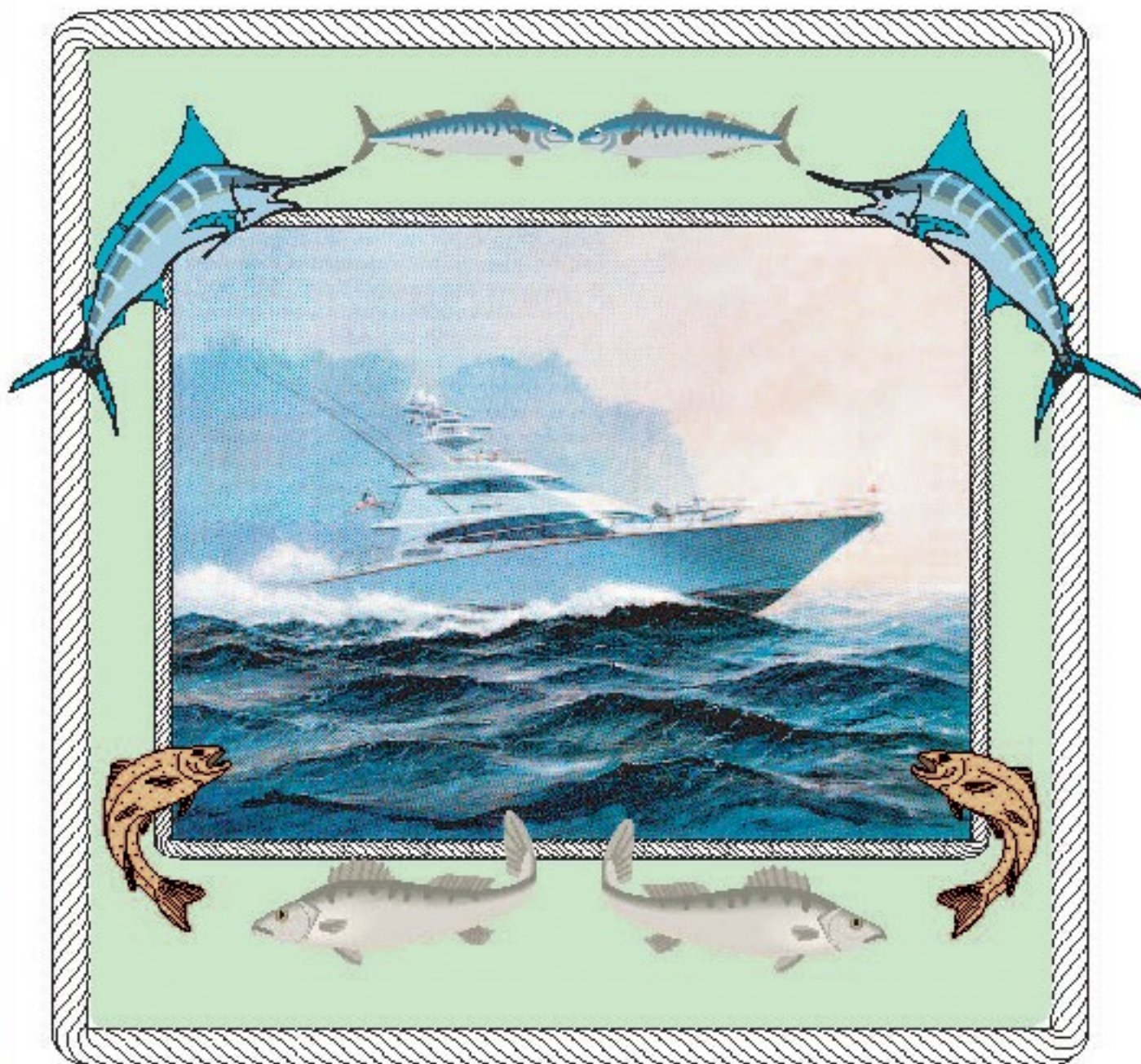


2006



# Letter Log

*The Official Publication of the Fort Walton Yacht Club*



## AUGUST



*Editors: Jan Thomas & Naomi Brown*

# FROM THE COMMODORE'S CORNER

In reviewing this month, it looks like most things are kind of routine. That's pretty much true. We seem to be moving along well, without major issues. The ECSA sailing classes have ended and the Club races (Wednesday and Friday) are in full swing as well as intra-club races and regattas. Everyone is busy having a good time.

