

# THE WINDWORD

The Newsletter of the Walnut Valley Sailing Club

Website: [www.wvsailing.com](http://www.wvsailing.com)

FEBRUARY 2008

## CALENDAR:

February 2	Groundhog Day
February 6	Ash Wednesday
February 7	Chinese New Year
<b>February 10</b>	<b>General Race Meeting</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>WVSC Board Meeting</b>
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 18	Presidents' Day

## From the Binnacle

**B**y the time you receive this edition of the Windword, Christmas will have come and gone and many will have made New Year's resolutions which will be forgotten by the first day of spring. For my family, Christmas was a special time because our son, Bryce, was able to fly home from San Diego to spend six days with us. Now that he is a captain in the United States Marine Corps, his time shared with family is very limited.

The members of the Racing Committee have been busy making plans for racing events in 2008. There will be a general meeting for all interested club members at 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 10th at Gander Mountain. Please plan to attend this important meeting to help make significant decisions regarding our club regattas.

In December, we received notice that our former bookkeeper was resigning. Without the assistance of the Finance Committee, our Treasurer Ernie Condon, and especially Gene Nold, we would still be looking for a replacement. Permit me to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of you for the successful recruitment of our new bookkeeper, Pam Baker. She is imminently qualified and commenced her new responsibilities in January.

Now for some more good news – all of the standing committee chair positions have been filled. The Social Committee and the Sailing Activities Committee leaders and other interested club members met on January 13th to schedule their upcoming events. These parties and sailing events will include activities which are guaranteed to appeal to any and all of our "fun-loving" members and their guests. The schedule for parties is published elsewhere in this edition and we are looking forward to participating in these special events with all of you.

One of the perennial problems we face at WVSC is the identification of club members' trailers in dry storage. Currently less than 50% of these trailers have the owners' names affixed, in accordance with our Rules. Obviously, many of our members appear to be resistant to complying with this requirement. One idea to solve this problem is to have identification information printed on a luggage tag, which is then laminated and attached to individual trailers. What do you think of this possible solution, or do you have a better idea? The Board plans to address this situation soon. To share your thoughts with the Board, please contact the Commodore at 634-1050 or E-mail him at [johnwcarter687@cox.net](mailto:johnwcarter687@cox.net) regarding this important matter.

Normally our Board meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month; however, in February that Thursday is Valentine's Day. Therefore, the next Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 12th at the office of Steve Mardis. For the benefit of any club member who would like to attend this meeting, please make note of this change of date.

Most everyone has heard or read the saying, "that the devil is in the details." We also know that proper maintenance plays a vital role in keeping a sailboat in good working condition. Now, although the spring commissioning process (paying attention to the details of your boat) is time consuming, it is one of the most vital activities a skipper and crew perform each year. As we look forward to launching our boats, let's not forget to pay special attention to the all important task of spring commissioning.

And remember, the excitement builds with anticipation of that first sail on Lake El Dorado this spring.

*John W. Carter, Commodore*

# LAST NOTICE

GENERAL RACING MEETING FOR ALL WVSC MEMBERS SUPER INTERESTED, INTERESTED, SEMI-INTERESTED, SOMEWHAT INTERESTED OR WHATEVER.

This meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 10, at 2:00 P.M.** We have reserved a room at **Gander Mountain**.

Tentatively, subject to the meeting's attendees, **the race schedule for 2008 will be:**

Apr 20	Sunday	July 27	Sunday
May 3	Saturday	Aug 9	Saturday
May 18	Sunday	Aug 24	Sunday
June 7	Saturday	Sep 6	Saturday
June 22	Sunday	Sep 21	Sunday
July 12	Saturday	Oct 4	Saturday

Being discussed will be lots of other neat stuff, like what races constitute the WVSC keel & centerboard championship. Whether or not to have meals after the races when they fall on a Sunday. Maybe races in the cove on some Wednesday evenings in the Catalina 14.2 (STEP) boats. These races would be open to STEP students, WVSC members that have attended the STEP program in the past, & any WVSC member that has taken the qualifying or checkout test. Also, we will give attendees an opportunity to volunteer (as opposed to drafting) to help on Race Committee & food details. We probably will talk about other weird & wonderful things.

