

# THE WINDWORD

The Newsletter of the Walnut Valley Sailing Club

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FEBRUARY 2024

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photo above: by Troy Oberly

**Word from the Commodore:**

Greetings:

So far in El Dorado we've had rain, snow, and freezing ice. As much as we would like more spring like weather, this weather is actually starting to raise the lake level. Keep your fingers crossed that the lake levels continue to rise. We're all ready for smooth sailing this summer with a full lake. Hopefully we won't receive all of the rain and snow at one time.

I've received several text and calls from folks wondering, "Where's our Commodore?" Above is a photo of where I am. Can you guess my location? I'll be back in El Dorado for our February board meeting. In the mean time, stay safe and try to stay warm.

Troy Oberly



*To reach your desired port, we must sometimes sail  
with the wind and sometimes against it.*

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WHERE'S OUR DISTINGUISHED COMMODORE, TROY?

Washington, B. C.

Select

On location, filming a James Bond movie.

Select

Daingerfield Marina Yacht Club

Select

Seattle, Washington

Select

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**COMMODORE**

Troy Oberly  
316-648-0649

**REAR COMMODORE**

Stuart Funk  
620-382-5866

Robert Fusco  
316-687-9403

**VICE COMMODORE**

Julie Barth  
316-644-4582

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

James McEwen  
620-705-1700

**WEBMASTER**

Charlie Volk  
316-347-1771

**TREASURER**

Preston Brammer  
316-655-5838

Michael Sheppard  
316-322-5212

**NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR**

Tedd Blankenship  
316-775-1064

**SECRETARY**

Doug Albro  
316-775-7287

Chris Proudfoot  
316-210-6508

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WVSC club members are invited to share a brief bio. and a photo. It's always interesting to learn more about our WVSC sailors. Who knows, next month it may be you. Thanks to all that have participated.

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## **2024 WVSC Socials Sailing Activities Calendar**

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**January:**

First Day Hike; Today - New Year's Day at 10:00 AM  
El Dorado Lake State Park

**February:**

Racing Season Planning Meeting,  
Sat, Feb 17th, 3:00 pm. Andover Pizza Hut.

Second Annual WVSC Socials - Sailing  
Activities - Planning Mtg. and Fire Show!  
Saturday, Feb. 24th, 6:30 P.M. Stearman's Bar & Grill  
Dinner & Mtg. text Julie Barth 316-644-4582

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Sailors are getting fired up now for our

**Second Annual WVSC Socials - Sailing  
Activities Planning Mtg. and Fire Show!**

**Saturday, Feb. 24th, 6:30 P.M.**

## Stearman Bar & Grill, Benton, KS Dinner & Mtg. text Julie Barth 316-644-4582

Last year we had 25 enthusiastic sailors show up for our WVSC Socials and Sailing Activities Planning Mtg. Not only did we get a bucket-load planned, we had a blast doing it. Come out, help us plan and join the fun. We want to hear about your ideas for Sailing Activities and Socials - no matter what they are!

### Word on the docks:

Paul Schye and Patty-Pyro plan to perform the "Fire Dance" immediately following our meeting. What an amazing way to kick off the season! Thanks Paul. Thanks Patty!

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As always, nothing is set in stone. If you have an idea for a social or sailing activity, or would like to help out, contact Troy Oberly, Julie Barth or any board member.

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## FIRST DAY HIKE & Rattlesnake Hunt??

El Dorado State Park, Jan. 1st, 2024

A few - a couple to be exact - without naming names - pictured to the left



in the photo above - grey scarf, grey cap, yellow scarf, navy cap... somehow got the impression that the First Day Hike was a nature hike and rattlesnake hunt. Said couple brought their newly carved snake sticks along with knee high wooden gators. Though we never saw a rattlesnake, we all had a wonderful time - hiking. Word on the docks: next year there may be a spearfishing contest along with the First Day Hike. Who would have thought?

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**Only 49 Days  
Until Spring!**



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**Take a Closer Look**



You may want to sit down and  
think for a minute or two on this one.

