

M A R C H 2 0 1 8

# Windlines

## Grapevine Sailing Club

*Thursday night  
Tune-ups  
begin!*

*March  
Membership  
Meeting and Social  
Saturday,  
March 10*

*Live to Sail –  
Sail to Live*



**JEFF BAGFORD**

As we all know, GSC is the place to be, and 2018 has started with full sails. The calendar is packed with amazing events that allow us to be together for amazing times.

The first big event of every February is the Super Bowl. Race Captain Victoria Hielscher planned another great event. Not sure how she gets it all done, but I am sure glad she does. Great friends, an overabundance of food and good times (and a positive outcome to the game) made for a great Sunday.

Of course, racing is underway. The Frostbite series has wrapped up. Congratulations to the Skippers and Crews from *Bulletproof*, *Smiles*, *Ohana*, and *Saba Girl* for well-deserved first place finishes. Spring Series had a false start for the first race, but we will get it all going very soon.

I know that Victoria and Asa (and all of you who get those coveted RDG 1s) will join me in thanking Mark Goodwin and Chris Nelson. These sailors gave us the benefit of their expertise by presenting the Race Committee seminar. All the skippers and crew that attended were very complementary. Very well done gentlemen.

As many of you know, the big drama for the beginning of 2018 was the condition of *Calypso*. Unfortunately, it was discovered that our workhorse of a mark set boat has a cracked head. We were

able to obtain a used head, and it is being reconditioned to complete repair. We have been without *Calypso* for several weeks, and the pain is starting show. I do not know what we would have done without Ed Goff, who came out with his Whaler, and Gene Vandevor, and his pontoon boat. These gentlemen saved the Frostbite series.

About five years ago, the board had the foresight to begin a capital fund with the express purpose of providing money for the eventual replacement or partial retirement of *Calypso*. That decision makes it possible to begin the search for a boat to take some of the weight off dear *Calypso*'s beefy beam. The 2018 budget will include drawing a portion of that savings to fund that acquisition. The 2018 Board and I are so grateful to the leadership of the club that they saw fit to protect the future of GSC in this way. Where would we be if this breakdown had occurred during a regatta, or heaven forbid, when trying to get someone out of the water? A second mark set boat (while keeping *Calypso* gingerly motoring on) is paramount to successful

regattas and racing.

The budget, including the draw from the capital fund, was submitted at the February Membership meeting. While it was accepted by those in attendance, I know attendance at the meeting was somewhat limited. Therefore, I plan to be at the March 10<sup>th</sup> membership meeting starting at 6:00 to answer any questions and discuss the budget with any members that would like to meet.

Be sure to keep checking the calendar, as things are showing up all the time. Here's just a few highlights: Spring Series should get underway March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday Night Tune Ups for Mayor's Cup will begin on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Silly String Regatta will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition we will have the Crawfish Boil, Wounded Warrior Sail, Girl's Got Guts Regatta, and racing most other weekends. It is going to be a busy Spring; hold on tight, because here we go.

See you out there!

Hello sailing fans!!

A big thanks for all the volunteers that stepped up for the Couples' Derby!! I was really sad that we had to cancel due to weather, but good times were had in the Clubroom before the social. That is one of the things that I love about this club, this family. We can cancel a race and we still have a great time.



**ERIC BECHTEL**

I hope everyone knows that we have our annual Silly String Regatta for our Juniors coming up on April 7th and 8th. I know the kids are going to blow us all away as they do every year.

I know everyone will get tired of hearing this from me, but Mayor's Cup is coming!!! May 4, 5, 6 and we will need many volunteers to make this happen. I have been told that we have a lot of Catalina 22s and J/24s coming from off lake. We want to put our best foot forward. Please start to think how you could best help out. If you're a morning person we can use you for helping out with getting coffee made. If you like to help moving chairs or tables, we can use you. If you're really good at launching boats, we can use you. If you want to help Bekah with raffle tickets or Kindall with registration, we need you. Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club.

I hope every one in the club gets a chance to get on the water this spring before it gets too hot. I can almost hear the fireworks in the background. Always remember, if it's going to happen, it's going to happen out there.

I've been so pleased with everyone's enthusiastic involvement in GSC's first—and usually the least popular—season. It was flukey weather at best, and led to some challenging sailing conditions for all of us to hone our skills on.



**VICTORIA HIELSCHER**

I'm sure everyone has been touching up on the Rules of Racing as we have been gearing up. (or not...) In reading Racing Rules of Sailing, you might not have made it all the way to Section 50. In this section, there's a rule that is largely dismissed by many out on the course, and it's quite a safety hazard.

