

# THE WINDWORD

The Newsletter of the Walnut Valley Sailing Club

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

MARCH 2007

## CALENDAR:

- March 2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday
- March 8 **WVSC Board Meeting**  
7pm
- March 11 Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 First Day of Spring
- March 23 **Opening Night for the Cooper's Island Theatre**  
7:30pm

## From the Bow Pulpit

As you can see from the Minutes of the February 2007 Board of Governors meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee has followed through with its plan in 2006 to act early in the year to present projects to the Board for action in this year and the future. All projects will be reviewed and studied to ensure they will be in the best interests of the Club and will be economically feasible in the year they are proposed for completion. Projects are assigned to the Committee who is responsible for that area of our Club activities and facilities. If you have an interest in assisting in the implementation of one or more of these projects, contact the Committee Chair or the Board Liaison to volunteer your expertise.

The Racing Committee presented the 2007 racing schedule at the membership meeting on Sunday, February 11, 2007, at Gander Mountain. We had a good turnout and we have a number of the action slots filled for the sailing season. Please contact Ken Rix, Racing Chair, to volunteer your support for this schedule. Non-racers are encouraged to assist with the Race Committee and the food preparation so you can be more involved in the activities of our Club. It's a great way to meet new people and increase your knowledge of sailing. As you know, the social hour and after dinner conversations can always lead to new ideas and a better understanding of sailing and boats.

We continue to monitor the lake level – now at 5.7 feet below pool – and will make the necessary adjustments to our docks and walkways as the need arises. The recent moisture and, hopefully, the coming rains will move our lake level back up to a comfortable level in the early spring in time to launch our vessels.

We now have a brief description of each of our Standing Committees on our website. Check out our website and see what may interest you to become more involved in the activities of our Club. The Social Committee will be posting its calendar in conjunction with our racing calendar and will be looking for members to host our many social functions during this coming season. You can contact our Social Chairs – Marilyn Grisham and Debbie Chambers – to get any early start on hosting one or more of our social events. Many are catered and require little work other than site preparation and some fun decorations. The social scene is an integral part of our sailing activities for racers and cruisers alike.

Now is the time to start thinking about sailing, boat preparation and brushing up on your sailing skills. Think also about the future of our Club and who you might like to invite to visit us as your guest and become a member. It's kind of like church, you have to go out and talk about it, then invite someone out to see what a great deal it is. We also need one or more members who are interested in the public relations part of our Club to assist the Membership Committee and Public Relations in the promotion of the Club in our community. Memberships are open and slips are available!

So many opportunities, so many challenges, and we have the time to do it if we start now. And don't forget to think positive thoughts about rainfall!

David O. Reynolds, *Commodore*

## OFFICERS:

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Jerry Brady 775-3163 '09  
[j2kbrady@aol.com](mailto:j2kbrady@aol.com)

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# Racing Activities Information Meeting

Ken Rix, Racing Activities Committee Chair, and committee members hosted a racing information meeting for the general membership of WVSC on Sunday, February 11th, at Gander Mountain. There were 21 members in attendance at the meeting, which started at 2 PM.

The racing calendar recommended by the committee was presented. Half of the races will be on Saturday and the other half on Sunday. In addition to the club regattas, WVSC will host two CSSA regattas, one for Juniors and one for Masters (skippers 55 and older). There will also be a training day that offers training on the water for those sailors who want to learn more about racing in a hands-on way. The calendar is presented below:

## Racing Calendar

The format for the club regattas was also presented and discussed. The format will follow closely the one used with success last year. There was healthy discussion of possible changes to the format and in the end, it was agreed to follow the recommended format.

April 21	Saturday	Club Regatta
May 6	Sunday	Club Regatta
May 12	Saturday	Training at the lake; 10 AM start
May 19	Saturday	Club Regatta
May 26	Saturday	Alternate training date if May 12th is weathered out
June 3	Sunday	Club Regatta
June 16	Saturday	Club Regatta
July 8	Sunday	Club Regatta
July 21	Saturday	Club Regatta
August 5	Sunday	Club Regatta
August 11, 12	Saturday & Sunday	CSSA Junior Championship
August 18	Saturday	Club Regatta
Sept 8, 9	Saturday & Sunday	CSSA Masters Championship
Sept 15	Saturday	Club Regatta
Sept 29, 30	Saturday & Sunday	WVSC Club Championship

## Format of Regattas (except Championship Regatta)

Format is subject to change because of weather conditions and at the discretion of the race chairman.

