



## The Starting Line

## January 2015

### Commodore's Report by Melissa Hemker

As the 2015 incoming Commodore, I am excited for the opportunity to serve the people and the club that I love and I am excited about the upcoming year. We have a fabulous Board and can honestly say that their experience, expertise and wisdom give me the upmost confidence to carry out our goals.



#### Please welcome the 2015 RCYC Board of Governors:

**Commodore** — Melissa Hemker  
**Vice Commodore, House** — Ken Wolfe  
**Vice Commodore, Race** — John Hopper  
**Vice Commodore, Education** — Wendy Vandling  
**Treasurer** — George Hannan  
**Secretary** — Stacey Christensen  
**Past Commodore** — Clarke Newman  
**Chairman of the Board & MC Scow Fleet Representative** — Chris Bright

**Aux Fleet Representative** — Rod Favela  
**IC24 Fleet Representative** — Joe Kracmer  
**Melges Fleet Representative** — Erik Twining  
**At Large Representative** — Brian Morgan  
**At Large Representative** — Gus Schmiede

**Rear Commodore, Membership** — Lorie Grinnan  
**Rear Commodore, Grounds** — Virginia Hannan  
**Rear Commodore, Storage** — Craig Deaton  
**Rear Commodore, Harbor & Docks** — Al See  
**Rear Commodore, Communications** — David Warren  
**Rear Commodore, Club Boats** — Larry Seals

When you see them, please be sure to thank them for volunteering their time to serve OUR club.

I am thrilled that Kenny Wolfe has agreed to be Vice Commodore of House again this year. He will build on the improvements he put in place last year. The Social Committee, under his leadership, plans to host many fun events this upcoming year. Be sure to come out and enjoy your club.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/14 - Love Boat Race

3/7-8 - Texas Independence Day Regatta

3/21-22 - Spring Rush Regatta

4/4 - Crawdad Cup Regatta

5/9-10 - Spring DinghyFest

5/16-17 - Chocopalooza/Area F Bemis Qualifier

5/30-6/1 - Founders Regatta/IC24 NAs

6/22-27 - Sunfish North American Championship

9/26-27 - George Griffith Regatta

10/10-11 - Fall DinghyFest

10/24-25 - IC24 Nationals

12/6 - Commodore's Requiem

Our new Vice Commodore of Education, Wendy Vandling, already has some great ideas to build upon the foundation of what's been laid. The youth calendar has already been published. Please check it out. Vice Commodore of Race, AnJohn Hopper has the race calendar posted on the website. Please note, this year we will be hosting the Sunfish North Americans in late June which will draw folks from across the US. It takes a lot of volunteers to make these events happen. Please mark your calendars now.

I want to be mindful of the drought we are facing. It adds a level of complexity to maintaining our goals. Under Clarke's leadership, we have some things already in place – Kelson Elam is working to extend our breakwater and Al See is focused on improving our docks and keeping them afloat. I expect to spend a lot of focus on these areas this upcoming year. We are looking towards a long-term vision of doing what we can to keep our sailors on the water. Reference: Al See's *Docks and Harbor's Update*.

**Once again, it is truly an honor and I am so thankful for this opportunity. See you on the race course!**

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## **Docks & Harbor Report** by Al See

We all know the lake is down: A Dock all but abandoned, the Yellow Crane without usable water, the Blue Crane running out of water, the B dock ramp so steep that it can serve as a ski jump. But we are Creekers and we sail on.

Our overall plan is to expand our harbor and move the docks into deeper water. As a temporary measure, B Dock has, after 50 years in the same place, been moved 44' east and the (beaver eaten) electrical outlets have been replaced and brought up to current code.

Kelson Elam is leading a group of volunteers working to extend the north breakwater. A floating breakwater extension, 80' long, is being prepared. We expect to launch it in early February. When the new breakwater is in place to protect more of the harbor, then B Dock will move 144' south into deeper water to where C Dock is now. C Dock will move 144' further south into even deeper water. Access to B dock will be down the current C Dock gangway. Access to C Dock will be via a floating connection from B Dock. We will bring all the docks up to electrical code, as well. We expect to have the B & C Dock move complete by April.

Longer term, we are considering our options, including building a board boat dock in B Dock's current location. We are still in the "idea" stage.