We've all seen this image before. If not, we should have. When you think you've got this photo figured out, pat yourself on the back and then scroll down to the conclusion of this scholarly publication and check your hypothesis.

If you immediately scrolled down without ever giving it a second thought, that's okay Skipper. It's all good, we know who you are.

This is the first image in a series of mystery photos headed our way; it won't be the last. Hats off to [Chris Duncan](#) for the first pair of images in the series. Well done Chris. Thanks!



*Welcome*  
*Glad you're here!*

**Jared Hague** joins the ranks at WVSC.

Sorry we don't have an official photo of you just yet Jared, hopefully next month we will. In the mean time, here's our best guess of what we think you must look like based on the information your delightful girlfriend provided us over the phone. Welcome to Walnut Valley Sailing Club. We're pleased as punch to have you both as members at WVSC!



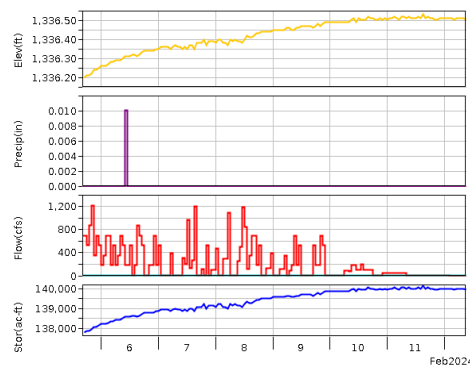
In the event of an emergency this is the address to provide EMS, First Responders:

Walnut Valley Sailing Club  
4599 N E Boulder Bluff Road  
El Dorado KS 67042



**Click on the graph at right to view our current lake level data.**

The illustration below is a visual reminder of the natural inflows and outflows that determine if a natural lake maintains pool level or not. Obviously our *lake* is actually a reservoir and has a large dam at the