9:00 to 10:00 AM	Registration
10:00 AM	Competitors Meeting
11:00 AM	1st Race
12:30 to 1:30 PM	Lunch (provide your own)
2:00 PM	2nd Race, followed immediately by 3rd Race

Approximately 5:00 PM Light supper, \$3 contribution requested; recognition of race results

Race results of the club regattas will be posted on the racing scoreboards in the activity center. There will be no rain dates for the one-day club regattas. The Competitors meeting prior to each regatta will provide an opportunity to match sailors wanting to crew with skippers needing crew. Family members of racers and crew are welcome to join in the after-race dinner for a \$3 contribution.

Racing Instructions for the WVSC club regattas will be posted on the activity center bulletin board and on the web site. Steve Kubin volunteered to make up laminated sheets containing the Racing Instructions to hand out at the first regatta. Thank you, Steve. The U.S. Racing Rules of Sailing will be enforced, and protest forms will be available.

Gene Nold reported that the Corps of Engineers has recognized that it is their responsibility to maintain hazard marks at the lake. They are expected to replace missing marks in April or May if water levels return to near conservation level. We asked if the club could install marks for the season that we could use for racing, but our request was denied.

We hope to see our regular racers as well as some new ones this season. If you have any questions at all about racing or the schedule, please call or email any of the Racing Activities Committee:

Ken Rix, Chair	Gene Nold
Pat Boyarski	Ed Webb
Mike Hand	John Ellison
Tedd Blankenship	

# Destiny Awaits — The Texas City Disaster

Have you ever noticed how an individual's destiny can be shaped by the outcome of a single event in their family's past? This is an example of such a story.

After World War II ended in August, 1945 many of the Liberty ships used for transporting war materials from the United States to the Pacific and across



the Atlantic Ocean were purchased by foreign companies. One of these Liberty ships was purchased by a French steamship company and renamed the **Grand Camp**. On April 15, 1947 this ship was docked in Texas City, Texas, a petrochemical seaport of 15,000 just 13 miles north of Galveston Island. The **Grand Camp's** five cargo holds were loaded with a variety of goods including small arms ammunition, sisal twine, heavy machinery and 1,400 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. During the early morning hours of April 16, a fire broke out in one of the cargo holds containing fertilizer. The ship's crew made a limited attempt to put out the fire because the captain was concerned about water damage to the cargo. After sunrise, approximately 200 curious people gathered on a nearby pier to watch the billowing black smoke escaping from the ship. The Texas City Port Authority quickly ordered harbor tugs to tow the ship out of the harbor and away from the nearby Monsanto Chemical plant

which produced highly combustible styrene plastic.

The order came too late. Before the harbor tugs arrived, the **Grand Camp** exploded in a brilliant flash of light, instantly killing the 43 men on board and all the spectators on the nearby pier. The entire ship completely disappeared in the blink of an eye - the horrendous explosion registered on a seismograph in Denver, a distance of 1,000 miles away. The sisal twine, now aflame, was blown into the air and began raining down on the city starting fires at numerous locations. A small, single engine plane flying over the harbor was blown out of the sky and, shortly thereafter, the nearby Monsanto Chemical plant exploded, adding to the conflagration. The following day, a sec-



ond cargo ship, also loaded with a cargo of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, caught on fire and exploded. The fires raged throughout the city for three more days before they were finally extinguished.

In the final analysis, over 400 people were killed and over 1,000 were injured, making this event the most deadly industrial disaster in the history of our country. An Army general from

Washington, D.C. evaluated the damage and reported to Pentagon officials that it "looked like the seaport had been hit by an atomic bomb".



Now for all of you interested in the rest of the story. On April 14 the tugboat **Lewis** left Port Arthur, Texas, 80 miles east of Texas City. With one barge in tow, the crew of six men traveled west through the Intracoastal Waterway toward their destination. On April 15, they reached Galveston Bay, where the diesel engine mysteriously shut down.

The captain of the **Lewis** radioed for assistance and later that same day was towed to the port of Galveston for repairs.

What would have happened to the crew of the tugboat **Lewis** if its diesel engine had not shut down that fateful day? Answer – the destination of the **Lewis** was Texas City harbor, tied alongside the **Grand Camp**. No doubt about it, this six-man crew would have certainly perished in the massive explosion that started the Texas City Disaster.

By the way, who was the captain of the tugboat **Lewis**? He moved to Galveston in 1935 and he and his wife adopted their only child in December, 1945. You see, he was my father! Thank God for guardian angels.

*Contributed by John Carter*

# Board Meeting Minutes

WALNUT VALLEY SAILING CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

*Minutes Subject to Correction*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007

## Call to order:

Commodore Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1904 hours at the office of Steve Mardis, 9415 E. Harry, Suite

603, Wichita, Kansas. Board members present were Pat Boyarski, David Reynolds, John Carter, John McCabe, Kathy Malcolm, Steve Mardis and Ken Rix. Absent: DeAun Warfield, Jerry Brady.