This planning and current progress has been a huge effort by a dedicated group of folks. And we have a lot of work ahead of us. This low water will permanently change the harbor layout. When these trials are astern of us and the lake back to normal these changes will bear testament to Rush Creek's indomitable spirit.

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## **Junior Education Report** by Wendy Vandling

We have officially launched an off campus physical education (OCPE) schedule for middle and high school aged sailors that would like to get PE credit for school, and are also working on getting a High School club team together. Katy Hannan and Andrew Vandling are enrolled in the OCPE program through the Rockwall Independent School District. The club team will be registered through the Interscholastic Sailing Association and be open to high schools students within the Rockwall Independent School District, private schools in the Rockwall area, as well as home school students. Although the club team is not approved yet, Alex is working diligently on making this happen.



## 2015 Junior Board

The 2015 Junior Board is made up of some outstanding juniors and I look forward to working with them to continue to grow the program throughout 2015.

- ♦ **Junior Commodore** – Katy Hannan
- ♦ **Junior Vice-Commodore** – Kate Schmiede
- ♦ **Junior Rear-Commodore** – Caleb Shi

## 2014 Junior Banquet

In December, the end of year Youth Banquet was organized by outgoing VC of Education Jeff Progelhof. Thank you Jeff for doing an outstanding job putting together the end banquet.



### Individual Awards from the banquet are as follows:

- ♦ Highpoint for Single hand (Opti Red/White/Blue and Laser) **Hanna Progelhof**
- ♦ Highpoint for Double hand (420s/FJs) **Tyler Killion**
- ♦ Beginning Sailor – Best Effort **Cayden Vandling**
- ♦ Beginning Sailor – Most Improved **Carter Calk**
- ♦ Best Crew – Best Crew is awarded to the junior sailor who has demonstrated outstanding qualities and skills as a crew person. **Katy Hannan**
- ♦ Most Improved - **Andrew Vandling**
- ♦ Best Attitude – The Best Attitude trophy is awarded to the junior sailor with the best sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and seamanship. **Kate Schmiede**
- ♦ Jim Wright Leadership Award - The Jim Wright Leadership Award is presented to the junior sailor who defines the qualities of leadership on and off the water; a supporter, a listener, and a nurturer. **Katy Hannan**
- ♦ The Bob Chilton Trophy - Awarded to the most outstanding junior sailor of the year. **Natalie Hopper**

## 2014 Opti Midwinter Championship

In November, Hanna Progelhof of the RCYC Junior Sailing Team traveled to Southern Yacht Club, in New Orleans, for the Opti Midwinter Championship and finished 159<sup>th</sup> out of a large fleet of 243.

## Vice Commodore of Race Report by John Hopper

On December 6<sup>th</sup> RCYC held the Commodore's Requiem Race. It was a beautiful day for sailing. Eight boats participated, ranging from Jeff & Erin Progelhof's J36 "Señor Moment" to Kiki Schmiege and Natalie Hopper on a Club 420. The five mile course was a full tour of the south side of the lake. The PHRF division was won by Robert Phillips & Don Henry on the IC24 "Reflections". The Portsmouth Division was won by Kiki & Nat on the 420, beating out Gavin Rudolph's E-Scow by 20 seconds! (Full Results are on the website.)



The 2015 RCYC Regatta Schedule is out and published on the first page, right column and the website at [www.RCYC.org](http://www.RCYC.org). The major event of the year will be the Sunfish North Americans. This will require a huge effort from the membership and staff. Please mark your calendars and expect to help make this a successful regatta.

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### February Events

**Sunday 2/1 @ 5:00PM:** Super Bowl Party  
(Kick-Off is at 5:30PM)



**Saturday 2/14:** Valentine's Day Regatta and Party



**TBD:** Mardi Gras Party  
(Fat Tuesday is on 2/17)



### Wednesday Night Specials

**Wednesday 1/7:** Blackened Chicken with Cajun rice & greens

Soup: Tomato

Dessert: Chocolate Mousse

**Wednesday 1/14:** Ham steaks with fried potatoes, pinto beans and cornbread

Soup: Pinto Bean

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake

**Wednesday 1/21:** Bacon Bleu Cheese Burgers

Soup: Bacon Cheeseburger

Dessert: Blonde Brownie Sundae

**Wednesday 1/28:** Chicken Alfredo Lasagna with garlic bread & side salad

Soup: Minestrone

Dessert: Panna Cotta

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