**El Dorado Lake Inflow-  
Outflow Data**

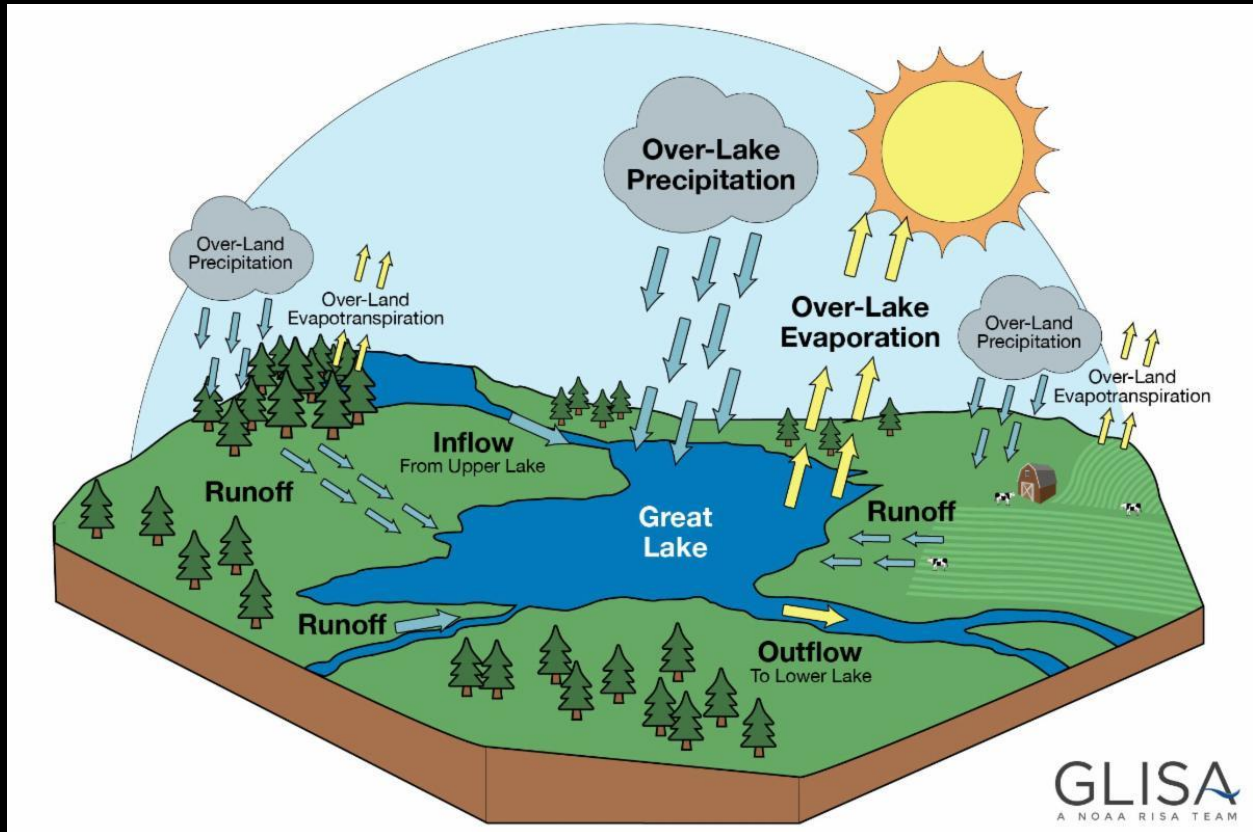


south end. Recreational water use is not the top priority for the water stored at El Dorado.

CLICK ON THE GRAPH ABOVE TO VIEW CURRENT DATA

[Read more](#)

[www.swt-wc.usace.army.mil](http://www.swt-wc.usace.army.mil)



# Just Beyond B Docks

# The Fear of Failure

*You're 100% right Skipper. This is a sailing newsletter and we're sailors, not woodworkers. I get it. Read this article by Ben Strano and every time Ben mentions wood or woodworker substitute sails or sailing to the text. Want to be a better sailor? While you read the article think about your own personal concept of failure. Does it apply? Ben's article is posted on my shop wall and I reread it again often.*



**Ben Strano argues that you'll become a better woodworker when you accept and expect that mistakes will happen:**

Before me sits a pile of failed pieces. Attempts at making wood bend in precise ways it didn't want to bend. I'm not bothered one bit by this pile. I've been trying to figure out why it's not bothering me. Years past, I'd have been annoyed by every single one of these pieces not turning out the way that I wanted them to. Each one would have made me feel discouraged, then frustrated, then likely I would have abandoned the project altogether.

This job gives me a glimpse behind the curtain. I've seen woodworkers that I have looked up to for years—straight up—screw up. They all do. I've seen mistakes made by Mike Pekovich, Chris Becksvoort, Bob Van Dyke, Tim Rousseau, Chris Gochnour ... let's just say I've seen some mistakes made by them all. The difference is, they do it with style. They deal with it, and they move on. When you're learning how to work wood—by yourself in your shop—you can only take in the information that's given to you. Most of the time, you see the end product. Whether it's the product of fancy video editing, or the product of countless iterations and prototypes, you are seeing the end product. Stop judging yourself, your skills, or your project on other people's end products. Trust me, you're not seeing the repetition. You're not seeing all that has gone into a piece. You can't.

I no longer assign value to my woodworking skills based on my current or past projects. For me, woodworking is a journey. Once I stopped thinking that every project had to be perfect, I got better and better because my attitude got better. I was able to try things and not worry about their outcome. I was able to move forward with a project even though it was flawed. You don't get better by stopping. My projects have flaws. They will always have flaws. But, every time I screw up, it's one more notch on the wall, one more "point" earned, one more mistake that I can stop worrying about. They are all there for the taking. Until you make the mistake, and learn from the mistake, it's just waiting for you to stumble upon it.

If I make a new mistake, I'd better find a way to learn from it. Why did it happen? How can I set myself up to make sure it doesn't happen next time? Do I need to use a different tool or technique? Did I not inspect my material properly? Did I mark my piece properly? Etc. etc.

If it's an old mistake that has reared its head again, I know how to fix it. It's not nearly as daunting the second time around. Laugh it off, suck it up, and fix it.