## — Mark your calendars —

### Board Officers for 2008

Commodore — John W. Carter      Vice-Commodor — Steve Mardis

Treasurer — Ernie Condon      Secretary — Debbie Chambers

### Committee and Liaison Assignments for 2008

Committee	Chair	Liaison
Social	Debbie Chambers	Debbie Chambers
Racing	Ken Rix	Ken Rix
Sailing Program	Charles Lynden	Ernie Condon
Finance	Paul Schye	Ernie Condon
Building & Grounds	Ed Klima	Kathy Malcom
Harbor	Jerry Brady	Jerry Brady
Public Relations	Bruce Ward	Steve Mardis
Security	James Rix	Ken Rix
Archivist	Janice Cooper	Jerry Brady
Long-Range Planning	Steve Mardis	Steve Mardis
Calling	Cheryl Wertheimer	David Reynolds
Activities Center	Clark Chambers	Debbie Chambers
Powerboat Maintenance	John McCabe	John Carter
Dry Storage	Ron Dreiling	Kathy Malcom
Government Relations	Gene Nold	John Carter
STEP Program	Gary Pierce	John Ellison
Membership	DeAun Warfield	David Reynolds

# The Men Who Rescued the Crew of the PT-109

Contributed by John W. Carter

In mid-1942, the Japanese armed forces invaded the South Pacific with the objective of cutting the supply line and communications between the USA and Australia/New Zealand. The local islanders worked with coast watches to help the allies in their fight against the Japanese. On one of the small Solomon Islands lived two young men named Eroni Aaron Kumana and Biunku Gasa. Eroni had made his living by fishing and trading throughout the island chain.

Since deep-draft allied warships were unable to negotiate the narrow channels in the enemy waters of the Solomon Islands, shallow-draft PT boats were used to sink Japanese barges carrying troops, supplies and equipment.

The high-speed PT boats were constructed of laminated plywood hulls and decks and were powered by three Packard gasoline engines that produced 4500-hp. These 40-knot boats were built in the USA by either the Elco or Higgins companies and shipped to the South Pacific on transport (Liberty) ships.

These fast boats performed many vital tasks, including transporting troops, running fuel up and down the coast, waiting for Japanese naval vessels (known as the Tokyo Express which supported and supplied 40,000 Japanese troops), providing gunfire support to small landing parties, transporting mail, and conducting rescue missions of allied personnel. The officers who drove these PT boats were almost all reserve Lieutenants who had trained for 90 days to become officers, and then spent eight weeks at the Motor Torpedo Boat Training Center at Melville, Rhode Island. One such man was a Harvard graduate who was an average student, and came from a very wealthy family with roots in the United States and Ireland. His name, of course, was John Fitzgerald Kennedy. He used all of his influence to be transferred to an active fighting unit in the Pacific. His good family name and the fact that his father, Joseph Kennedy, had been the ambassador to the Court of Saint James (United Kingdom) helped JFK become a commissioned officer in the US Navy.



L to R: The late Biunku Gasa and Eroni Aaron Kumana



The crew of PT-109. On the far right is JFK beside a torpedo.

Lieutenant (jg) Kennedy was assigned to take over the *PT-109* on April 25, 1943 in the South Pacific. This boat was tired and beat-up from constant use. After the boat was repaired, the *PT-109* was reintegrated into the Squadron and assigned combat missions. During the first week of August, 1943 the PT Squadron (consisting of 15 boats) met and attacked a major run of the Tokyo Express consisting of four Japanese destroyers. The PT boats fired 30 torpedoes at the suspected targets, but none found their mark. When one of the destroyers left the area after unloading soldiers and tons of supplies, it steamed away at full speed and sliced the *PT-109* in half. Of the 13 man crew on the *PT-109*, 11 sailors

survived and swam 4-5 miles to nearby Plum Pudding Island. After arriving at the deserted island, Kennedy swam out in the strait to attempt to make contact with any PT boats that might be passing by. No luck. So the survivors moved to another nearby island where they met Biunku and Eroni. Kennedy wrote out a message on a coconut shell which was delivered by Eroni to a local coast watcher from Australia, A.R. Evans, who arranged for their rescue with PT Squadron headquarters on the island

of Rendova. On the eighth day after the sinking of the *PT-109*, the crew was rescued by the US Navy. Later, Kennedy was assigned to skipper PT-59.

Now Eroni is 85 years old and lives on one of the Western Solomon Islands named Rannonga. On April 2, 2007 his home was damaged by an 8.1 earthquake. Recently, a carrier assigned to a US Marine Expeditionary Unit, the *USS Peleliu*, dispensed aid and humanitarian assistance to the earthquake survivors. When the carrier's captain learned about Eroni's plight and what he had done in World War II, the ship's crew and the Marines donated \$1500 to purchase a new roof to rebuild Eroni's home. It was all that he needed. Secretary of the US Navy, Donald C. Winter, presented Eroni with an award and a flag from the *USS Peleliu*.



# Board Meeting Minutes

WALNUT VALLEY SAILING CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

*Minutes Subject to Correction*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008

## January Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The following Board members attended:

David Reynolds, John Carter, Ken Rix, Steve Mardis, Ernie Condon, Debbie Chambers, Kathy Malcom, John Ellison and Jerry Brady. The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved as amended.