**Approval of January Minutes:** Minutes of the January 11, 2007, meeting were reviewed and submitted for discussion. After discussion, John McCabe made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ken Rix. Motion carried.

**January Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Malcolm reported the cash balance on January 31, 2007, was \$31,933. We currently have 111 paid members and 6 unpaid members. One member, Jim Siebert, has resigned. John Carter moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Ken Rix seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Report of Long Range Planning

**Committee:** This report was presented by John Carter, Vice Commodore and committee chair. The Long Range Planning Committee met on February 1, 2007, and prioritized 5 projects for consideration by the Board. The two projects given top priority were a deck on the west side of the Activities Center with storage for tables and chairs, and a sun cover (20' X 10') to be attached to the northeast corner of the Activities Center. Other projects included a boat hoist in the dry storage facility (priority #3), a children's play area and play equipment (priority #4), and air-conditioning for the Activities Center (priority #5).

After considerable discussion, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee. Estimates for the west side deck, sun cover and air-conditioning are being obtained. John Carter moved to approve the installation of a retractable awning on the northeast corner of the Activities Center in 2007 if funding is available and Steve Mardis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The installation of the retractable awning was assigned to the Activities Center Committee. The design and installation of a boat hoist was assigned to the Dry Storage Committee.

## Old Business:

1. Status of flotation for Activities Center - waiting on second bid.
2. Status of Activities Center air-conditioning - waiting on installation plans, design and cost estimates.

3. Modification of electric cables to Activities Center and docks — contracted with electrician to be completed as soon as possible.
4. Committee chair assignments - all chair assignments filled except the Power Boat Maintenance Committee.
5. 2007 Membership Handbook - being assembled for distribution this spring (Membership Committee).
6. 2007 Club Activities calendar - dates for regattas will be distributed to members on February 11, 2007; dates for social events being finalized.
7. First Aid Kit in Activities Center - will be maintained by Activities Center Committee (Jerry Brady).

**New Business:** Jerry Brady volunteered (by written report) to install a backsplash on the wall above the kitchen sink in the Activities Center. Approved by the Board.

Member Concerns: presented at a previous Board meeting was a member's suggestion that a Swap Meet be scheduled this year. The Sailing Activities Committee was assigned to sponsor and schedule this event.

**Closing Remarks:** Commodore Reynolds stated that our website has been updated to include the following information regarding club committees: chairperson, board liaison and description.

John McCabe updated the Board that he is working on public relations with the American Red Cross and Wichita State University to disseminate information regarding our club.

The next Board meeting will be held on March 8, 2007, at 1900 hours at the office of Steve Mardis, 9415 E. Harry, Suite 603, Wichita, KS.

Adjournment: there being no further business, Pat Boyarski motioned to adjourn and Kathy Malcolm seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 2057 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

**John Carter, Temporary Secretary**

2007 SUMMER YOUTH SAILING PROGRAM

# Bring a Buddy and Come Sail with Us

The Walnut Valley Sailing Club/STEP program is offering two sessions this summer.

We will teach you how to sail in a beginner's class or improve your sailing ability in advanced classes. This year we are offering Keelboat classes to advanced sailors.

So come sail with us or better yet, get your buddy that would like to sail with you and join us this summer for a GREAT time on the water.

**Our fleet consists of:** Prams, Sabots, Optimists, Catalina 14.2's, Sunfish, Lasers, Sonar, Catalina 22 and Catalina 25's.

## CLASS STRUCTURE

**Prerequisites:** Must be 8-17, have an interest in learning to sail and swim 25 yards without a lifejacket (PFD) (swimming will be tested).

**Equipment requirements:** Participants are required to provide their own life jacket (PFD) US Coast Guard approved, age-appropriate size, and sunscreen, hat, and water shoes.

**Course Content:** Three levels of sailing instruction - beginners, intermediate and advanced sailing offered. Safety, weather, self-rescuing skills, basic rules of the road and nomenclature are also covered.

**Schedule:** 3 days per week (Mon. Tues. Thurs.) for 3 weeks, 10am to 4pm.

**2 Sessions:**

- 1st session: June 11 through June 28
- 2nd session: July 9 through July 26



**Cost per Student:** \$25 non-refundable Registration Fee, Plus \$45 class fee for WVSC members; \$70 for non-members.

**Fee Includes:** USSA "Start Sailing Right" or "Basic Keelboat" instruction manual, use of a boat for the summer, T-shirt and awards. For participants between the ages of 7 and 15, the fee also includes a Youth Membership to Walnut Valley Sailing Club which begins at the beginning of class and continues for the remainder of the year. For participants age 16 and

over, the fee includes a Junior Membership to Walnut Valley Sailing Club that begins at the beginning of class and continues for the remainder of the year.

