



40 Years of Champions

## The Starting Line

January 2014

### Commodore's Report

by Clarke Newman

Well, we finally had the Banquet. For those of you who don't know, we had to postpone the Annual Membership Banquet because of the winter storm earlier in the month. After weighing all the bad alternatives, we settled on moving the Banquet to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Again, I want to thank each of the people who changed their holiday plans to make the Banquet a great event. We had almost the same number that we usually do, and that took some real effort on the part of a bunch of people.



As the new Commodore, I want each of you to know that my door is open to all suggestions for making Rush Creek Yacht Club a place where you want to go and go often. To that end, the first thing that the new Board of Governors will do, under the care on the new Rear Commodore of Communications, David Warren, is survey the membership. We want to know what makes our members use the club, and what they would want to change to improve the product that is RCYC.

When you get that survey, please, please, take the time to fill it out and return it. The more people we have submitting responses, the better we will understand how RCYC fits into your lives.

The other thing I did straight away was fill the vacant Rear Commodore of Membership position. Jack Kern has stepped up to the plate to take on this important job. His goal is to increase our membership by marketing RCYC to prospective new members, and by helping to create a mentorship for the new members by pairing them with established members. Our hope is that new members will use the club more if they have someone that they know who is already there.

During the last year, the Board has worked diligently to improve the physical plant of the club. The new pool deck and the new entry gate were welcome additions to club. This year, I want to focus on a less sexy project, but one that I think will serve the membership just as well, and that is to redo the main drive between the launch ramps and the blue crane. We will be getting estimates on this project in the next couple of weeks, and hopefully, we can complete this project sooner rather than later, depending on the cost.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**TIDay Regatta**  
March 1-2

**J24 Circuit Stop**  
March 22-23

**Chocopolooza**  
May 3-4

**Spring DinghyFest**  
May 10-11

**Founders**  
May 24-25

**IC24 North Americans**  
May 31-June 1

**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** Continued

Please bear with us while this project is under way once we get going.

In February, the new pipeline between Lake Texoma and Lake Lavon will be completed, and a water transfer between the two lakes should begin. We believe that this transfer will go a long way to filling the Lavon / Ray Hubbard reservoir pool back up to a reasonable level. If we have some rain in the spring, and the Dallas water siphon from Ray Hubbard can be reduced by filling Lavon, we hope that we do not have these huge drops in the water levels that we have seen the past two years. Keep your fingers crossed.

Until the lake levels come up a bit, we cannot use the yellow crane, as it is land-locked, and we cannot dredge around it without undermining the hoist deck substructure. I wish I had a better answer, but I don't. Finally, please exercise caution when out on the water, as the low lake levels have uncovered trees and debris that pose a hazard to boat traffic, and several areas that before offered safe passage are now shoals upon which you can run aground.

After meeting with the Vice Commodores, I think we have a great plan taking shape for the 2014 season. I look forward to talking with as many of you as I can this year. So, come out and enjoy the facility and the camaraderie that is Rush Creek Yacht Club.

## **Vice Commodore of Race Report** by John Hopper

A new year is upon us and 2014 is shaping up to be a great one for racing at RCYC. On top of hosting our annual regattas (Spring and Fall Dinghyfest, TID, Founders, Chocopalooza, George Griffith, IC24 Nationals, IC24 North Americans) we will be adding a J24 Circuit stop in March.

Commodore Newman stated in his annual meeting speech that we should all be focused on putting RCYC back on the map as a premiere destination for major championship regattas. This year we are happy to be hosting the MC Scow Masters Regatta in June. This will be a week long regatta and will take a lot of energy from our membership to be a success.

As always, the success of all regattas at RCYC falls squarely on the shoulders of our volunteer members. On average, it takes about 10 volunteers to put on a good show. The "pool of the willing" is usually rather small and this year they will be especially challenged through the months of May and June. I intend to focus on better communications and to reach out to all who wish to give back to their sport.

It's simple. Passion is the only requirement to volunteer. If you...

- love being on the water
- want to learn more about the rules of sailing and how a race course is setup
- want a front row seat to watch some great racing
- just want to make new friends and get a free lunch

...then WE WANT YOU!

**Happy New Year. Hope to see you all on the race course and on our sign up list (coming soon)!**

## Vice Commodore of Education Report by Jeff Progelhof

### TSA Youth Circuit – End of Year Regatta

Ten (10) RCYC kids traveled to Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club for the End of the Year Regatta. Although there was a questionable forecast for Saturday, the rain held off and racing was great all day Saturday. Hamrick Morgan and Zane Tinnell were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Club 420 class and Katy Hanna was 7<sup>th</sup> in the Laser Radial class. In the Opti Red/White/Blue, Hanna Progelhof was 8<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the white fleet, Reilly Linn was 11<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Red Fleet and Sky-lar Linn was 21<sup>st</sup> overall and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Blue Fleet. In the Green Fleet, Kate Schmiege was 3<sup>rd</sup>, Gust Schmiege finished 4<sup>th</sup>, Conner McKinney ended-up 6<sup>th</sup>, Isaac Barkley was 9<sup>th</sup> and Sophie Hemker finished 16<sup>th</sup>.

