

# Wheeler Yacht Club The Tell-Tale



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November 2015

## Commodore's Corner



November already? We have just a few more weeks before the guy in the red suit actually shows-up. But no so fast... we have a few things to finish-up this year before the fat man starts slipping down chimneys... so let's quickly cover what we did in October and then serve up the plan for the month of November. While opening this month's newsletter I also want to thank Jerry and Jenny Reves for contributing an article for the newsletter this month. Jerry and Jenny are America's Great Loop Cruisers (a.k.a.

Loopers) and attended the Rendezvous this year. They provided an interesting article about the Rendezvous and are among the fascinating adventurers in our club that take or have taken their boats and the process of boating to the next level on the great loop. Thank you Jerry and Jenny!

October featured our annual **Tailgate on the Dock!** which featured a **Chili Cook-Off** this year. We took advantage of the decorated 700 dock and set up football on a 90-inch screen. As the chili rolled in and was set up, we gabbed about football as we watched with our favorite beverages and cruised through the full range of dockside social discourse. In the last month several Skippers have shuffled some seaworthy machinery around the docks and a few new boats have come in. So as the social chatter continued we engaged the club in the task of tasting the chili on the table and voting for our favorites.

Although we had a number of chilis on the table for judging we also had some that were exempted from being in the contest by their developer... these were "pro-bono" chilis and were offered as health conscious alternatives... as if chili isn't inherently healthy? Just for grins, I tried this "healthy" chili. Without the meat and fat it came up a bit short on the heart-stopping and artery-constricting punch usually expected when savoring and pre-processing chili for the on-board digestion facility. But it was surprisingly good. Anyway, as luck would have it, we had procured six prizes in preparation for the **Chili Cook-Off** and we had exactly six entrants in the contest! Perfect as can be!

And how did it turn-out? Well, the voting was done by blind ballot thrown in the hat by everyone who tasted all the chili on the table. The winner this year was identified by a very large number of votes. Congratulations to Sam & Audrey who brought the chili that clearly took top prize and won this year's **Chili Cook-Off**. I can assure you this is a great honor because each and every chili on that table was unique and fantastic. Thanks to all of the club members that brought their best pot to the battle. It was "all good" and it was a very nice evening too. Thanks so much for "bringing it on" and making this the perfect cook-off. Great chili by all, with several hits on the big bottle of Roloids on the table given what we had to do for this event. I hope we are all better now.

## WYC Schedule-At-A-Glance

### WYC Social & Local Events

<b>November</b>	<b>7</b>	WYC General Membership Meeting	4:30 at Wheeler Lodge
<b>December</b>	<b>12</b>	Christmas Parade of Lights & WYC Christmas Party	4:30 to 11:00 PM; 1st Creek w/ Party in River Room

### Sailing/Race Events

<b>October</b>	<b>31</b>	Buoys Series #6 Race	9:30 Skippers mtg in Marina Store lobby; 11:00 1st race; Racing over ~4:00
<b>November</b>	<b>7</b>	Horace Bramm Memorial Cup Regatta	9:30 Registration; 10:15 Skippers mtg.; 11:30 1 <sup>st</sup> race (See NOR for details)

November is time to start thinking about next year. With the holidays approaching it gets cool, cold, and sometimes frigid out there on the docks... so we move what we do inside to the Lodge and will start our season ending activities with a **General Membership Meeting**. This meeting, originally scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>, will be rescheduled for after Thanksgiving; likely in early December. The general membership meeting is our opportunity to review the year, talk about what we want to accomplish next year and ask our members and any new members to consider getting more deeply engaged. We have openings on the roster this year and will take this opportunity to poll members on potential candidates for these positions. Later this year we will vote on the slate of officers we will develop from this discussion; but I want everyone to consider a position or at least to nominate someone that would be great in a given spot. We need a Photographer, Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter & Flyers), and can use help in other positions as well. Watch your e-mail for notification of this upcoming meeting.

Finally we have the **Christmas Parade of Lights** and the **WYC Christmas Party** coming soon in December. I know the competition for your time on any weekend in December is very stiff, but we hope this year to get at least 80 people to the Christmas Party. I'd like to see our **WYC Christmas Party** this year be something to remember and if we can get a good headcount we can go for the top of the line dinner the Lodge offers. If we get that many folks there, we will use some club funds to get the headcount to 100 so that we can have a steamship round of beef for a great dinner at this event. So please invite guests, put some lights on your boat, go out and have a super parade and then we all go to the Lodge and party! We'll have a special evening featuring a great DJ, door prizes, and a booze basket. This should be a wonderful party and a fitting close for 2015 activities.

The best of November to all of you! Hope your Halloween was great and best wishes in the closing weeks of 2015. Hard to believe, isn't it? End of the year is coming at us fast...wow. Enjoy!