Drinks are furnished. Student brings lunch.

**Class Size:** 20 students per session. Prerequisite for Keelboat instruction: proof of advanced sailing abilities. A minimum of three students are required for the Keelboat class to be held.

**Boats used:** Prams, Sabots, Optimist, Catalina 14.2, Sunfish, Laser, Sonar, Catalina 22 and Catalina 25

**Registration and Questions:** Call Gary Pierce 316-686-8823 or Gene Nold 316-636-2091

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## 2007 WALNUT VALLEY SAILING CLUB/STEP SAILING APPLICATION

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I am a  member  non-member of Walnut Valley Sailing Club

I wish to enroll in the  Youth Program  Adult Program

Session 1- June 11 - June 28

Session 2- July 9 - July 26

Please enclose the non-refundable deposit of \$25 with this application. Mail to: WVSC Sailing Program c/o Gary Pierce, 1431 South 127th Street East, Wichita, Kansas 67207

**J/24's For Sale.** Many great J/24's 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 Acridge at 316-687-2471. Call us or stop by the slips, we'd be happy to take you out to test drive one of these great one-design racers. J/24 "The ultimate One-Design"



**Cal 9.2 (30ft).** 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 and suitcase A/C. CD player. Custom road trailer. Slip transfers with Board approval. Price reduced to \$27,500. To see this boat in the water, call Patrick at 540.3674

**S/2 7.3** - 1984 24' cruiser. OMC Saildrive. Main, 100%, 150%, and storm jib. Tandem trailer. Slip transfers with BOG approval. \$5,000. Call 316-540-3674.

**Radio Controlled Model Yacht**, East Coast 12 Meter. Ozmun Hull. This is a 1/12th scale model of a 1962 Americas cup defender. The hull is 5ft long with a 23lb displacement. Call 993.8959 or e-mail [jw@jonathanwooddesign.com](mailto:jw@jonathanwooddesign.com) for more information or pictures or to come check it out in person. Over \$2500 new, asking \$1200 obo. Jonathan Wood.

**San Juan 21 Mark 2 1978.** All sails, main, working jib, genoa, spinnaker with all spinnaker gear. Was raced in 1999 North Americans. Electrical panel for stereo, cabin lights, anchor light, running lights, depth meter, knot/trip meter. Vents, bottom paint, bow pulpit, Fleet Captain trailer with spare tire. 2 rudders, one is kick-up. Mid boom sheeting, split back stay. Well maintained, \$2,500. See at the lake in Lot #662. Contact Patrick (316) 540-3674 or Francis Toews (316) 253-1903, [fntoews@swbell.net](mailto:fntoews@swbell.net)

**Starfish - 1978.** Red Regular with trailer. Best Offer. Bobbie Keltner. 316-722-5621

**O Day 25 - 1978 Cruiser** with BMW D-7 inboard diesel (rebuilt 2005) and E-Z loader tandem axle trailer with tongue extension. Shoal Draft/swing keel with Main, Jib, 150 Genoa and Storm Jib. Spacious enough for 6 adults, comfortable with ice box, stove, sink enclosed head, radio, stereo, depth finder, compass and in good condition. New deep cycle batteries in 2006 and new charger. Moving up to a larger boat, so slip is not transferable Asking \$6,500 USD Ed Evans. 316-841-2734

**Merit 25 – 1983.** This sailboat was previously owned by Frank Hopper (listed this way with his permission). It has many nice features such as Epoxy barrier coat with Interlux CSC Micron bottom paint (2004), 90% Sittle, 110% Horizon, 130% Ulmer-Kolius furling sail with Aaroluff, 155% Ulmer-Kolius mylar genoa, Ulmer-Kolius full batten main, Extra Horizon main, Tri-Radial Ulmer-Kolius spinnaker (.75 oz) with Chute scoop, Harken roller/furler, Johnson Sailmaster 9.9 motor, signet digital depth meter, Plastimo tactical compass, Windex spar fly, Boarding ladder, Spinlock line clutches, Kenyon mast and boom.

Dual axle custom-built trailer with extension tongue (allows trailer to be about 15' further in water than with regular tongue) and surge brakes. It is located in Hoisington, KS which is 10 miles north of Great Bend. Please contact Greg at [gmlowe@yahoo.com](mailto:gmlowe@yahoo.com) or call me at 620-564-3515 from 8-5pm M-F or at 620-708-4102 in evenings (please leave a message if I'm not home). Price set at \$7000.

