



## The Starting Line

May 2014

### Commodore's Report by Clarke Newman



Over the last three months, we have been working diligently towards repaving the parking lot. My original pledge to the membership was to repave the club's original driveway. As the planning progressed, it became apparent that drainage was an issue.

By expanding the project to account for the drainage issues, we would solve that problem only to create another. By the time we were done, the plan was to redo the entirety of the paved surfaces at RCYC. The cost of doing that project is around \$320,000, all in, and that is significantly more than we have in reserve. So, we were going to have to borrow the money.

While that goal still remains uppermost in our minds, at our last Board meeting, we came to the realization that our more pressing need is to repair and protect the harbor infrastructure. The rapidly decreasing lake level is creating a more imperative need. The docks are deteriorating faster than the parking lot, and we have to act to protect them. This project can be even more expensive depending on what we have to do.

The other important consideration in addressing the docks is that we are quickly becoming land locked in different parts of the harbor. RCYC has the only naturally occurring harbor on the lake, and that fact has kept more areas of passage open in our harbor than in other harbors. However, we have many slips that are now not passible. Becoming landlocked hurts the club from a member usage as well as a revenue standpoint.

So, as much as I still want to do the parking lot, we will have to pivot to the harbor. The Board has shifted from preparing to repair the parking lot to doing our due diligence on making prudent repairs to the docks and possibly the break water. More on this project as it develops.

### Past Commodores

This past month, RCYC has honored the memory of Past Commodore George Hatfield with a Flag Ceremony. George did a great deal for the club, much of which was done in years in which he was not the Commodore. George was instrumental in bringing the first world championships to RCYC in the 1979 Lightning Class Worlds. Further, he, along with my Dad, Past Commodore Duncan Porter, Richard Guinan, and Bob Thomas helped build a Lightning fleet that had forty boats in and secure the 1983 Lightning Class North American Championships as well.

We also lost Past Commodore John Sellon. Before Lake Ray Hubbard was built, John is widely credited with finding the land along Rush Creek now occupied by RCYC. While other secured the purchase, we are where we are because John Sellon's vision of what things would look like once the lake was filled.

Both of these men will be missed. Sometime soon, we will honor Commodore Sellon with a Flag Ceremony.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Keelboat Spring Series**  
May 10, 2 PM Start

**Spring DinghyFest**  
May 17-18

**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

## Junior Education Report by Jeff Progelhof

### Roadrunner Regatta Report

April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6, the RCYC Junior Sailing Team traveled to Austin Yacht Club for the 2104 Roadrunner Regatta, the third regatta of the TSA Youth Circuit. This regatta is unique in that the double-handed sailors do not have to bring their own boat. They are able to sail the AYC/Univ. of Texas Flying Juniors. Saturday started off with light air from the east. Although many people struggle when the winds are from an unusual wind direction and the water still down over 50 feet causing the crazier winds, the FJ team of Natalie Hopper and Katy Hanna mastered the tricky condition and lead after the first day. Sydney Calk, crewing in her first double-handed regatta for Dominic Nedzelskiy, showed consistent improvement throughout the day.



On the Opti Red White and Blue course, Hanna Progelhof tied for first in the first race and Reilly Linn started a string of First Place finishes (three total for the weekend). Skylar Linn continued to show improvement as his starts improved throughout the weekend. On the green Fleet, Wade Lovell, Andrew Vandling, and Isaac Barkley were sailing well with top three finishes for each and a first for Andrew. Carter Calk finished four races on Saturday.

Sunday brought drizzle and windier conditions with winds from the north. One of the Houston FJ sailors became ill and Avery Lovell hopped right in without any double-handed experience and crewed for Abi Beck. Their finishes on Sunday were and excellent 7,3,4 and led several of the races! Zane Tinnell and Tyler Killion sailed consistently in all the conditions and finished first overall in tightly contested the FJ fleet. The first four teams were within three points!

Thank you to Mary Anne Hopper and Virginia Hannan for coaching the Green Fleet and towing down the Red RIB and to Jeff Progelhof for coaching the FJ and Opti RWB courses.

#### Opti Green Fleet (24 Boats)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Wade Lovell  
4<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Vandling  
7<sup>th</sup> – Isaac Barkley

#### Opti Red/White/Blue

8<sup>th</sup> – Reilly Linn  
10<sup>th</sup> – Hanna Progelhof  
26<sup>th</sup> - Skylar Linn

#### Flying Junior

1<sup>st</sup> – Zane Tinnell and Tyler Killion  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Natalie Hopper and Katy Hannan  
5<sup>th</sup> – Abigali Beck and Rachel Walston/Avery Lovell  
9<sup>th</sup> – Dominic Nedzelskiy and Sydney Calk

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## House Report by Kenny Wolfe

**First Friday Movies:** May-September we will be hosting Movies on the first Friday of every month at 8:30pm. Weather permitting the movies will be shown outdoors by the pool.

**Founder's Day Regatta—May 24 & 25:** Live entertainment and a great party. Come even if you are not sailing.

**1st Annual Crawdad Cup:** This was an impromptu event that turned out to be a great success. We started with a Party and Crawfish Boil and added some Fun sailing to it. Our goal was to create an event where we could focus on having a good time and be comfortable inviting non-sailing friends. Even with the marginal weather we had a great turnout and even attracted sailors from the other end of the lake. We will definitely be adding this to our calendar as an annual event in April. BTW: Kudos to &John Hopper and John Skiles for running great races!

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## Wednesday Night Dinner Specials by Poe & Andrea

**5/7** Tuna melt & fries / Chocolate Fudge Cake

**5/14** Chicken fried steak & gravy served with mashed potatoes, veggies and a biscuit / Strawberry Shortcake

**5/21** Buffalo & Blue cheese stuffed chicken sandwich with slaw & fries / Pear Tarts

**5/28** Smokey catfish tostada with Spanish rice and grilled veggies / Key lime Pie

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