When I look at the pile of failed bends in front of me, I see notches on the wall. Whether it was a change to a bending form, more time in the steambox, or better clamping techniques, I learned from every single one of them, getting me closer to my final goal. From the moment I cut into the board, I knew these pieces were not do or die. I milled up extra stock because I knew I was going to try some new techniques and rack up some "mistake points." I knew that I would find success in a good bend, or a bad bend. Accept that you're going to make mistakes. They are not novel. Learn to glory in them, because that's the only way they are worth it.

By Ben Strano  
Fine Woodworking - 2020



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## Triple Dog Dare You!

If you're curious, come on out!  
We're always happy to have visitors.

Stay 5 minutes or hang out all afternoon.  
We have chairs, a wood stove, coffee, a  
boom - a yard, rudder, mast and a  
lethargic Black Mouth Cur, *until she's not*.



Tedd: 316-775-1064  
7:00 AM to 11:00 PM  
OPEN INVITATION!  
Visit anytime now through spring.  
5720 SW Santa Fe Lake Road,  
Augusta, KS

Essentially the boat is a boat. The  
next phase involves sanding, fairing,  
filing, shaping, epoxy, varnish,  
painting, rigging, etc.

## Tech. Tip of the Month



### The Nantucket Sounder

A bronze sounding lead with an inset hollowed star that can be filled with vaseline, grease, even peanut butter, so you'll know what the bottom's surface is like before you set your hook, as well as knowing how much scope you need for anchoring. Also include: instructions/background info.

Complete Sounder: (line, lead, bag)  
Sixty feet of braided line is included. The sounding lead of many years ago was most often attached to a very long line, as there were no electronic sounders to probe great depths. Instead of a knot every fathom, more elaborate markings were used to indicate unambiguously a variety of depths: [ext Link](#)



In case you're wondering what *blue serge* is...we spotted this smartly clad sailor in a blue serge jacket out on A docks last week?

Is that Jared Hague per chance?



Traditionally, markers used to designate water depths were as shown in the list below:

- 2 fathoms - a 2-ended scrap of leather
- 3 fathoms - a 3-ended scrap of leather
- 5 fathoms - a scrap of white calico
- 7 fathoms - 1 strip of red wool bunting
- 10 fathoms - leather bound with hole in it
- 13 fathoms - a piece of thick *blue serge*
- 15 fathoms - a piece of white calico
- 17 fathoms - a piece of red wool bunting
- 20 fathoms - a cord with 2 knots
- 30 fathoms - a cord with 3 knots

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## Out on the Race Course

Our 2024 Racing Season Planning Meeting is Sat, Feb 17th, 3:00 pm. Andover Pizza Hut.

Club members interested in racing are welcome to attend. Any questions, please feel free to give Blaine Van Dam a call at: 316-371-4166





Curious, but don't have any race experience...

no worries, come on out. We would love to help you get started racing with an experienced skipper, or racing on your own boat. We've all been beginners before. It's great fun, we have a great group of racers and you only need to learn three or four simple *rules of the road*... piece of cake. See you on the 17th.

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## **WVSC Board of Governors Meeting Minutes**

January 11th, 2024, 7:00 PM

Butler County EMS Station

**[Click here to view the January Meeting Minutes](#)**

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# Don't Be Shy

## We would be delighted

to hear about your latest rock stacking challenge or how you roast Cornish hens off the stern of your boat, actually we'd love to hear about anything you've been up to lately, sailing or otherwise. We're just happy to hear from you!

And yes, people stack rocks for fun. Three rocks stacked on a trail are known as a cairn; both beautiful and functional. They tell you, you're still on the trail... and not lost yet!



We reserve the right to edit for length and/or relevance. We may hold your submission for future publications or not use it at all.

No copyright materials please. Thanks for the photos Chris Duncan and Troy Oberly.

Send information to: [teddblankenship59@gmail.com](mailto:teddblankenship59@gmail.com)

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Earning work credits at WVSC is easier than locating those incredibly rare Peacock Half Moon Orindas you've been scouring the entire planet for. Now that you've found them...