The annual wards and dinner was hosted by DCYC in the driving rain followed by a costume and dance party in the clubhouse. Sunday morning, while the annual TSA meeting was in progress, DCYC hosted a match racing event in very light breeze. RCYC was well represented with our Opti sailors making it to the semi-finals.

### Overall TSA Circuit

Rush Creek Yacht Club had eighteen (18) different sailors participate on the circuit with a total of 98 participants at the 14 regattas for an average of 7.0 sailors per regatta. Lakewood YC averaged 27.4, Houston YC - 9.4, Corpus Christi YC - 8.1, and TCYC - 7.2.

Congratulations to Hamrick Morgan for finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the doublehand division and to Hanna Progelhof for finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the White fleet. Tyler Killion, Hamrick Morgan, Natalie Hopper, Reilly Linn, Sydney Calk and Hanna Progelhof participated in at least seven regattas and qualified for the overall trophies.

### Sea Scout Ship 1000

You may have noticed a few new sailors around the club. Sea Scout Ship 1000 members spent a good bit of time here this summer. Sixteen young men and women ages 14 to 21 tell us they are thrilled to share this end of the lake with us.

After an invitation in from Robert Phillips, RCYC member and Chair of East Trinity Trails Committee for the Boy Scouts of America, four sea scouts enjoyed their first ever, sailing race during June's Dallas Race Week 2013. Coached by Robert, the scouts were thrilled to sail an IC24 to finish 4 of 5 races. Thanks to our racing members who encouraged, coached and applauded them along the way.

Encouraged by that first experience and with much encouragement and help from Jeff Progelhof, Vice Commodore of Education, two scout ships were able to have their first real Rush Creek experience. In August, Ship 1000 and Ship 1225 (Flower Mound, TX) held Phoenix Weekend Sailing Camp that included four days and three nights of Sea Scouting training, sailing and racing dinghies. The two ships had a great time teaching one another, pairing up for races, cooking and sharing meals. Assisted by ship skippers, mates, parents and volunteers from Rush Creek Yacht Club, they ended the fun-packed weekend with a JY15 regatta. Many thanks to Gavin Rudolph, RCYC Sailing Coach, and Robert Phillips for coaching and piloting the committee boat.

To continue the fun and learning, scouts returned twice in October. Six sea scouts from Ship 1000 and Ship 1225 raced three JY15s in the Fall Dinghy Fest. This time, they finished all races and took home awards. And later in the month four scouts and two adult scouts sailed in the IC24 Nationals.

On the same weekend of the IC24 Nationals, other members of Ship 1000 enjoyed their first of many planned overnight sail visits to Rush Creek Yacht Club. Ship 1000 launched their cruisers and left Chandlers Landing where the Ship's boats are slipped. They left on Saturday and spent the afternoon sailing. Then they docked at Rush Creek where they prepared dinner and joined by their racing ship members, settled in for the monthly Sea Scout meeting at the Doolin Education Center.

## Education Report Continued

The next morning, after breakfast and a service project, they sailed back out for an afternoon of sailing before arriving back at Chandlers Landing. The next overnighter is planned for November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to say hello and maybe even offer a few more bits of wisdom to a very eager group of novice sailors.

“One of the best parts of learning to sail and race at Rush Creek is the veteran sailors taking the time to stop and offer tips and wisdom to the scouts. It’s great to see and hear so many years of sailing skill and wisdom so easily offered to novice sailors. It really is helping to groom lifetime sailors,” says skipper Don Henry. “We owe a very big thank you to Rush Creek Yacht Club members and staff for being friends of Sea Scouting.”

To follow all of Ship 1000’s events and activities, visit [www.Ship1000.org](http://www.Ship1000.org).

### End of Year Junior Awards

Congratulations to the following winners awarded at the December 8<sup>th</sup> junior awards banquet:

- Highpoint for Singlehand (Opti Red/White/Blue and Laser) - **Hanna Progelhof**
- Highpoint for Doublehand (420s/FJs) - **Hamrick Morgan**
- Beginning Sailor – Best Effort - **Kate Schmiede**
- Beginning Sailor – Most Improved - **Andrew Vandling**
- Best Crew – Awarded to the junior sailor who has demonstrated outstanding qualities and skills as a crew person - **Tyler Killion**
- Most Improved - **Hanna Progelhof**
- Best Attitude - **Reilly Linn**
- Jim Wright Leadership Award - **Natalie Hopper**
- The Bob Chilton Trophy - Awarded to the most outstanding junior sailor of the year - **Hamrick Morgan**

### Wednesday Night Specials by Poe

**January 8** — Baked Rigatoni with Italian sausage served with side salad and garlic bread

**January 15** — Chicken fried steak with mashed potatoes and green beans with regular or jalapeno gravy

**January 22** — Chili Cheese Burgers topped with onion rings

**January 29** — Pot roast with roasted carrots, mashed potatoes and gravy

The STARTING LINE is published on the 30th of each month.  
Please send submission to [communications@rcyc.org](mailto:communications@rcyc.org)

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