### **50.2 Spinnaker Poles; Whisker Poles**

Only one spinnaker pole or whisker pole shall be used at a time except when gybing. When in use, it shall be attached to the foremost mast.

It's easy not to stop to think about what a large gust of wind could do until it happens. Putting a person at the front of the boat, holding a pole that is connected to a sail is a recipe for disaster—lost teeth, an overboard, or worse! It may cost a few dollars to fix the other end of your poles to make them attach to your mast, but it's less than medical bills.

Bottom line is I'm not bringing this rule up to be hard on anyone or to stir up protests, but rather to help everyone realize that there is a rule out there for our benefit—and safety—that many of us have been disregarding. I trust we would rather all avoid the protest room, and stay friends winning races outright, but let's protect our crew as well. So, let's have fun *and* be safe!

---

### ***GSC wants to know....***

In case you were wondering who Bill Mentzer was when we presented awards in January, longtime GSC member Jennie Hayslip (since 1974) gathered information about Bill and why we honor him.

Bill and Caroline Mentzer were two of the early seventies members and he was 2<sup>nd</sup> Rear Commodore in 1976 and 1977. Their boat was a Buccaneer 24 named *Magic*. He served as Club Engineer during the nineties until his death in 1995. As Club Engineer, Bill pretty much became the heart and soul of the Club, running the club office, monitoring the phone and weather station and greeting newcomers. Since he lived in Grapevine close to the lake he was there on almost a daily basis. He made sure the rescue boat *Calypso* was properly berthed and maintained and ready for the Club's next event. He also made sure members were properly trained and qualified to run *Calypso*.

How did Gold Rush get its name?

Jennie contacted several members from the early days and Perry Clark remembers this:

Coors Brewing Company, based in Golden, CO was a sponsor for the regatta. The slogan used was, "It was a race for the gold". The first "Gold Rush Regatta" poster carries the date September 5, 6, and 7, 1977.





**SHERRIE McADEN**

The first monthly membership meeting / social was Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. While the Couples' Derby was cancelled due to weather, I was pleased to see everyone who came out for the meeting/social. We didn't decorate for Valentines but all stayed warm with chili and hot chocolate with marshmallow vodka. That is my new favorite drink for the winter!

Charlotte Ragan won the perpetual trophy with her rum bread pudding! This was another dish that helped us stay warm.

Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> is the next Social – after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Spring Series race. Since St. Patrick's Day is the 17<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate it. I will bring corned beef and cabbage and baked potatoes for those who don't want the corned beef. I look forward to your appetizers and desserts

Hello Everyone!

I am excited the sailing season is cranking up and look forward to the adventures this club will experience in 2018.

Please join me in welcoming our new Grapevine Sailing Club members:

Christopher Aykroyd  
Rob Campos and family  
Rachael and Christoph Gloger  
John Hale  
Elise Hayes  
Neville Grayson  
Samuel Pacifico  
Wesley Reitz and Family  
Ed and Barbara Roch  
Michael Rowland

Alice Wu  
And last but not least, our youngest and most awesome member, Ava Knight!

I will be posting our annual Sailing Seminar in a few days and hope that all of our members will consider volunteering for this and our many other events scheduled this year.

See you on the lake!



**RON SINCLAIR**

We had two visitors from Anchorage, AK stop by during our Board of Directors meeting in February to tell us about the Magellan Project. They told us that the five hundred year anniversary of the world's first documented circumnavigation is fast approaching and the Magellan Project is fundraising to produce a documentary of the retracing of Magellan's route in a modern vessel with modern electronics. See their website at [www.MagellanProject.org](http://www.MagellanProject.org)





**GARY BISSON**

I first met George Talbot when he showed up at the dock to give me my check ride on *Sophia*. I took one look at him and immediately knew that this was some salty dog sailor that had spent his life on the sea. Wrong! Sailing was a recent addition to George's life but as I came to realize George had one mode of operation in his life, excel at everything. In the words of former

SailAway Director, Glen Sirles, "George and I shared many good times. He always had a story, was always taking a new class of some sort, many of them sailing. He always had a story." Glen goes on to say "George was willing to help us do anything that needed doing. I asked him to help me clean the engineer's closet and clean it he did. He would say to me, "just tell me what you want done". He tossed items, he moved items, he vacuumed, he rearranged. We stirred up a lot of dust; but, it was better in the end. And, George kept us both entertained the entire time with stories and laughter." Another SailAway director, Joe McMahon had similar observations "George kept you on your toes with a very quirky sense of humor." One of my favorite memories follows:



We'll call this story "Calm, Cool & Collected"

This happened earlier this year, probably the March work party. The air temperature was still quite chilly. We were planning to do something on *Sophia*; I can't even recall what. I do know we needed the outboard. I hopped on board and started removing the engine cover. There's a knot in the chinch cord that's difficult to untie so I have to lean way over the engine. As I start to gather up the cover I'm thinking that it feels somewhat heavy. Maybe there's a bit of water trapped inside? I gather it toward me in a ball, trying not to get wet. As I pull it close to my chest it's also close to my face. I look inside; it's not water, it's a snake! It may have crawled in the last time the engine was warm to escape the chill. Well in honesty, the snake was probably 4 feet long and an inch in a half in diameter but to this former northern boy that's never seen a snake bigger than a foot, it looks like a six foot water moccasin. I call out, in what I hope was a deep manly voice, "It's a snake". It probably really sounded like a panicked nine year old girl. George calmly walks out to the dock. "Here, give it to me". I hand off the bundle like it's a lit time bomb in a cartoon. George looks in, the bundle inches from his face now. "Yeah, it's a Blotched Water snake" he says as he calmly reaches in, grabs it out of the engine cover and throws it back into the lake.

George is not a tall man but that moment, that day, the scared little boy in me thought that he was 10 feet tall. One of my favorite work party memories.

Glen Sirles recruited George to take over *Sofia* as Captain. Glenn recalls, "He cleaned her, painted her, sealed her and made her as best she could be. Just give him guidance and a green light, then stand out of his way. He got things done."

I was fortunate to work with George at what turned out to be his last work party day. He already knew that he was ill but he didn't share it with any of us. As usual with boats on Lake Grapevine that sit in the hot Texas sun all summer, the spreader boots needed replacing. We needed someone to ride the Bosun's chair. Here's a man of 61, but George just about insists that he's the man to go up. It's a cold blustery day in March and his up there for the better of an hour. While George seemed a bit winded with the task, he

was determined to persevere. He didn't come down until the task was done and done well. Just another day working with George I thought. That was the last time we saw him at SailAway.

Those of us that knew George consider ourselves lucky. We all have fond memories of the man. What I have found out since then was how small a part of his wonderful life I was aware of. There is a wonderful Facebook page dedicated to George, administered by his daughter (Every Dad with Dad). His obituary is also available online at <http://m.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n&pid=188089062&referrer=0&preview=True>

George lived an amazing and blessed life. He passed on his terms with his family and loved ones all around him. He will be missed by many, including his friends in GSC. Fair winds and following seas, George.



The Juniors will soon be traveling to Canyon Lake for the Spring Fling Regatta. In preparation for this event, our team had practice on Sunday, February 25. The recent weather has put a hold on practices, but we were finally able to pull one off. Wind speeds averaged 11 mph, with gusts to 19. The water temp is still a bit chilly, as it remains in the low 50's.

Jeff Swearingen coached the Optis and guest coach Max Lipari instructed the Lasers. A short course was set up to practice on, where both the Lasers and the Optis reviewed fundamentals. Jeff worked with the Optis on course awareness, as well as boat speed and tacking. The Lasers worked on start speed, and practiced slightly more advanced techniques such as roll tacking and kiting. Max also talked to them about the importance of sail shape and adjusting sails to the conditions.

There was discussion of one more practice before the team heads to New Braunfels for the weekend of Spring Break. Weather permitting, we will gather to practice and load boats onto trailers for travel. This regatta is a favorite among the juniors and their families.

The adults met while the youth sailed, and discussed details and plans for the Silly String Regatta. It was brought to attention that we will need additional volunteers for the start lines of Green Fleet, RWB, and Laser/420. The volunteers in the past have been amazing, and we hope to get as many as possible for this year. All help will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to hosting this regatta.