**Wet Slips, Docks** – Dockmaster Linda Wright gave the Board a review of the status of the slips and docks. This will become a regular monthly item to be sure that the Board and membership are kept aware of this important and valuable asset of our Club. More will appear under the VC section.

The Hurricane Committee (Cathy Jones) has been working with Linda Wright and Shari Seaton to get up to date contact information for all boats on the docks and in dry slips. In the event of a hurricane/tropical storm event you will be contacted. Two new portable VHF radios have been obtained by the Hurricane Committee to assist in communications. Don't forget.... update, upgrade your ground tackle, chafe gear, chain, rode, etc... It's a long season.

**WebSite** – Allen Chapman, our webmaster, is in discussions and planning with the Letter Log (Bob Lester, graphics, and Jan Thomas and Naomi Brown, editors) to come up with a way to post the Letter Log on our website.



This will permit all of us to see the beautiful color covers and have better fidelity for pictures, graphics, etc. As this plan gets actualized you will get an email and of course we will be highlighting it here. Thanks to Allen, Bob, Jan, and Naomi for working to get this going.

## **WOW (Women on the Water) of FWYC – Lynne Reynolds**

The Women on the Water met on 19 July, with long-time members, new members, and those in-between attending. A wide variety of matters were discussed, great food was enjoyed and a great time was had by all. This group is open to ALL LADIES of FWYC. Our luncheons have been changed (by request) to the second Wednesday of each month, from 1200h noon until 1330h (1:30pm). Do plan to join the fun next time, on 9 August 06 (and every month) in the Commodores' Room!

**The Point** – I'm sure that the Vice Commodore will give much more detail, but I just wanted to let you know that Prentice Thomas, a long standing Club member and archaeologist, has completed the required survey of the Point. His archaeological team recovered no evidence of artifacts, so there is no problem and we can shortly begin with construction. David Vaughan has been working with Top Notch Construction on their new schedule. The borrowing program continues to go well. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> lottery we have raised additional funds and we now stand around

\$66,000. Additional monies are coming in and we don't anticipate any problems. Thanks to all of you who have participated.

**Submerged Land Lease** - We have gotten a letter from the City of Fort Walton Beach confirming that our proposed 10' addition on the north and west side of the docks is consistent with The Comprehensive Plan. Following a technical revision of the drawing we will have satisfied all requirements for the Florida Dept of Environmental Protection.

**Food and Drink** - With summer here and picnics and drop in get-togethers, I would like to remind everyone that brought in food should not be eaten on the patio or in the club. Obviously we would like to have you purchase lunch, etc. at the Club. And, by the way, if you're planning an outing, the kitchen can prepare sandwiches etc for you if you give them a little advance notice. Our liquor license does not allow members or guests to bring beer, wine or spirits into the building, patio, or Brinckmann Pavillion. We have made changes in our license to specifically exempt the docks, your boat and the Gazebo in order to allow you to have parties, picnics, dock parties, etc.

Please keep these in mind so that we don't run afoul of our own or the state's rules.



You may have noticed that we have installed a camera overlooking the ice machine. The Club has been losing some \$100/month because people are forgetting to sign out when they get ice. We hope this will be a gentle reminder to sign for ice.