*Bob*

## ***Race Program Report***

The highlight of the race program in October had to be our **Fall Distance Race**. With all the challenges we've had this year weather-wise, for once the planets lined up and we had an absolutely perfect day. When this event was inserted into the calendar the news was greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm, and as the date approached I thought we might have as many as 11 or 12 boats participating. While the final count was somewhat short of that, the seven boats that did sail enjoyed a great day to be on the water.

As we often do, the fleet was organized into two classes – a Racer class for boats that are expected to sail to their handicap numbers and a Cruiser class for boats that are unlikely to sail to their numbers. Each class was given a separate start and after a short windward leg headed upriver to the Brown's Island Foot Light for the Racers and to a red nun buoy about a mile and a half closer for the Cruisers. Total distance out and back was in the neighborhood of 25 miles and with the wind steady in the 8-12 mph range and gusts into the mid teens, the boats were back across the finish line at the mouth of First Creek in good time. The results are posted in the accompanying table. Congrats to Gar Bouse and Jerry Petritsch with a first place finish in the Racer and Cruiser classes respectively. Note that after nearly five hours of racing, first and second places in the Cruiser class were separated by only 39 seconds. **Wow!**



## Fall Distance Race – Paul Wunsch, Paul Green, Tom Belcher

Skipper	Boat	Class	Corrected Time (seconds)	Place
Robert Bijvoet	X-99	Racer	19132	3
Gar Bouse	Olson 25	Racer	17667	1
Hugh Christiansen	Flying Tiger 7.5	Racer	21458	4
Doug Fox	Capri 22	Racer	17918	2
Bob Locklear	Morgan 27	Cruiser	21842	3
Jerry Petritsch	Catalina 22 Sport	Cruiser	18837	1
Dudley Smith	Morgan 38 (mod)	Cruiser	18876	2

This was the first time we had sent boats that far upriver in a number of years. So what was the feedback afterwards? Look for more distance events in the race calendar next year. Buoys Series 5 and 6 were also on the calendar for October and neither one took place. So no race results to report.

The final event planned for this year is the **Horace Bramm Memorial Cup Regatta**, on the calendar for November 7<sup>th</sup>. The details are included in the Notice of Race which has already been distributed. *So who was Horace Bramm?* Within our local sailing community there are a few individuals who are remembered and honored for their enthusiasm, active participation, entertaining personality, and contribution toward sustaining the sport. Horace qualified on all counts. Tommy Glenn of the MSSC had this to say in a recent e-mail:

*“Horace Bramm was a long time member of both MSSC and Wheeler. Back in the 60s and 70s Horace raced a blue Thistle, aptly named Blue Belle. Sometime in the 70s Horace acquired a newer Thistle named Blue Belle II, followed by his Capri 30, Spindrift, which is now campaigned by Paul Wunsch and team at Wheeler.”*

Horace passed away in early 1998. Those of us who had the good fortune to know him remember him fondly, and we all have our Horace Bramm stories. To hear one or two, all you have to do is ask.

As the race season winds down this is a good time to reflect on how it went and what we might do differently. This year’s race program included a mix of round-the-buoys races, pursuit races, a distance race, and several training events. The distance race was a big hit, so more of those is a given for next year. If you have suggestions about other changes, please make them known so they can be considered when the plan is developed for next year.

*Paul*

### Vice Commodore’s Comments

Winter is just around the corner and we will soon be having our **Christmas Parade of Lights**. It only seems appropriate to discuss safety on the water and the possible dire effects of the colder waters. Even if the water is near 60 degrees, you risk shock and hypothermia. Average temperatures in Wheeler Lake can fall below 50 degrees. Survival experts say falling into cold water risks two life-threatening conditions that can kill or at least sharply reduce your ability to survive.

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First, people who fall into cool or cold water experience an immediate cold shock that brings on a deep and sudden gasp that can set off severe hyperventilation. Your airway may become blocked, and if your face is immersed, you can inhale the water and drown. At the least, you'll find it significantly harder to hold your breath when you need to. Although the shock lasts only a minute, the risk of dying from hyperventilation is high. Your heart rate quickly plummets. And your breathing rate and blood pressure soar. Within 10 minutes, you start to lose muscle coordination and become unable to use your fingers, arms, and legs. Swimming becomes impossible, even for good swimmers.

The second risk is hypothermia. After 30 minutes, your body begins to lose heat so rapidly it cannot maintain normal temperature. You start to shiver. Blood flows to the vital brain, heart, and lungs, bypassing other areas. Soon your body begins to shut down. You become lethargic and quickly lose consciousness; death can soon follow.

Here are some tips to increase chances of survival should you fall into cold water.

