



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Blackbeard Sailing Club

NEWS & FEATURES

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From the Commodore

This is my final column as Commodore of Blackbeard Sailing Club. It is amazing how fast the year has gone by. I looked at my January article, and I can say we checked off most of the items I had on my list of things to accomplish this year. The Board has the club on secure financial footing, infrastructure improvement is progressing nicely, we have begun the process of updating our docks, and we have developed a strategic plan for the club's future. The one thing I feel we did not accomplish is increasing member participation.

The elections are complete, and here is your list of 2017 Officers and Directors:

Commodore - Bill Green
Vice Commodore - Mark Hallquist

Save These Dates

December 3
NYRA Race
December 10
BSC Board Meeting
& LOTC Social
December 17
NYRA Race
December 31
New Years Eve Social
January 1
Fred Latham Regatta

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From the Commodore

(continued from page 1)

Treasurer - Stephanie Davies

Secretary - Sandy Drechsler

Directors:

Eddy Parker - Immediate Past Commodore

Arch Altman

Mark Brennesholtz

Joni Floyd

Bill Jarvis

Gay Whitney

The Installation Dinner is scheduled for January 14, 2017. We will be sending out details soon. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. This is the one night each year where we get together to honor our accomplishments, as well as have a little fun remembering some of our members' more notable adventures.

I haven't been around the club much in November as it has been a busy month for me, the highlight of which was racing in the Viper 640 World Championships in Bermuda. Most of you have probably seen my Viper in the parking lot, the blue boat with a cover near the front of the dry storage area. The Viper

was designed by Brian Bennett in the early 90s and was a boat well ahead of its time. The class almost fell apart until a group of dedicated sailors in Marblehead, MA got together and worked to revive it. They introduced some modifications to the boat, most notably a carbon fiber mast and heavier bulb keel, to make the boat more user-friendly. Since then the class has taken off, with many pro sailors joining in. While talking to many of these sailors - former world champions, Olympic sailors and national champions in other classes - they were unanimous that they sail a Viper because the boat and the people are so much fun.

There were 41 boats in the regatta raced on Great Sound, the site of the 2017 America's Cup. We were treated to the sight of the Artemis team practicing most days. They even stopped to watch one of our starts; which for a 41 boat fleet of very good sailors in fast, very

maneuverable boats is loud, intimidating and difficult to do well.

The first day of racing had marginal planing conditions, with our top speed coming in around 13 knots. After two races we were in 22nd place, well ahead of where we thought we would be, and in front of a lot of prior national champions and professional sailors. The second day's racing was blown out with wind gusts in the low 50s. Day three was an incredibly challenging day of sailing, with winds ranging



Club members Eddy Parker & Dave Furna along with their friend Nick Lounsbury in bow 53 at the start of race 4. Starting in these conditions with a one design boat can be challenging.

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From the Commodore

(continued from page 2)

between 4 and 18 knots from many different directions, all on the same leg! We were not as good as some other teams at shifting gears and getting to the correct side of the course with the wind changing so much and fell well back in the fleet, finishing 36 out of the 41 boats racing. Our worst score was a 35 - go figure.

I am looking forward to the new year and further improvements we can bring to Blackbeard Sailing Club. This year's survey showed many of our members are willing to serve on committees and help out, and this will be imperative to implementing some of our ideas.

BSC Orphans' Thanksgiving

About 10 years ago we wanted to have a traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner - but it's a lot of work and food for just two people. We had no family close by so, we decided to start a holiday tradition and have Thanksgiving with our extended Blackbeard family. We invited all the other "orphans" to join us at the club to share good food and good company.

The number of attendees has grown over the years and it has always been a great day. This year we had our largest ever gathering, 53, and we were fortunate to be able to include 8 Camp Lejeune Marines in our festivities. Thanksgiving with the Marines is organized by a group of residents in Fairfield Harbour and we were glad to be a part of it this year. The Marines arrived shortly after 11 am and were treated to lunch prepared by the McDiarmids and Greens. After lunch and the gift of a BSC cap, the Floyds on *Salty*, the Giles on *Eroica* and the Drechslers on *Hot Chocolate*, treated the Marines to a sail on the river. When they got back, the Thanksgiving feast began.

Thank you to all the generous BSC members who contributed home-cooked dishes to truly make this a feast to remember! The Marines were sent back to base with leftovers and goodies and, we hope, fond memories of their day at Blackbeard.