## Treasurer's Report:

Ernie Condon presented the Treasurer's Report noting that at this time there are 108 members in the club. Pam Baker has been hired as the new bookkeeper. The former bookkeeper, Carol Piszcak, will assist during the transition period. Ron Alderman has requested the Board approve the resignation of his membership as he has moved his boat to Lake Texoma. If in the future he returns his boat to Lake El Dorado, he will again request membership. Ernie Condon stated that he would contact Ron to suggest that he request to be placed on inactive status, so that should he return to WVSC in the future, he would not have to pay an initiation fee. Ernie will report Ron's response back to the Board at the next meeting.

## Committee Reports:

- a. John Carter reported that repairs to the Race Committee powerboat have been completed and the boat is back in dry storage. Repairs to the pontoon boat will be accomplished this spring.
- b. Racing Activities report: The Racing Activities Committee will meet on February 10th at 2:00pm at Gander Mountain. The dates and times for the 2008 racing season will be finalized at that time and Ken Rix will report back to the Board next month.

## Old Business:

- a. Commodore Carter requested the selection and approval of the standing committee chairpersons for 2008. Debbie Chambers requested input from the Board as to changing the structure of the Social Committee. As in years past, it has been very difficult to get anyone to volunteer to be the chairperson of the Social Committee for the entire season. This year Debbie suggested there not be a chairperson of the Social Committee for the whole season but rather a chairperson for each party with the Board Liaison working with this person to coordinate as needed. Discussion by the Board resulted in approval of this change. A statement about

this change will be placed either in the Windword or the Handbook or both. A motion to approve the current chairpersons was seconded and approved.

- b. Ken Rix reported that no action has been taken to schedule Dawn Riley as a guest speaker this year. Ken will give a follow-up report next month.
- c. David Reynolds reported on the problem of the absentee boat owners. After contacting the Butler County Small Claims Court, he was advised to pursue this matter with the Sedgwick County Small Claims Court for residents of Sedgwick County. David stated that Gene Nold has volunteered to file the paperwork with the court for one of the absentee boat owners. David Reynolds requested approval for reimbursement of up to \$100 to Gene Nold for Small Claims Court filing fees. The request was approved.

## New Business:

- a. Debbie Chambers presented a report of suggestions for repairs and improvements to the Activities Center. After lengthy discussion, Commodore Carter requested Debbie work on getting costs for the various items and report back to the Board for further discussion at the February meeting.
- b. Commodore Carter requested input from the Board related to changing the security code this year. After discussion, it was decided that no action be taken this year to change the security code.
- c. Ernie Condon presented to the Board the proposed plan to get club expenses pre-approved and paid. Any club member who plans to purchase items or spend money on behalf of WVSC must obtain prior approval from one of the following members: the Commodore, the Board liaison or the chairperson of the committee for which the funds are being requested. No expenses will be reimbursed without prior approval. This process will help each committee stay within their budget. For a club member to be reimbursed for club-related expenses, the receipt(s) for the purchased item(s) must be signed by one of the three authorized individuals and mailed to the WVSC post office box. The motion to approve this plan was seconded and approved by the Board.
- d. Commodore Carter presented the problem of a lack of identification of members' names on trailers in the storage yard, which is required by WVSC rules. A number of options were discussed. Commodore Carter will survey the club membership to request ideas on how best to comply with this requirement.

*Continued on page 5*

**Cal 9.2 (30ft). NEW PRICE \$21,000. FOR SALE BY OWNER:** 1982. Looking for a nice big boat with a slip and trailer? Check this out: New main and Jib in 2000. Spinnaker and Flexible Furler. Universal Diesel. New running rigging. Bimini and cockpit cushions, refrigerated icebox. CD player. Custom road trailer. Slip transfers with Board approval. To see this boat in the water, call Patrick at 540.3674

**24' Bruce Roberts design hand-crafted wooden sloop.** Inboard Volvo diesel 7.5hp saildrive, trailer, Murray winches, winter cover. Lovingly built by the owner. Can be seen in the West boatyard. Call Patrick at 316-540-3674 to check this boat out and make an offer.

**Cape Dory Typhoon.** 1973 - This rare, classic 19' full keel boat is in excellent shape and has been lovingly taken care of. The hull topsides, Deck, and bottom are in excellent shape. All running rigging replaced in 2007. Comes with newly restored set of sails (2007-Sailcare), Main, Jib, Genoa, Spinnaker, and a brand new storm tri-sail. The boat comes with a beautiful 2004 Triad Trailer with the float off package and tongue extension. The trailer is galvanized with stainless brakes and brand new 'D' rated heavy load tires. The boat trails easily! The boat is a joy to sail and launches and loads easily at any ramp. The boat also includes a 2005 Nissan 3.5 HP outboard. My family has grown so much that the five of us cannot sail in her comfortably any more, so we are moving up to a larger boat. The boat is in the water and may be viewed on C Dock. Have \$10,000 invested, but will consider any reasonable offer. Make offer. Call Matt @316-708-2800 or email me at matt@itieng.com.

