every race.

In the light stuff the Farr accelerated quickly and held pace. In the heavy winds, they rounded the weather mark and sailed straight downwind, squaring the spinnaker pole and flying away from *Rush*. This made the racing very close and exciting.

Though small, the PHRF 2 fleet was very competitive with two J/109s, one Farr 30, one Olson 30, one Sabre 426 and one J/88.

I am please to be a part of *Rush's* first place victory at Key West Race Week. **We broke the curse!**



Upcoming House Events

by Kenny Wolfe

Valentine's Day-After Regatta and Evening Event – 2/15

Saturday, February 15th RCYC is holding a *Jack & Jill Regatta* followed by a special evening event.



Mardi Gras Party – 3/1

The Texas Independence Day Regatta (TIDay) will be held on March 1st and 2nd. Following racing on 3/1 Julie Morgan, a New Orleans native, will be hosting the RCYC Mardi Gras Party. Pull out your best beads and as our Cajun friends say... ***Laissez les bon temps rouler*** – "Let the Good Times Roll!"

Sunday Breakfast is SERVED – Every Week

Do you get up on Sunday mornings and don't feel like making breakfast?

Did you know that RCYC makes breakfast every Sunday morning. Come down and enjoy biscuits and gravy, bacon, eggs and potatoes. Bring your friends and family on down to the club for a cup of Joe!



Boat & Trailer Storage Report

by Erich Schloemer

As Rear Commodore of Storage, I have assumed the task of managing the storage situation at the club. I have had the opportunity to walk the grounds and do an initial audit of what is on the grounds and in the harbor. I have also met with Lisa Blankenship, the RCYC Club Manager about the billing of stored property.

To best manage the boats on, or connected to, RCYC property, we are printing small, tasteful sequentially numbered stickers to be affixed to trailers in the lot and field and transoms of dinghies in the field. Boats in the harbor and on trailers that are required by law to have Texas registration numbers and RCYC will be moving towards requiring members to be current. The registration numbers will be used to manage storage. However, if you do not maintain a current registration, then we reserve the right to put a number discreetly on your boat or boats during the transition period. You will be notified before we do so.



This new process of identification is a standard among yacht clubs across the nation. In the end, this process will identify property and create a reference to monthly billing.

Today, our biggest hurdle is identifying unmarked small boats (no TX #'s) and empty trailers. RCYC will be requiring all members who have any boats and trailers at the club to write their name on the tongue of any trailers or the transom of any small boat/dinghy, including kayaks, that you have at the club, particularly the empty trailers in the field. This identification process must be completed by March 1st.

This identification process will allow us to distinguish between active member owned and abandoned property.

If your boat or boats are not on the storage-billing list, it may be subject to removal, disposal, or sale. Thank you in advance for your willingness to assist with this process and continue the growth and management of OUR club.

Wednesday Night Specials

by Poe

February 5 — Spinach Enchiladas w/ black beans & rice

February 12 — Salisbury Steak w/ mushrooms served over egg noodles

February 19 — Fried Chicken Breasts w/ mashed potatoes & gravy, coleslaw and biscuit

February 26 — Fish & Chips w/coleslaw & hush puppies

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

Web Site — 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