**Too Many Water Toys**, Now for sale by owner. 2000 Windrider 16 with Rudder extensions, bilge pump, spray diverter and factory fitted galvanized trailer blue color. \$2000.00. Melges M16 scow, and trailer nice older race boat. Fun upgrade from a Sunfish or laser. \$1100.00. International 470 on trailer. This boat is project and still needs paint and a rudder. \$1100.00 16 foot fiberglass lake tandem kayak yellow top white bottom \$325.00. Good for kids. 8 foot Kiwi River Kayak yellow, red skirt and paddle. Used 4 times, like new \$375.00. Bad for little Kids. For more details on these please call 620.793.6666 or e-mail me at [dale.kennedy@aquila.com](mailto:dale.kennedy@aquila.com). Looking for Soling or E-22. These are located at Great Bend, Ks

**Three boats for sale by NSA!!** NSA will be selling three boats to the highest bidder on Ebay in March. For sale will be a 79 Ericsson 29, a 79 Spirit 6.5 and a Butterfly. All boats have trailers. The Ericsson was submerged at the dock a couple of years ago, and would be a great project boat. The others appear to be in sailable condition. The listings will begin approximately March 5th, and run for 10 days. They are currently located in the South storage yard. Any questions call Alan Huffman 316-706-8042.

**24' Bruce Roberts** design hand-crafted wooden sloop. Inboard Volvo diesel 7.5 hp 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.

2007 SUMMER ADULT SAILING PROGRAM

# Come Sail with Us

The Walnut Valley Sailing Club/STEP program is offering two sessions this summer.

We will teach you how to sail in a beginner's centerboard class or improve your sailing ability in advanced classes. This year we are offering beginning, intermediate and advanced Keelboat classes.

So come sail with us this summer for a GREAT time on the water.

Our adult fleet consists of: Catalina 14.2's, Sonar, Catalina 22 and Catalina 25's.

## CLASS STRUCTURE

**Prerequisites:** Must be 18 years or older, have an interest in learning to sail and swim 25 yards without a lifejacket (PFD). (May be 15-17 years old if accompanied by an adult).

**Equipment requirements:** Participants are required to provide their own life jacket (PFD) US Coast Guard approved, age-appropriate size, and sunscreen, hat, and water shoes.

## Course Content:

**Centerboard Course-** Covers beginning, intermediate and advanced sailing techniques. Boat handling skills, boat related skills, basic rules of the road, safety, weather and nomenclature. Everything you need to know to sail your own boat safely and with confidence.

**Basic Keelboat-** Covers beginning, intermediate and advanced keelboat techniques. Prerequisite for intermedi-

ate and advanced instruction- you must have beginning keelboat or equivalent sailing experience.

The keelboat course leads you through the essential principles of safe, confident day sailing. It covers basic sailing concepts, boat handling, docking, anchoring, safety and emergencies, weather, basic navigation more clearly and concisely. The keelboats require a minimum of three students per boat.

**Schedule:** 3 days per week (Mon. Tues. Thurs.) for 3 weeks, 6 to 9pm.

### 2 Sessions:

- 1st session: June 11 through June 28
- 2nd session: July 9 through July 26

**Class Size:** 16 students per session

**Cost per Student:** \$25 non-refundable Registration Fee, Plus \$55 class fee for WVSC members; \$255 for non-members. (Spouse or family member \$80)

**Fee Includes:** USSA "Start Sailing Right" or "Basic Keelboat" instruction manual, instruction, use of a Catalina 14.2 (if checked out) boat for the summer, T-shirt and certificate. Includes a membership to Walnut Valley Sailing Club which begins at the beginning of class and continues for the remainder of the year.

**Boats used:** Capri 14.2, Sonar, Catalina 22 and Catalina 25's

**Registration and Questions:** Call Gary Pierce 316-686-8823 or Gene Nold 316-636-2091

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## 2007 WALNUT VALLEY SAILING CLUB/STEP SAILING APPLICATION

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I am a  member  non-member of Walnut Valley Sailing Club

I wish to enroll in the  Youth Program  Adult Program

Session 1- June 11 - June 28 \_\_\_\_\_

Session 2- July 9 - July 26 \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose the non-refundable deposit of \$25 with this application. Mail to: WVSC Sailing Program c/o Gary Pierce, 1431 South 127th Street East, Wichita, Kansas 67207



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



**Friday, March 23 at 7:30pm**