**The Appointments Committee** – The

Appointments' Art Committee have changed the Club pictures in the dining room for this quarter. Take a look- there are some interesting shots. Many thanks to all who have submitted photos for this purpose: keep sharing your experiences with us, as the pictures let folks know just how active this Club truly is. Special thanks to Char Gibicsar for her help in arranging for the display. Bulletin Board repair is scheduled for the end of July. It will surely be an improvement. Be sure to thank Pat Tye, Karen David, Karen Gercak, and Lynne Reynolds for their labors. Next on the repair/re-decoration list is the Castaway Room! Let Appointments Chair Lynne W. Reynolds know if you would like to pitch in and help. Also, new in August will be the introduction of a framed presentation of the members of the Board of Directors in the foyer area. This is to be a perpetual feature: that is, the pictures can be changed when the officer changes.

**Trophy Committee** – This doesn't come under the category of sailing trophies but it clearly is a FWYC trophy/treasure. As you come into the Club look to your left on the outside wall and take special note of the FWYC special nameplate. Barbara Harrington has taken many hours cleaning up, regilding, and restoring, this, our club face to the world. This nameplate was given to FWYC by the Blue Gavel in Sept 1990 and like all things needs TLC and much work to keep it looking good. Barbara has put in all those hours and now it really looks great. Thanks Barbara for all your hard work on this and also the continuing work on our trophies.

**Honorary Member** – as you may know, FWYC, annually offers honorary membership to a limited number of people, among those “..Persons filling the highest-ranking positions of leadership and responsibility in areas influencing our interests, our sailing waters and the general welfare of the area..” . We are pleased to let the membership know that CWO Charles A. Bush, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Station Destin was voted honorary

membership at the July Board meeting. Our long time friend Timothy Monk has been reassigned to Michigan and Chuck Bush has come to Destin from Texas. We welcome him and his family and hope to see them at FWYC from time to time as duties permit.

All members are reminded that Board meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and are open to the membership.

**Tom Reynolds**

**Commodore**

[t.reynolds@ieec.org](mailto:t.reynolds@ieec.org)

897-7323

#### OUR PEOPLE ASSETS

**Hal Pruett**

**On any given day you can find Hal in the office lending his considerable skills in computer hardware and software to the FWYC humming along. As all of you know, computers are temperamental beasts and Hal is just the guy to keep them continually updated and running smoothly. He has been invaluable in the setup of new software for the bookkeeping operations and for being sure that we have external hard drives for backing up our systems in the event of severe weather or other disaster.**

**Hal, thanks for your expertise and all the many hours you give to the Club!!!**

## Vice Commodore's Briefing Room

**W**ell folks, we made it, into the 'dog days of summer.' Hot and sticky, and yes the afternoon thundershowers have finely arrived. The lawn at the Club is showing its appreciation for the rain. It is finally greening up in most places. Berry had some difficulty with the sprinkler system last month, but now that that issue has been resolved, we should see "greener pastures."

- **Around the ClubHouse:** The refrigeration system for the walk in freezer, within the kitchen, could not have picked a worse time to go down. On the Fourth of July the temperature was rising, not only for our picnics, but within the freezer too. Berry put an emergency fix on the compressor, and I bought a shopping cart full of dry ice, while we awaiting the shipping of the new compressor. Thanks to some innovative thinking on the part of Mark and the kitchen staff, we lost very little to spoilage or melting and the freezer was back humming away at it sub zero temperature within days.

- **The Point:** We all owe a big THANK YOU to Prentice Thomas, our Archeologist

Club member. With a new law on the books and interest in preserving historic sites in Florida, our



construction of the retaining wall at Smack Point was delayed awaiting an archeological survey of the area. Prentice's team completed this survey at no cost to the Club in record time. And, as

the commodore said, we have no problem! Again Prentice Thank you so much!!

With all the squares filled, on the application for the City permit to build the retaining wall, I was able to secure the permit, which is now posted at the Club. Top Knotch Construction has been notified, and they project to start the work on or about August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Let us all remember to stay clear of the point while the work is being conducted. We're going to have to find alternate locations for our boat trailers, though at this point, that seems to be the only thing in the way of construction. Be mindful of the hazards associated with the construction, and let's let them do their job with minimal interference. Thanks, in advance, to all members for their cooperation in this manner.