## Come on out!

\$10 per hour up to 10 hours. We need you! Work Credit hours directly reduce your annual fees by as much as \$100. Not only that, you'll go home feeling great about pitching in and helping out.

If you can only help out an hour or two here and there, no worries. That's



With all of the cold hard cash you're going to save, you could finally afford to buy one, maybe two Half Moons. Contact a board member today! Order your Peacock Half Moons tomorrow! Only 295 pounds sterling each!

fine. Hours are flexible, and the dress code is always bow tie and blue blazer casual.

To all of our fine WVSC friends out there working to keep the lights on... thanks. We appreciate your time and effort.

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## YOUR COUCH

Racing Season Planning Meeting  
Saturday, Feb 17th 3:00 PM Andover Pizza Hut

Second Annual WVSC Socials - Sailing  
Activities Planning Mtg. and Fire Show!  
Saturday, Feb. 24th, 6:30 P.M. Stearman Bar & Grill

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## JOKE OF THE MONTH



Where did the flying boat land?

Just beyond B docks... at the *air-port*, of course.

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Boats & Gear For Sale





### 1980 O'day 23

Shore-lander tandem axle trailer with keel roller launch/retrieve & 1979 7.5 HP Electric Start Mercury Outboard (old but runs well). Sails: Main, Jib, Genoa, Storm Jib. Has shoal draft keel (24" draft with C/B up) In Yard Space 618 at Ninnescah Sailing Association, Cheney Lake  
Hull #XDYT0514M79G  
\$6000 OBO Photo above  
Contact Jim Steck (316-737-9010) or Jason Kaufman (316-393-9691)

### 15' Beach Pea

Designed by Doug Hylan. Two rowing stations. Sailing rig, rudder, tiller, mast, and sprit finished and ready to go. New custom made Doyle sail, oars, and oarlocks included. Rudder, CB, and mast need installation. \$4,600.

George Grimes  
508-284-6551  
Rockport, MA 01966







**It's official.**  
**We reciprocate with Ninnescah Yacht Club**

List your boat, your antiquated outhaul or that sharp looking wooden boat you forgot you own in Maine.

Contact: [teddblankenship59@gmail.com](mailto:teddblankenship59@gmail.com) for the Windword or Angela at Cheney to place your free ad: [editor@ninnescah.org](mailto:editor@ninnescah.org)

Walnut Valley Sailing Club | Walnut Valley Sailing Club, Boulder Bluff Road, El Dorado, KS 67042

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# WVSC Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

Butler County EMS Station

## Call to Order – 7:04 PM

Lake Level: 1333.96. (+1.2 ft. since last meeting)

### BOG members present:

Commodore: Troy Oberly (on assignment in Washington DC)  
Vice Commodore: Julie Barth  
Rear Commodore: Stuart Funk  
Treasurer: Preston Brammer  
Secretary: Doug Albro  
Board Members: Robert Fusco, Mike Shepperd, Blaine VanDam, Jim McEwen (not present),

## Commodore's Remarks

Commodore Oberly forwarded remarks: The Christmas party was a huge success with positive feedback comments from numerous members.

## December 12 BOG Meeting Minutes Approval

The minutes of the 12 December BOG meeting were presented. Blain moved and Julie Barth seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Secretary identified correction to remove Tim Miller association with this activity. The minutes were approved.

## Membership Concerns -

A single bid on the lifting floats has been received (from Dana Herring). Julie Barthf will send out a text to indicate the bidding is closing.

Questions/suggestions were received about having two races with the 14.2 boats (summer and fall). BOG is in favor of this. These will need many helpers.

## New Business -

We will need to begin planning social activities for the year. Last year a meeting was held to get interested parties together for planning (a restaurant in Benton, KS). Julie indicated we will do this again this year; perhaps a different location. The group noted that this meeting created timely decision making.

<u>Committee Reports:</u>	<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
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<b>Long Range Planning</b>	Julie Barth	Blaine Van Dam
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Again, there is much discussion related to the Internet/Security systems planning.