- ✿ Before you get under way, put on as much warm clothing as is practical, making sure to cover your head, neck, hands, and feet. Items such as wool sweaters and thermal insulated long-johns can help keep you warm even when they get wet.
- ✿ Wear a life jacket. It helps keep you warm if you fall in and enables you to stay afloat without your having to exert extra energy to tread water. That, in turn, conserves body heat and can help stave off the onset of hypothermia for up to an hour; significantly longer than if you aren't wearing a life jacket.
- ✿ Stay away from alcohol, both when you're under way and if you fall into the water and are rescued. Not only can alcohol impair your judgment, especially in cold water, but it also hastens the onset of hypothermia, which can shorten your overall survival time.
- ✿ If you see you're about to become immersed in cold water, cover your nose and mouth and go in as slowly as possible, keeping your head above water. Calm yourself, control your breathing, and then think about what to do next.
- ✿ Get out of the water as quickly as possible by lifting yourself back onto your capsized boat or climbing onto a large piece of floating debris. If you're rescued by another boater, get out of the wind and try to get dry. Even after you leave the water, wearing cold, wet clothing can impede your efforts to warm up.
- ✿ Don't try to swim to shore, even if it looks reasonably close. Swimming makes you lose body heat some 35% faster than if you can remain still. In such situations, it doesn't take long for you to exhaust your ability to generate heat. Then you're really in a mess.
- ✿ If you're wearing a life jacket, draw your knees up together, keep your arms tightly against your sides, and lean your head back to keep your face out of the water. This is known as the Heat-Escape-Lessening Position, "HELP" for short. It helps you contain heat loss from your head, armpits, and sides, the areas most likely to let heat escape.
- ✿ If you end up rescuing someone who has fallen into cold water, make sure the person exerts as little energy as possible. Wrap the victim in dry clothes and warm blankets and keep him sheltered from wind and water. Don't give him alcohol to help warm him up. Call for medical help immediately.
- ✿ Don't declare victory early. Many victims drown when they are just a few feet from the safety of a rescue boat or pier. The Cold Water Boot Camp website warns: "When a victim sees the shore and thinks he is safe, his body stops releasing adrenaline, he freezes up, and he literally cannot move another inch."
- ✿ Train crew members on how to prepare for boating in cold weather and what to do if they fall overboard or if your vessel capsizes or sinks. More info can be found at [www.coldwaterbootcampusa.org](http://www.coldwaterbootcampusa.org).



*Jerry*

## Joe Wheeler Hosts Biggest AGLCA Fall Rendezvous Ever

America's Great Loop Cruising Association (AGLCA) holds two rendezvous per year, one in Spring and one in the Fall. The Fall Rendezvous has been held at the Joe Wheeler State Park for over 10 years, and this year was the largest meeting of the organization ever!



WYC members probably noticed the flood of trawler class boats that began their annual migration to the park and its docks outside the lodge. About 70 boats tied up for the rendezvous that ran October 14 – 18. It is easy to identify a “Looper boat” since it flies a white burgee with the red route emblazoned on a gold map of Eastern North America.

Lots of folks attended also attended by land (not by boat) and the number of registrants was at 260. That is a big crowd of boaters; in fact the largest for any of the semi-annual meetings anywhere over the entire life of the AGLCA.

The AGLCA purpose is to educate and in some ways coordinate the mass migration of cruising boats that

cover the 6,000 to 8,000 mile (depending on which route and side-trips one makes) journey that goes counterclockwise around Eastern North America. The trip usually takes a year or longer; so for those starting here in the Fall they should finish here next Fall. At any one time there are usually about 200 boats “doing the loop.”

A great variety of talks are given at the rendezvous and WYC member Jenny Reves is pictured here giving her lecture entitled “Don’t leave port without...”

Other talks concern buying and selling a loop boat, various routes and things to expect in certain waters. There are social events and great conversation – probably more information is exchanged over a beer or cup of wine than in the lectures. The long success at Wheeler is a tribute to the lodge, marina staff, and the AGLCA officers and planners. We hope to see the Loopers back next fall – stay tuned.

*Respectively submitted by Jerry Reves on Sweetgrass.*

### Coconut Delight

Kathy Benson prepared this dessert for the recent Chili Cook-Off and it was quite a hit!

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup self-rising Flour
- 1 cup chopped Pecans
- ½ cup melted Margarine
- 1¼ cups Confectioner's Sugar
- 8 oz. Cream Cheese (softened)
- 12 oz. Whipped Topping
- 6 oz. package Frozen Coconut (thawed) (2 packs make it better!)
- 3 cups Milk
- 2 4-oz. packages Coconut Cream Instant Pudding Mix

Combine flour, pecans, and margarine in bowl, mixing well. Pat into 9x13-inch baking dish. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool.

Cream confectioner's sugar and cream cheese until light and fluffy. Add half of the whipped topping. Mix well. Spread mixture over the baked layer. Sprinkle with half the coconut. Combine the milk and pudding mixes, beating until thick. Spread over coconut; then top with the remaining whipped topping. Sprinkle with remaining coconut. Chill until set.