Jan & Bill Green





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Small Fleet Enjoys Great Racing

by Mark Brennesholtz

The NYRA Winter Series began with the Halloween Regatta on October 29th with thirteen boats on the line spread over six divisions. But PRO Jarvis lumped everyone into two starts - spin and non-spin - which made it more fun. We got in three races in light air. On the day, two races were decided by one second corrected, one race by two seconds, and one race by nine seconds. The social following was a costume optional affair, but the usual suspects showed up dressed to kill.

The second Winter Series race date was November 12th, in very different conditions - sunny, windy and cold. Unfortunately, only eight boats came out with four in each start. On our Ensign, *Blue Note*, we used every sail in the inventory, and it appeared others did as well. And they all got wet in the spray. The spinnaker runs especially were a challenge and only two of us flew the chute on every downwind. Ever see a heavy old Ensign with a rooster tail? And again there were some very close times with *Boartaint* beating *Blue Note* by eight seconds in the first race. In the third race, *Boartaint* was leading when they had a "wardrobe malfunction" near the windward mark and fell back.

It is problematic to report series leaders until NYRA decides how they will score the divisions and classes.



Charlie Nelson in *Water Phantom* beats to windward under reduced sail in the NYRA Winter Series second race date. A light turnout has caused a lot of boats to miss really fine sailing (Photo by Mike Daly)

Ensign Series Sets Records

The Fleet 19 Fall Series set a record for having eighteen races on six race dates. Once Hurricane Matthew went by we had beautiful weather. The second record was that all seven Ensigns raced in all eighteen races. Wonderful participation! Four different boats had first place finishes. *Blue Note*, however, had twelve firsts and won the series. Drew McCrocklin and Paul Eckenroth in *Red Stripe* were second, and Bill Kirsch and Oriental crew were third for the Series in *Zip*. *Blue Note* also won the annual championship for the second year in a row, having also won the Spring Series. Thank you to the Meyers for hosting the awards dinner again.



Ensign *Blue Note* beats windward with #2 genoa in the NYRA Winter Series race November 12th. Cool temps and fresh breezes made for lots of spray, especially on smaller boats (Photo by Mike Daly)

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Inter-Club Racing Committee

by Mark Brennesholtz

The ICRC will meet sometime in December to create a racing calendar for 2017. The group consists of members of BSC, Neuse Yacht Racing Association, Fairfield Harbour YC, Oriental Dinghy Club and Hancock YC. There are some complicated discussions going on now about possibly moving the dates of the North Carolina Offshore Championship in Beaufort (traditionally Memorial Day Weekend) and the Oar Race/Michelob Cup (traditionally Labor Day Weekend). The committee also discusses policy issues and special awards like Sailor of the Year. Charlie Nelson, who belongs to BSC as well as a couple of other clubs, is chairman of ICRC. The meetings in the Blackbeard clubhouse are open to all interested sailors.

January Racing Events

December 3 & 17 are the next two NYRA Winter Series Dates.

January 1 is the annual Fred Latham Regatta at BSC, for SJ 21's seriously and PHRF not seriously, preceded by a hot dog lunch complete with Excedrin relish. Just kidding about the relish. An NOR will probably be a last-minute thing as usual.

January 7 & 21 are the final races in the NYRA Winter Series.

February 25 is the NYRA Commodore's Ball Regatta. A one-day regatta, it precedes the annual awards