We were intending to take a vote in February. As of this meeting no BOG members have heard of any members' concerns. Putting out email can still allow time to receive input. While the BOG has been to enable the installation of a Security system, the BOG notes that there is general interest in making internet access available, even if we don't have or install security cameras. Mike Shepperd heard and noted that we may wish to consider the items separately. There are quite a few things can be done with internet only. A security camera system would

## WVSC Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

need the internet as a backbone, and require most of the bandwidth that a low end provider (e.g. Velocity) can provide..

The group noted that we can also consider implementing the security system with lesser internet provider, and then changing to larger bandwidth afterward.

Our information to members should indicate that our first interest has been to provide a security system. This interest is to provide protection and deterrent for acts against Club assets. We should ask first if there is interest in this, and also to ask about making internet access available at the club facility. Our information transmittal will ask people to come to February's meeting to speak.

As a side note, "We will stay away from any audio recording."

BOG suggestion that we provision for 4 cameras, and post other decoy's. Place signs to indicate video observation is in place.

The BOG concurs with decision for activities this month:

- We will get costs for internet. Get info from Starlink, and from Chris Proudfoot who spoke with Velocity. This information appears in 2023 minutes
- Invite people to come to meeting; we are planning on voting.
- Bring data forward from previous meetings.
- Look for someone who is competent in installing a system.
- Make a decision in March. February meeting will be authorization to proceed.
- A final, written motion will be created. This will suggest a Not to Exceed value.

### Powerboats

Preston Brammer

Bart Peace

There is not much going on. We will do oil changes into spring. Blaine noted that its good to change gear oil in lower units each year. (Bart Peace is the chair of this committee). This was the first season of usage for one engine. We did not do more than 10 hours on any motor this year. Committee will also look into doing any needed greasing. Lights have been added to committee boats. Preston indicated we are looking to get a replacement cover for the bimini top..

### Harbor

James McEwen

Charlie Volk

Chris Duncan has indicated interested in working with committee. Dots were painted to review movement of anchor slides. Six anchors have issues with the outer sleeve being stuck. Looking to get a jack to lift them. Planning to remove abandoned Coleman dock boxes and "re-purpose" to bidders (currently at B15).

### Activities Center

Blaine VanDam

Paul Schye

Nothing to report.

### Membership

Ardie Condon

Katy Brammer

There is a new member. Jared Hague. He has a 1974 Catalina. He did submit an application form, and has interest in working with the Sailing Activities committee. Fees have been paid. Doug Albro moves to accept. Stuart Funk seconded. The motion passed.

## WVSC Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

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### Sail Training

Stuart Funk

Stuart Funk

There is no current activity, we are planning for the summer, beginning mid-May. Training is for ages 8 and up.

### Archivist

Doug Albro

Doug Albro

Will bring the approved documents out to the clubhouse.

### Public Relations/Media

Doug Albro

Charlie Volk

Not really anything to report. Web-site issues are sorted out. The site is fragile, but good and crisis is over, so, back to normal operations. Our directory has been updated in past several days.

Charlie received an invoice from Zant, our web site designer/coder. We are waiting to receive further clarification for its coverage. It appears to be related to software upgrades necessary to fix the recent problems.

### Finance

Preston Brammer

Greg Rinker

A report is provided. We are ahead of our budget to date; most members have paid.

There was a discussion of a need to have a "name" against the Post Office box as "owner". Wisdom suggests this is someone "younger" who will be with the club for a "longer while". It is difficult to keep changing the "owner".

Insurance billings will be coming soon. This covers replacement costs and liability. Our deductible is \$10K.

### Dry Storage

Troy Oberly

Stuart Funk

No activity to report. We have received a donated motor stand for that will accommodate a 9.9 hp motor.

It was suggested that we apply pre-emergent application in February. The committee will spray as soon as possible. This year spraying will include use of a dye (to visually determine coverage). BOG Suggest use generic application (not be hard over to get the mare's tail weeds).