**Catalina 22** - 1976 - with trailer. 4-horse outboard in near new condition. Boat is clean and in dry storage in the east yard. Good solid boat. \$3000 OBO. Contact Dave or Tony at (316) 691-9405 or (316) 772-1216 Email: dave.theotherside@hotmail.com

*Continued from page 2*

### **Member concerns:**

A club member is considering the purchase of a 33' keel boat and is requesting options for a slip. After discussion, a motion with two possibilities was approved to include: 1) two half-slips available for the sum of \$500 per year or 2) any available north-side slip. South-side slips were ruled out because of the length of the keel boat.

### **Closing Remarks:**

The February Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the office of Steve Mardis.

### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Deborah Chambers – Secretary*



Oday 25 — 1975. Ready to sail; good condition; swing keel; 9.9 Evinrude; full set of sails; nice cabin; trailer; anchor; two-way VHF marine radio; port-a-potty; life jackets; refrigerator; CD player. Includes slip at NSA (per Board approval). \$4,500. Call Doug at 316.773.0246 or 316.305.4091.

**Hobie Outback SUV Kayak** – 2006 – with TrailEx aluminum trailer. The boat with options cost \$2000, the Trailer \$800. Asking \$1800 for both. The Kayak includes beach wheels, sail kit, and outriggers. This is the sit-upon kayak with peddles, paddle, and sail. Go to Hobie.com to see a movie about the peddle feature, it is remarkable. Call or email, Frank Hopper, 316-641-6136, fhopper@cox.net .

**South Coast 23** – STARDUST - Original Carl Alberg design. 1969. Completely rebuilt in 2002. Original red gelcoat hull. New teak. New Schaeffer roller furler and 130% genoa. New mainsail cover. Lazy jacks. Spinnaker & pole on deck chocks. New Harken traveler and mainsheet. New Harken boom vang. Two halyard winches on mast. All new running rigging. New rubber rub strip. Automatic bilge pump. Three anchors, new rode and chain on each. Marine head. 5hp Seagull Silver Century+ F/N/R outboard. Tandem axle trailer. Full cabin & cockpit cushions in good shape. Also includes two sets of foul weather gear. Hand held marine band VHF radio, hand held Magellen GPS and several good quality life jackets. \$6000.00 FOB Wichita, Kansas (316) 722-8983

**J/24s For Sale.** Many great J/24s are available for sale both regionally and nationally for very reasonable prices. If you are interested, contact Schoen Fitzgerald at 316-685-9225 or Dan Aridge at 316-687-2471. Call us or stop by theslips, we'd be happy to take you out to test drive one of these great one-design racers. J/24 "The ultimate One-Design"

**COLUMBIA 26 Mk II w/ trailer** - WENDIGO III. Fully restored in 2006. All new halyards, lines, Stays & electrics. New gauges (Wind Apparent/Speed, Knotmeter, Depth Finder & Compass). All new interior & exterior cushions. Sails w/ bags - 2 Mains, 4 Jibs & a 4 color Spinnaker. AM/ FM CD & Aux MP3 jack stereo w/ interior & cockpit speakers. 6 hp Johnson outboard or new 2007, 6 hp Nissan 4 stroke for additional \$2000. Asking \$8000 for boat, trailer & Johnson motor. OBO Call 316-619- 0003

**Winter storage.** I'm looking for someplace to store my boat for several months during the winter inside, hopefully near Wichita. I want to do some work on it. Please call or email me any info you have on inside storage, please? Thanks, Jeff Lane tel # 650-4660, email: drjlane@hotmail.com

**Dinghy trailer with mast crutch.** \$300 or \$250. You decide. Jon Zehnder. 620-245- 1776

**Old Town tandem kayak-2003 -T-160.** Rudder, paddles and Trailex aluminum trailer with spare tire. Great shape. Used very little. \$900 or \$850. You decide. Jon Zehnder. 620-245-1776

**Hobie 20. 1998** - Excellent Condition, 2007 Main and Jib, Full trailerable cover \$5900, 316-371-7809 icsammis@yahoo.com

**Alacrity 18-** comes with a main, 3 jibs and a spinnaker. Sleeps 3, cushions have been reupholstered. Trailer. Needs work. \$500 firm. Call Stan at 761-1603.



P.O. Box 20076  
Wichita, KS 67208-1076



# WVSC Social Events for 2008

- May 17 Steak Fry & Blessing of the Fleet
- June 14 Shrimp Boil
- July 19 Hawaiian Luau
- August 16 Pirates Treasure Hunt
- September 20 Bar-B-Q
- November 8 Annual Meeting (Pot Luck Dinner)
- December 6 Christmas Party