- **Docks and Dry Storage.** Linda Wright and Shari Seaton have been doing an excellent job in maintaining our maximum use of both the wet and dry slips. Linda made a thorough presentation complete with spreadsheets, trends and future trends to the Board of Directors during the July meeting, bringing everyone up to date.

With the Submerged Land Lease agreement now complete, we should see a little bit of boat shuffling, getting the larger boats to the outside docks, and smaller ones to the inside. Linda's plan involves minimum disruption to slip holders, though a few of you may experience minor inconvenience in the short term.

- **Dock Repair:** The Board of Directors gave final approval for the repair of the

docks during the July meeting. The Requests for Proposals have gone out, and are now being looked over and bids being submitted by potential contractors. The necessary work involves replacing a few pilings, pulling submerged pilings, replacing cross braces between pilings and installation of rub rails on those pilings being replaced. The work should take about a week, when it starts, which we anticipate to be in September.

With this last bit of information, I'll close for now and look forward to seeing you around the club.

*David Vaughan*  
*Vice Commodore*  
*Dave\_cat@earthlink.net*

## REAR COMMODORE'S PARTY CHAT

**International Dining Night – Italy**, was on **July 29<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Chef Mark took the members on another evening adventure in international dining. This time we visited the home of the most diverse cuisine in the world - Italy. Italy is famous for the unique and changing nature of the presentation of its wonderful food. Chef Mark covered the country from the Neapolitan south with his Tomato, Basal and Mozzarella Cheese stacked salad, to the north where the influences of the French, Swiss and Austrians led to the creation of rich brown sauces and Chef Mark's Osso Bocco, a veal shank portion in a vegetable-rich and dark broth that melted in your mouth. It all came together with two familiar desserts – Tiramisu and a beautiful Cannoli surrounded with fresh berries. Italian wines are now competing with the best in the world –and we were served a sampling with insightful comments from an expert on Italian wines. Eric Hanley from Southern Wine & Spirits, and long time member

Bill Hanley's son, provided helpful commentary that added to our understanding of the Italian wines we enjoyed with our dinner.

**Western Night** will be on **August 26<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**. Find your jeans and cowboy boots. Look for your cowboy shirt and your wide brimmed hat - - it's Western Night at the FWYC. Take a few minutes to practice your "Howdy partner." Carole Langford, Mary Harrison, and Jane Waters have arranged for: a dynamic duo to "pick and git" the appropriate country and western music, lots of great decorations, and a great menu on our "Western Buffet" with Ribs,



Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, etc. There may even be a bit of line dancing. Remember, you are more important than what you are wearing. We like your company, your laughter,

your appetite, and your thirst. The party theme is only a reason for getting together. So, mark your calendar and give Sandra a call for your reservations.

The **Annual Gourmet Dinner & Dance** is on **September 23<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday)** Chef Mark will be sharing his kitchen with Chef Tim Creehan for this annual dining extravaganza. This has become an annual favorite for the FWYC members. Julie and Ken Smith will be Co-chairing this annual dining event. Chef Mark and Chef Tim will be providing a fabulous menu from their broad experience. It promises to be a night not to be missed. More details on the menu will be out shortly - watch for the lobby poster for more information. Make your reservations early; this one fills up very fast.