### Building and Grounds

Troy Oberly

Mike Shepperd

We have measured the parking lot to determine the area to be covered (if we are to consider doing this effort ourselves). This would drive sealer purchases if that is the direction of movement.

### Calling (& Texting)

Julie Barth

Julie Barth

Nothing to report.

### Racing Activities

Preston Brammer

Blaine Van Dam

Have set up for our annual racing planning meeting. It will February 17<sup>th</sup>. All club members will be invited to participate. The Racing Activities committee is trying to de-conflict with Social Activities (e.g. 14.2 racing events).

### Social Activities

Julie Barth

Tedd Blankenship

There is nothing new; as discussed earlier, we will plan to meet to discuss activities.

### Government Relations

Jim McEwen

Gene Nold

We are still planning to visit with park representatives about the fire ring.



## WVSC Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

### Security

Mike Shepperd

Mike Shepperd

Mike Shepperd is now established on the alarm company call list. Mike has the book on setting lock codes, etc. He suggested posting a sign to have people who have "accidents" to call Mike to pre-empt a sheriff visit.

### Sailing Activities

Blaine Van Dam

Troy Oberly

Note about 14.2 sailing events. Will work to fit in with and not detract from social activities.

### Business Calendar –

Meeting for Racing will be planned. Meeting for Social Activities will be planned. Annual registrations with state are upcoming.

### Old Business -

There was no Old Business.

### New Business

Members did participate in the New Years Day walk. It was cold.

### Motion to Adjourn -

Blaine Van Dam made motion to Adjourn, Mike Shepperd seconded. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Next meeting is 8 February at 7:00 pm.

### Respectfully Submitted

Doug Albro – Secretary

# WVSC Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

	Nov - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Training Revenue	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00
Initiation Fees	200.00		
Interest Income	18.19		
Member Activities	960.00	3,000.00	-2,040.00
Membership Fees			
Membership Dues	25,475.00	24,750.00	725.00
Work Credit Adjustment	-1,950.00		
Total Membership Fees	23,525.00	24,750.00	-1,225.00
Miscellaneous Income	185.00		
Rentals			
Dry Storage Rental	11,100.00	11,300.00	-200.00
Slip Rentals			
Slip Rental - One Year	0.00	31,950.00	-31,950.00
Total Slip Rentals	0.00	31,950.00	-31,950.00
Total Rentals	11,100.00	43,250.00	-32,150.00
Total Income	35,988.19	74,000.00	-38,011.81
Expense			
Annual Meeting Expense	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Annual Awards/Trophies	195.42	500.00	-304.58
Committee Expenditures			
Training	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00
Fleet Maintenance - Sailboats	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
Activities Center	0.00	3,500.00	-3,500.00
Buildings & Grounds	5,122.00	7,500.00	-2,378.00
Dry Storage	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
Fleet Maintenance- Power Boats	0.00	700.00	-700.00
Government Relations	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Harbor	90.00	4,000.00	-3,910.00
Membership	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Public Relations	156.00	1,400.00	-1,244.00
Racing Activities	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Sailing Activities	0.00	350.00	-350.00
Security	115.04	1,500.00	-1,384.96
Social Activities	1,223.96	6,000.00	-4,776.04
Total Committee Expenditures	6,707.00	32,200.00	-25,493.00
Insurance	0.00	26,100.00	-26,100.00
Taxes			
Property Taxes	1,851.25	4,200.00	-2,348.75
Total Taxes	1,851.25	4,200.00	-2,348.75
Fees/Dues/Licenses/Permits/Rent	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00
General & Admin	284.10	3,000.00	-2,715.90
Miscellaneous	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Utilities			
Electricity	549.11		
Water	7.34		
Utilities - Other	0.00	5,500.00	-5,500.00
Total Utilities	556.45	5,500.00	-4,943.55
Total Expense	9,594.22	78,500.00	-68,905.78
Net Ordinary Income	26,393.97	-4,500.00	30,893.97
Net Income	26,393.97	-4,500.00	30,893.97

30