### **Practice Makes Perfect.**

With the spring series and our first annual regatta coming up, we have a great racing education program for everyone. As you may recall from previous discussions, there is a sailing pyramid as outlined below:



**MIKE LIPARI**

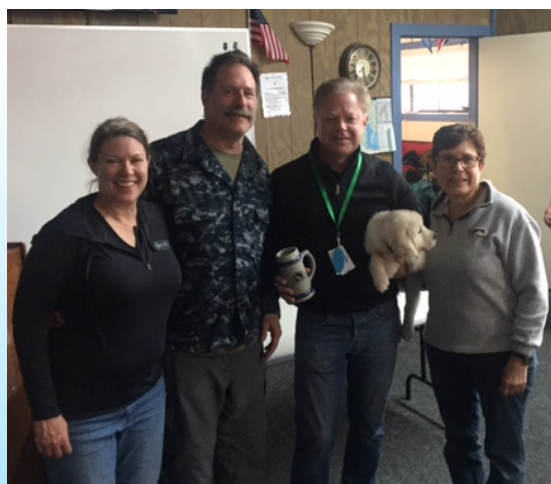
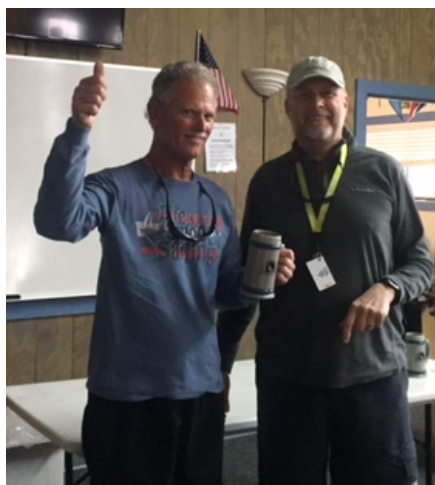
For our practices, most of our time will be focused on boat speed. We will work on drills that will help you sail faster both upwind and downwind. I like to think of sailing similar to golf, it is not about who is faster, but who minimizes mistakes and cuts strokes (or time in sailing). So we will work on mark roundings, setting up for upwind and downwind work, tacking, and starting. All of these items will help you cut minutes from your race time. And if you look at the scores, the difference between the top of the fleet and the middle of the fleet is usually less than a minute during a one hour race. For this program, we are going to try to get all of the boats to come out and join us including the fleet leaders. Rather than use onboard coaches, we will have the best boats out so you have someone to pace against. So get your crew together and join us on Thursday nights at 6:30. If you want to learn, but are not racing with someone, come out and see if anyone needs crew. We will not be assigning boats, but I am sure someone will be looking to pick up crew for the series and regattas.

In addition we will start the program with two classroom sessions, one focused on tactics and racing rules and the other focused on strategy and sportsmanship. The first classroom session will start on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the classroom. See you then.



## FROSTBITE SERIES RESULTS

<i>Catalina 22</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> place Chip Embrey, Erik Slockers
<i>Fleet 1</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> place Bob Scott
<i>Fleet 3</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> place Pam Cowart, Patrice Moon
<i>Fleet 5</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> place Ty McAden 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Judy Goodwin





The Grapevine Sailing Club was chartered in 1973 to sponsor and conduct sailing events for its members and to advance the sport of sailing to its fullest extent.

**Grapevine Sailing Club**  
**2500 Oak Grove Loop #300**  
**Grapevine, Texas 76051**  
**[www.grapevinesailing.org](http://www.grapevinesailing.org)**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

COMMODORE	JEFF BAGFORD
VICE COMMODORE	ERIC BECHTEL
1 <sup>ST</sup> REAR COMMODORE	RON SINCLAIR
2 <sup>ND</sup> REAR COMMODORE	SHERRIE McADEN
RACE CAPTAIN	VICTORIA HIELSCHER
ASST. RACE CAPTAIN	ASA POTTER
SECRETARY	SHELLEY CLEMENTS
TREASURER	ERIK SLOCKERS
SAILAWAY PROGRAM DIRECTOR	GARY BISSON
PAST COMMODORES	JOHN MARTIN, JIM SHAMP, JULIE JACOB
CHIEF ENGINEER	JOHN RIDER
EDUCATION CHAIRMAN	MIKE LIPARI
JUNIOR DIRECTOR	DANIEL POLSON
WINDLINES EDITOR	SHELLEY CLEMENTS



# MARCH 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Spring Series #2 Gun 1 p.m.
4	5	6 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Thursday Night Tune- up 6:00 p.m.	9	10 SailAway Work Party 8:30 Spring Series #3 March Membership Social 6:00 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15 Thursday Night Tune- up 6:00 p.m.	16	17 Spring Series #4 Gun 1:00
18	19	20	21	22 Thursday Night Tune- up 6:00 p.m.	23	24 Spring Series #5 Gun 1:00
25	26	27	28	29 Thursday Night Tune- up 6:00 p.m.	30	31 TransGrape #1 Skippers' 11:00 Gun 1:00