**Rat-a-tat-tat - the Roaring Twenties Party** is back on for **September 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**. The FWYC will be decorated as a 1920's speak-easy. There are two important reasons for setting the delayed party on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. First, the date was available for the band we had hired for the evening - so, Pat was able to negotiate the new date and save our deposit (big yeah!). Second, the date falls into the billing cycle following the Gourmet Dinner Party - so, our members do not have two parties on the same bill. The entertainment surprise has been revealed - **Stage Crafters** members will be providing a **Cabaret Show** with song and dance numbers from the 20's. Club member Ed Kelley, local little theater star Jane Judkins and their friends have planned and practiced their entertainment surprise. The "**Sugar Sweet Trio**" will provide dance music for the rest of the evening. Please note that Glenda, Party City Manager, has gone to special effort to stock items for the Roaring 20's party - dresses, special "pearl" beads, cigarette holders, Fedora Hats for the men, etc. Be sure to check them out before the party. Dressing up for the party is a fun part of the evening. However, your participation is more important to all of us. So, no shoulder holster, no stripped "gangsta" suit, no flapper dress or hat - no problem, ...make your reservations. See you in the Roaring 20's on September 30th. Come and enjoy the fun

#### **Lessons Learned:**

First, it appears that in spite of a lot of encouragement to try things, the summer months are very busy for our members and, therefore, participation in Club activities is a challenge. I will be recommending to the next Rear Commodore that he or she plan to not schedule parties in June and July. Also, that the August party be scheduled late in that month.

Second, I have received feedback that we should continue to try and "restart" the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic and boat caravan. I will recommend we try that again with a controlled commitment on the part of club members and the club kitchen.

As always, I appreciate and rely on your feedback and insights.

**Thank you to our terrific Entertainment Committee members for your continued outstanding support and contributions to our Club.** Below are the dates for our planning and decorating in August, September, and October. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at the following scheduled events.

**Looking ahead...**

- Entertainment Committee Meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- **Western Night** on August 26<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)
- Entertainment Committee Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- **Annual Gourmet Dinner** on September 23<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday)
- **Roaring Twenties Party** on September 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)
- Entertainment Committee Meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- Third *International Dining Night (October Fest)* on October 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Annual Halloween Party** in the Lounge on October 28<sup>th</sup>

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**Valentine's Day Cruise – February 2007:**

Included, as a separate page in the August Letter Log, is the cruise information for the Royal Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas* trip scheduled for Valentine's Day week in February of 2007. Club members already have fifty rooms reserved on this cruise. Tammi has also arranged for buses to and from the ship. She felt the buses would add to the relaxed atmosphere of the cruise. What a great idea! Bus details will be available later this fall. Call to book your adventure on this FWYC trip: Tammi Brant, AAA Travel, 244-3126, x-3227

**Thank you,** to all of our members, for your great support of our club's activities. Please stop and let me know how things are going. Your feedback and your ideas really do help us stay on target.

**Bill Denny**  
**Rear Commodore**

**WOW – Women on the Water:** The ladies of the FWYC are now getting together for monthly WOW luncheons. They have discussed their plans for moving forward with some interesting projects that will raise funds for supporting both club and community efforts. **The WOW meets for lunch from 11:30 to 1:00 on the second Wednesday of each month.** The extended time period for lunch is designed to meet the needs of those ladies who are working and require some flexibility with their lunchtime schedule. Be sure to talk with Dr. Lynne Reynolds, if you want more details.

## The Fleet Beat From the Fleet Captain

The GYA Meigs Regatta held here at our club on July 8 & 9 couldn't have been better! With Phil Pritchett as the PRO, he called for perfect weather, which it was. We had no surprise thunderstorms and good winds held almost continuously from the same direction.



There were 10 boats sailing in Capdevielle, three in Open Scot class, and five

Thistles.

This event wouldn't have gone as smoothly if it weren't for all the volunteers who stepped up and gave their weekend to the club. Those that helped were:

Registration; Marion Bushey, Barbara Harrington, Mary Harrison, Bobbie Prim  
Main Race Committee boat; Fred Cooke and Charles Scott as first mate

Race Committee; Tammi Brant, Chelsey Garner, Leslie Hanley, Gail Mitchell, Shari Seaton.