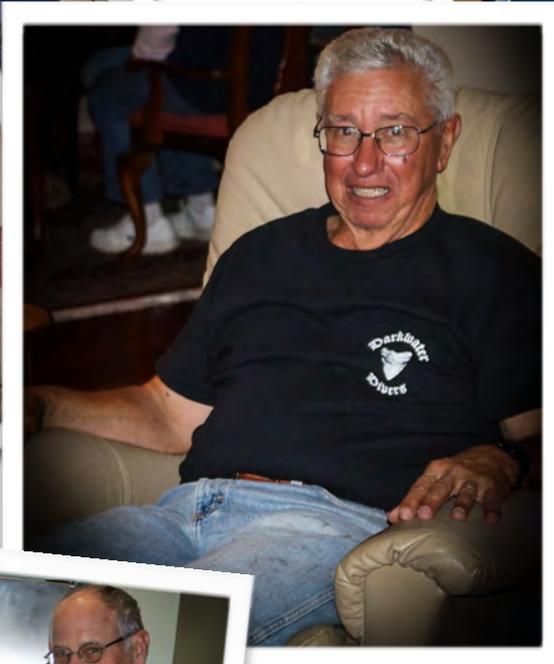
Ensign Party Photos



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Ensign Party Photos

Photos by Bill Green



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Ensign Series Photos

Photos by Bill Green



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Around the Clubhouse

Garden Gang Reaches Goal

We have received donations for enhancing the Club landscape totaling \$754 against the \$750 goal. Thank you to Floyd, Daly, Bass, Gravely, Altman, Brown and Brennesholtz. Note the four new crepe myrtles planted already by Ellen and the Gang. Three are behind the rope fence near the bathhouse and one is outside by the dog run. More plantings to come.

HELP! Glasses on the Loose!

Most of our glasses in the clubhouse have disappeared! Please check your boat for runaways!



Mini Workday

Jim Floyd led a mini workday, cleaning dock boxes the day after Thanksgiving. Thanks and kudos to Ian and Lilian Prince and Mike Penney for their assistance.

A gentle reminder: Everyone's dock box should be labeled with name and slip number. Please take a look and clean out debris and other excess items stored around your box! You would be amazed at what was discovered! Please store your stuff IN your box, not UNDER or AROUND it! Thanks!

Super Moon

Photo by Bill Green, taken on November 13, 2016, from the deck at BSC.



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Vision and Goals...

Look for these signs in the Club House



Blackbeard Sailing Club

An exceptional club that sets the standard for sailing activities, membership enjoyment, facilities and value.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain our friendly, casual atmosphere. 2. Expand club sailing activities. 3. Operate the club effectively. 4. Enhance club aesthetics. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Increase member involvement. 6. Improve collaboration with organizations whose interests overlap with ours. 7. Enhance and maintain club infrastructure. 8. Maintain full membership.
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Veterans Day Event



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Halloween Regatta - Past & Present

I had only been racing for a short while when I raced in my first Halloween Regatta back in 2003; to say I was clueless was being generous. I was racing my Elite 324, Anticipation, in the non-spinnaker fleet back then. I believe the other boats in that fleet were Dick Horne on Pussyfootin' and Mike Bonner on Bonnaire (although it may have been another San Juan 21). There was a different course for the spinnaker fleet and the non-spinnaker fleet that year, with the non-spinnaker people turning around at 17 and the spinnaker boats going on down to 15 or 11. Pussyfootin' was in front of us and the San Juan not too far behind when we noticed Dick was following the spinnaker boats. We waited till the last minute to turn toward 17 and rounded, making sure he was well past the mark. The San Juan had a choice, follow the experienced skipper or me. They chose to follow Dick, and that was the first regatta I ever won.

As we were sailing toward the finish line, my then 6 year old daughter Sarah Parker was sailing with us, and I gave her the wheel to drive across the finish line. I told her to turn really hard to punch it up to finish, and the momentum of the wheel started spinning her around. She didn't let go of the wheel and I grabbed her feet as they spun by, averting much crying. That night, back when the Talberts lived on the river, they gave Sarah the first place trophy, a plastic scary cup with first place written on it. She drank out of it all weekend, and told everyone who would listen that you should never follow the spinnaker boats.

A lot of time has passed since then; Sarah is in college, I am older, fatter and balder, but I still sail with my daughter. Sarah drove our Viper 640 to 3 straight first place finishes in this year's Halloween Regatta, but the real winner is me, since she will still go out sailing with me.



Sarah Parker, winner of 2002 Halloween Regatta. Photo Credit Dad



Sarah Parker, winner of 2016 Halloween Regatta. Photo Credit Mike Daly aboard *Georgie Girl*

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Pet Report

by Larry Sorenson

What to do if Your Dog Eats Chocolate

Chocolate is toxic to dogs and could cause a serious medical emergency. That said, if your dog ate a small amount of milk chocolate, you don't necessarily need to panic. Learn how much is too much, which types of chocolate are the most dangerous, and what signs to look for that may signal that your dog needs treatment.

Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, both of which can speed the heart rate and stimulate the nervous system of dogs, the Merck/Merial Manual for Veterinary Health explains. The risk of your dog becoming sick from ingesting chocolate depends on the type and amount of chocolate consumed and the weight of the dog (calculate your dog's risk of toxicity with this easy-to-use program). The concentrations of these toxic substances varies among different types of chocolates. Here are a few types of chocolate listed in order of theobromine content:

1. Cocoa powder (most toxic)
2. Unsweetened baker's chocolate
3. Semisweet chocolate
4. Dark chocolate
5. Milk chocolate
6. White chocolate (not very toxic)

Although a few Hersey Kisses are unlikely to affect a medium-sized dog, if you know your dog has eaten chocolate, it's important to monitor him for signs of toxicity, and it's recommended that you contact your veterinarian or the [Pet Poison Helpline](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com) (855-213-6680, fee applies) for advice.

Reprinted from the AKC Website.

--DON'T FORGET --

BSC members please send me pictures of your pet enjoying a sail and/or a BSC experience. Pet sea stories work too. My email is listed below.

Be a responsible and considerate pet owner while you and your pets are at BSC.

Larry Sorenson
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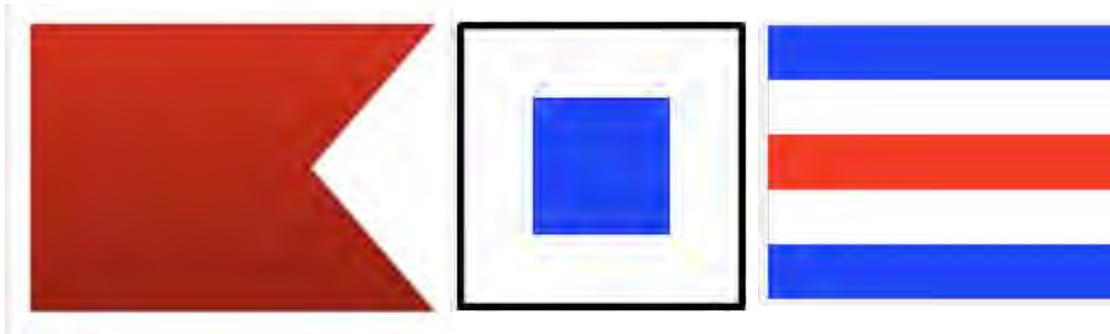


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Race Calendar

2016 RACE SCHEDULE			Provided by Inter-Club Racing Committee					12/1/2016	
Date	Day	Club	Event	PHRF	Ensign	SJ21	Sunfish	Other	Location
Dec 3	Sa	NYRA	Winter Race 3 *	X					New Bern
Dec 17	Sa	NYRA	Winter Race 4 *	X					New Bern
Jan 1 '17	Su	BSC	Fred Latham Regatta	X		X			New Bern
Jan 1 '17	Su	ODC	Instead of Football Regatta	X	X	X			Oriental
Jan 7 '17	Sa	NYRA	Winter Race 5 *	X					New Bern
Jan 21 '17	Sa	NYRA	Winter Race 6 *	X					New Bern
Feb 25 '17	Sa	NYRA	Commodores Ball Regatta *	X					New Bern

* NYRA Boat of the Year Race ** Ensigns and SJ-21's sail in PHRF Fleets # ICRC Sailor of the Year Race (4 of 8) P Protect



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Blackbeard Sailing Club

Club Location

Upper Broad Creek on the Neuse River
1215 Barkentine Drive
New Bern, NC 28560
N35° 03.75 W76° 56.85

Mailing Address

PO Box 24
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www.blackbeardsailingclub.com
Be sure to visit the BSC website which is loaded with official information, current news, membership directory, slip information and much more.

Email to Epitaph Editors

bsceptaph@yahoo.com

Epitaph Submission Guideline

Submissions to the Epitaph are due by the 23rd of each month for the following month's publication. We welcome the membership's input including:

- stories and cruising articles
- how-to articles and other news
- committee reports
- racing news and reports
- photos in jpeg format
- event announcements and calendars

Please send all material to the Epitaph's editors at bsceptaph@yahoo.com.

Boats US Group Discount Number

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Director	Arch Altman 919-306-1567
Director	Mark Brennesholtz 252-354-5853
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Dry Storage	Mike Foster 252-671-6854
Dinghies	Wes Jorgensen 919-780-7217
Dinghies	Chris Davies 252-649-1122

