



April 2008

Footnotes...

Lake Lanier's Premier Cruising event, the Celtic Crossing, is May 3rd! Read more about the event in this edition of Footnotes.

Commodore's Corner

Commodore: Lance Jones

May is going to be a big month for Cruisers. Granted, the racing fleet has been very active so far in 2008. Now the cruising fleet will set sail for two major events in May.

First on the calendar is the 3rd annual Celtic Crossing. This will be held on Saturday, May 3rd and is being headed up by Marie Graham and her planning committee. As usual, there will be great on-the-water events as in Crossings gone by as well as fun on-land activities. The event was originally organized to remember the contributions that the Celtic Nations made to our maritime history. Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Cornwall, Brittany and Galicia make up the Seven Nations of the Celtic world. Their sailors set forth to the sea and helped establish new trade routes; manned the ships of war and commerce; and designed and built many of the great ships that sailed the world's oceans.

Again, as in years past, there will be plenty of food and grog to go around. Music will be provided by *Póg*, Michael Robbins of the *BoarderCollies*, and *Duncan McLauchlan*. All have CDs available. In addition, *Southern Fried Filk* will be on hand with their fine collection of Celtic Music CD's from around the world. Also, at present, the British Isles store, *Across the Pond*, will have a booth selling their fine wares. The registration form is on-line. Print out a copy and send it in.

The second big event in May is the Boat Owners and Invited Guest Weekend Cruise. The Barefoot Cruisers are planning a great cruise for the first Boat Owners and Invited Guest Cruise beginning May 16th and ending on the 18th. That's right, two overnight stays. However, the event is designed so that you can stay for any time period you would like.

We will establish the rendezvous points for each day so that if you only want to do Friday or Saturday night, you will know where to link up for the party and anchorage. Conversely, if you only are interested in day sailing, you will have an idea of where we will be that morning.

We are planning a schedule similar to this:

Friday

2000 hours Rendezvous at University Yacht Club Moorings for cocktails

Saturday

0900: Skippers meeting at the moorings.
1000 - 1200: Sail
1200 - 1400: Raft up for lunch
1400 - 1800: Sail
1800: Rendezvous near B mark
1900 - 2100: Supper (Provided)
2100 - ????: Cocktails

Sunday

0900: Skippers meeting on boat
1000 - 1200: Sail
1200 - 1400: Lunch (Provided)
1400: Sail and released to return to your port

Each boat will provision itself for food and drink. However, the Saturday evening and Sunday lunch meal will be provided by the organizers. Also, a small commemorative placard will be provided for each boat.

To defray the cost of the Saturday and Sunday meals, a very small administrative fee will be charged for each participant. As we need to have a specific head count for these meals, you need to register by May 3rd. There are a limited number of spaces available so register soon. If you do not register before then, the meals and plaque will not be provided to your boat or crew.

Cruising Updates

Cruising Captain: Marie Graham

Celtic Crossing, May 3, 2008

Don't miss Barefoot Sailing Clubs' 3rd annual Celtic Crossing. This annual event is held to remember the contributions the Celtic nations made to Maritime History. This is THE Cruising event on Lake Lanier. There will be a Parade of Boats, a Blessing of the Fleet, and the Celtic Crossing itself. The Celtic Crossing is not a race; but, competition is involved. Boats will sail past Judges Stations and be rated for:

- Best Celtic Décor and Costumes
- Best Celtic song or dance
- Best Celtic Spirit
- Leprechaun-Over- Board Drill
- Best Overall

Following the on the water event will be a lively and energetic party -- a party in the true Celtic style. Celtic food, beverages and live entertainment will be provided. Live music will be provided by some of Atlanta's top Celtic bands: Póg, the McLauchlan's, and the BorderCollies. In addition to the bands, there will be a traditional Irish music session as well. The menu is provided by The Village Tavern and offers: Garden Salad with Tavern Vinaigrette, Steak and Mushroom Pie with garlic mashed potatoes and mushy peas, sherry trifle, moist sherry laced sponge cake with fruit, custard and cream. You may enter your own boat or be a proud sponsor of another Skippers craft. For a detailed Notice of Event, Entrance Forms, and Sponsor Forms contact Brad Jude at bradjude@bellsouth.net or visit the Barefoot Sailing Club Website www.barefootsailing.org. See you there!

Racing Updates

Racing Captain: Chris Webster

Congratulations to Mike Krantz for being this year's winner of the BFSC **Around Alone Race** on Saturday 4/12/08. Winn Story punched out into the lead early in the race and maintained it for the most part until the final stretch from the "Three Sisters" to the finish line. Winn stayed left and Mike stayed to a line to the right and wound up in a faster lane just beating Winn out at the finish.

Unfortunately, I suspect that the weather forecasters scared everybody off, but it really turned out to be great day for a long distance sail to the Dam and back. We had a brief sprinkle of rain at the start and then it cleared with a nice breeze (probably in the 8-12mph range). Thank you Linda Webster for the after race chilli, hot dogs, chips, brownies and drinks.

The **Women's Skipper Regatta** is coming up on Saturday May 17th. Women skippers start recruiting your crews (which don't have to be all female) and practice bending your boats around the corners of the Lake. This is a great event for the Women skippers to shine as tacticians and helmspersons. The NOR will be up on the website soon.