Mark Set Boat, Jerry DeRay with David Seaton

Pin Set, Ernie Ladd (Phil's boat) with Jennifer Wray, Linda Wright

Finish Boat, Sandy Zevin, with pencils in hand were; Ashley Sukalski, Glen Purcell and Jan "Chattanooga"

Safety/Judges Boat, David Vaughan with Cal Jones aboard as judge.

Scoring; Shari Seaton

Trophies; Barbara Harrington

Hoist Helpers; Charlie Lancaster, Tom Morris



The overall Capdevielle winner was New Orleans Yacht Club. They raced well and

really made it look easy. This top team was father and son; Benz (dad) and Trey (son) Faget. Congratulations from our Club.

Another thank you goes to Tom Morris who replaced our worn halyards on the yardarm out on the point. Thanks for taking care of this so our flags can be hauled up and down without the line breaking. Marshall Brown also gave a hand and we always appreciate it when all the problem areas are taken care of by those who care.

Our race management expertise seems to be known by other clubs, as we have been asked to host two new regattas. We will be hosting and managing the GYA Multihull Championships in October here at the club. Again, the call will go out for volunteers, soooooooooooooo, we may be calling on YOU! Then, a year later the Nacra Multihulls will be here October 2007. Stay tuned for more information.

If you want some entertainment, come down to the Point on any Wednesday night and watch the starts, roundings, and finishes. We have lots of fun on the Wednesday Night Fun Races.

Next time at the next race, I am

**Phyllis Seaton**

**Fleet Captain**

609-0408 or, [billdafret@msn.com](mailto:billdafret@msn.com)

## BREAKING NEWS ON CLUB CHARGES

Mastercard/Visa Charging Available! The Finance Committee, along with the Commodore have been reviewing and discussing how to make credit card charging available to guests of members and guests of the Club (regatta participants, etc).



The goal is to make it easier to accommodate charges by transients from other clubs and guests. From our standpoint, it will also remove the credit risk of accepting checks, a practice we do with extreme reluctance) and should be more convenient for our guests than having to carry large amounts of cash.

We have agreed to a trial period for a credit card terminal to be located in the bar. To cover the additional costs to FWYC of having the terminal/service available, we will have to add a 3.5% service charge. Users of the terminal will be subject to the same restrictions as cash paying guests—they will need to be an identified guest of a member or a identified guest of the Club (for example a participant in a regatta, sailing or Club event). We regret the need to apply a service charge, but otherwise we will operate at a reduced income level and hence lower profit for all charged transactions. The need for a service charge will clearly be marked and advertised. We sure don't want to mislead anyone.

It appears to be cumbersome to have Club members make credit card charges and still get proper member number credit. Also I cannot imagine that members would want to pay a 3.5% service charge when they can charge as normal to their number with no surcharge.

The credit card machine will in no way prevent cash payments.

We will always accept cash: and of course there is no service charge for cash.

We hope this offers a level of improved service and convenience to our FWYC guests. *Tom Reynolds, Commodore*

## AGAINST ALL ODDS

This is a true story about eight ladies who we all, for most purposes, know and a sport we are all familiar with. This has to do with sailing, perseverance, tough competition, not giving up, and a boat with a mind of its own. The short version of this sees this group of Gals jumping on a Pearson Flyer by the name of Cantankerous determined to master her and a Missouri Mule boat that was just as determined they would not. I have owned Cantankerous for many years and never suffered the gear failures that plagued these ladies over the entire time. Let me count the ways. First out of the box was a navigation light that was slightly kicked and went overboard and then several halyards that threatened to part. This went on and on every time the Gals went out to practice, and every time, it was a new list of failures to be repaired. When one thought all that could go wrong had the companionway step broke. Now it starts to get interesting. The gear failures are repaired and Jennifer Grant, as skipper with her husband Sam and Glen Purcell as all round sailor, depart for the Race for the Roses in Pensacola. Guess what? The trip was without incident. You might think the Missouri Mule was beaten and had no more tricks up its sleeve. Ha!

The course consisted of three separate heats, which were windward leeward of four miles each, and the air was light and hot; it had to be

pushing a hundred. Also, we, the guys were not allowed to communicate with the girls on the crew under pain of expulsion/disqualification.

That was an entirely unnecessary rule since that bunch wouldn't listen to us anyhow. Cantankerous let the girls eek out a good second; wasn't that nice of her. Race two was a light air crap shoot with Jennifer and crew making all the right calls thus arriving at the weather mark first in about two knots of wind, followed not only by her fleet, but all of the faster A fleet. They went bopping down to the leeward mark with barely enough wind to keep the chute full and then it happened—the down wash from a nearby thunderstorm came in at well into the 20-knot regime. The gals simply took down the jib and flew toward the finish under main alone; the rest of the fleet followed their lead and did the same. Score a first for the Cantankerous bunch. There was a delay while the Race Committee decided whether or not to hold the final heat since the air was still unsettled from the passing thunderstorm.

Wouldn't you know it... they went for it. So, race 3 started in light conditions. Cantankerous had a lousy start and was sailing well below the fleet, maybe 10 degrees or so and getting worse. I am apoplectic. What is their problem? Blah. Blah. Blah. Finally, they tacked. Unbeknownst to me, several small shackles on the main sheet had decided to break and the ladies literally had no control of the main. I understand there were a few sobs and a few tears as they saw their chances of making a good showing go down the tubes, but then they became cantankerous. One grabbed the remainder of the mainsheet and pulled the main in and Cantankerous was in the hunt again. To put this in perspective, this lady was holding a load that was normally carried by a six-part block and tackle. They managed to get to the weather

mark, put up the chute, and drifted down to the finish.

You might think that is enough for one day, but they had some medical emergencies, too. Faye Black had a bump on her leg that somebody called a hematoma; anyhow, it was big, but they gave Faye a sitting down job since she would not quit. Then, there was the other time it took four of them to put a band-aid on someone. The only other thing I can think of was the gal sitting on the low side dangling her feet in the water: an experienced crew—I think not. Determined? You bet! Innovative? You bet again! Our hats are off to the Fort Walton Ladies. Oh yes, anti-climatic was the final score: second in class and fourth in fleet. Well done again gals. Drum roll, please...

Faye Black  
Gina Coulter  
Deborah Deats,  
Mildred Edwards,  
Jennifer Grant,  
Jan Hine,  
Kim Vinson,  
Lynn Wooten

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Zevin*

## THE OTHER SHOE

Now what the heck is he talking about? There is no way that we can ignore the efforts of Phyllis Seaton and crew aboard Rudder Madness. Simply put, it was not their day as the little Merit 25 is not a light air craft and the records so reflect with 3DFLs....dead frappin' last for the uninitiated. How discouraging this must have been for the crew to see the competition sail off and leave them behind, but don't lose sight of the fact that they never gave up. I would have strongly considered parking it after heat # 1, but not these troopers.

In each race, their starts were great and well into the next couple of tacks they were mixing it up with the Big Girls, but in the light conditions, they simply were no match for the larger and taller rigged competition. But they never gave up, coming back again and again. That spirit is hard to find and we at the FWYC can be very proud of the Ladies aboard Rudder Madness. As to the other shoe, Cantankerous was the first shoe and Rudder Madness the other with a last overall. We cannot candy coat their performance, but it must be tempered with knowledge that they were restricted by the nature of the boat.

Initially I was not going to mention their results for fear of embarrassing them, but after talking to a few of the crew, they were very up and said they had a helluva good time. Can you imagine how much fun they would have had with a win or two. It can't be said too many times: THIS KIND OF SPIRIT MUST NOT GO UNNOTICED. Again my hat off to you crew of the RM:

Tammy Brant.  
Naomi Brown,  
Phyllis Seaton,  
Shari Seaton,  
Linda Wright

*Still respectful, Sandy*