Social Life

Social Captain: Linda Webster

The winds were extremely high for our new Intro to Sailing students to go out and play, so our Wing Fling festivities were "postponed". Please watch for announcements for when it will be held which should be sometime after the Celtic Crossing. I have lots of wing flavors and need our membership to come out with sides/desserts to share and meet the new members as they "graduate" from their class. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Membership Drive Contest

Membership First Mate: Jimbo McKean

In order to increase our membership, we are calling upon those who know better than anybody, the value of BFSC membership: YOU! So, we are launching a membership drive contest. The rules are simple:

Any current, PAID, member who is responsible for signing up a new (paid) member, will have their name entered into a contest. Multiple new members will give you multiple entries. The prize is will be the winner's choice between a Garmin Handheld GPS or a West Marine Handheld VHF radio.

To enter a new member, all you have to do is submit their application along with a check for \$45.00 to any officer of the club. You will then receive an entry for the drawing to be held at the June membership meeting.

Reflections from the Quarterdeck

Past Commodore: Steve O'Hagen

Toward the evening, after a full day of doing things I enjoy, I like to sit in the old Adirondack and look out over the field to see if that's where my mind has wandered to this time. At times like this I find that memories come up and provide, usually, pleasant things to dwell on. Most recently I remembered Sergeant Garcia.

Sergeant Garcia was my platoon sergeant during basic training when I was 19. I had gone through the Ft Dix induction center, had my hair and clothes taken from me, had so many injections that I sprung leaks when I had a glass of water, took batteries of psychological tests, and lived and ate with the oddest group of people I'd run into in my entire young life. Soon I started to long for assignment to a training unit where they told me things were normal. Finally I was loaded on the bus to take me to the training company, my home for the next eight weeks. I'm not sure what kind of reception I expected but I know that it was not the one I got. As I stepped out of the bus a gentleman with a very short haircut (because he wanted it that way!!!) not only commented on my speed getting off the bus but added a number of other comments about my intelligence, character, manhood, parents, girlfriends, my rank in society, and what would happen to me if I failed basic training. He made other comments that seemed repulsive and biologically and physically impossible. Well, I wrote him off as a degenerate weirdo who wandered onto the base and who was of no matter to me. I thought differently when he got in a car in the First Sergeants parking spot (an MG mini with 6 foot Texas long horn bull horns attached to the front end. Twilight Zone?)

As I wandered the company area looking around blankly a number of lesser demons picked up yelling more challenges to my fitness as a human being but without the poetic flair the 1st Sgt had. Somehow the ebbing and flowing tide of "trainees" poured me into C Platoon Barracks. There Sgt. Garcia was waiting.

Sgt Garcia was on the low side of 40, remarkably fit and unbelievably energetic. He was almost at his 20 and planned to teach HS gym when he left the army. Although my initial hopes that he was sane were quickly dashed, he was fair, and pleasant enough in his own, somewhat bizarre way.

A brief story will tell much about Sgt Garcia. After 5 weeks of confinement in the barracks (oh, sure, we had almost daily outings to go out and crawl in mud) with 40 other guys things were getting testy. The upcoming weekend was to be our first chance to get a pass. I think the Army waits 5 weeks to let you out so you'll have a fair chance of finding your way back. It's sort of like not wanting to let your cat out for a while after you've moved to a new neighborhood. The pass, however, depended on passing a rigorous personal and barracks inspection by the Company Commander on Saturday morning. Every one of us was up all night polishing, shining, brushing, oiling, straightening, dusting, sweeping and more in preparation for the inspection.

By Saturday morning we were about as ready as we thought possible. We tensely waited for The Company Commander to make his rounds. Finally, we got word that he was spotted going into B Barracks next door along with the troglodyte that served as our First Sergeant. We had about 10-15 minutes before he got to us. We stood by our bunks doing last minute tidying and dreaming about what we'd do on the pass.

Just then Sgt Garcia jumped down the stairway, landing loudly on the first floor (my floor). He was carrying a fire extinguisher which he activated and ran back and forth spraying it and screaming "Banzai" and "Sneak Attack". He kicked and shoved bunks over as he went.

It was over as quickly as it had begun. 40 guys looked around at chaos, dreams of the pass dashed. Just as thoughts were turning to homicide Sgt Garcia said "What you gonna do about it?" Somehow this mobilized us and before the CO got to us we, and the Barracks appeared immaculate (appeared is an important word because anything that could not be made to look immaculate quickly disappeared).

Well, we passed our inspection and got our passes. And that's a bit about Sgt Garcia.

Aside from occasional and unexpected outbursts of insanity he was a decent guy who took his job seriously. Over the weeks he shared his philosophy of life with us. It was amazingly simple. Summed up it said "If they don't kill you you're OK." This was most often applied when guys got in trouble and were worried about the consequences. Simple question- "Can they execute you?" if not don't worry. No matter what "they" took from you, if you were alive you had enough left to go on and build a new life. No matter what the circumstances: arrest, imprisonment, getting fired, breakup, divorce, even injury and illness, if you were alive you had all you needed to rebuild your life. As you can guess, Sgt Garcia's mother did not raise whiners.

Periodically I think of Sgt Garcia and his advice. It is so simple and it hasn't failed me yet'

Well, so much for memories. Wait a minute! The dog's got something over there in the far side of the field, and he's bringing it to me. It looks kind of bright. Damn if it isn't just what I'd been missing. Until next time.

2008 Barefoot Sailing Club Board

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