



Blackbeard's Epitaph

Save These Dates:

December 2

Children's Gift Wrap @ 10AM

NYRA Winter Series #3

December 9

Holiday Pot Luck & Crafts for Sale

December 15

BOD @ 7PM

December 18

NYRA WS #4

December 31

New Year's Eve Party

January 1, 2024

Fred Latham Regatta



Blackbeard Sailing Club

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From the Commodore:

Howdy Mates!

The Winter Season is upon us, and so is our most active racing season. NYRA's Winter Series started off with the Halloween Regatta, a decent turnout with fluky wind. A good time was had by all.

Elections were held, and the Board and Officers were chosen for the upcoming year. Re-elected were Karen Chandler as Secretary, Stephanie Davies as Treasurer, and Mike Foster as Director. Jeff Tsai will join the Board as a Director. LuAnn Parins was elected the new Commodore, as I retire to become the Past Commodore. Blake Sohn has been elected as Rear Commodore, and as Mark Hittner is also retiring from the Board, our new Vice Commodore is Cliff Lennox.

I want to thank all who agreed to run for office and congratulate those who won seats. Membership vol-

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

(Continued from page 1)

From the Commodore

untary contributions to the management and care of the Club are the lifeblood of Blackbeard.

The Thanksgiving for Marines social event appears to have been a big success, with greater participation than in recent years by both Marines and locals from Blackbeard and Fairfield Harbour. Connie Kerns made a gigantic contribution of time and effort to make this happen.

In addition, this year's Turkey Trot Regatta, newly expanded to include more small boats than the original San Juan 21s, was reportedly a big success.

Upcoming this month are the Holiday and Crafts Party on December 9. There will also be a New Year's Eve Karaoke Party on the 31st, with music by Scott and Donna Wade.

On New Year's Day, the Fred Latham Regatta will once again be held.

And one more thing, the Installation Dinner will be held on January 13th. Watch for a blast announcement in the coming weeks.

Be well all!! Fair winds and smooth seas.

Arch

A Few Words About BSC Elections

by Bill Green

With BSC's election of Officers and Directors for 2024 now complete, I think it is timely to address an issue raised by a member during the voting period, who asserted that the names of the candidates for Director positions should have been presented in alphabetical order because some voters tend to vote straight down the list. This is the so-called "ballot order effect" and it has been shown to favor names placed at the top of the list, and disadvantage those at the bottom, particularly when voters aren't familiar with the candidates. (If you're interested in that subject, you can put that phrase into your favorite search engine.)

We were fortunate to have five members stand for election to the two Director positions to be filled for 2024. So, how best to list those names on the ballot? We could place them in alphabetical order as the member suggested - and that is what we would do if we were using preprinted paper ballots. Of course, that could have favored the candidates at the top of the list and disadvantaged those at the bottom. Fortunately, the software we use for club elections, *ElectionBuddy*, has a feature designed to mitigate the ballot order effect. This allows us to randomize the list of candidates for each ballot issued, effectively shuffling the names for all 200+ ballots, and cancelling any ballot order effect. This seems like the best we can do to ensure fairness in BSC's elections.

Congratulations to the winning candidates, Mike Foster and Jeff Tsai. Please thank them and the runners-up, Werner Buckl, Reid Serozi, and Billy Starr for volunteering their time and efforts in this important way.

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Happy Holidays

*Blackbeard Sailing
Club Holiday Party!*

Potluck Dinner and Craft Fair

Potluck Dinner



Saturday, December 9, in the BSC Clubhouse

5:30 Cocktails

6:00 pm Dinner

Please bring your own beverages
and a dish to share, enough for 8 or
more.



Please contact Joan Boenig: joanboenig@nc.rr.com

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

by Jane Staveley & Connie Kern

Social Committee Update

Saturday, December 9 is the date for BSC's Holiday Party, including a potluck dinner and craft fair. Please bring your own beverages and a dish to share. For additional information about the dinner, please contact Joan Boenig. For additional information about the Craft Fair, please contact Stephanie Davies.

On New Year's Eve (Sunday, December 31), we will celebrate in the clubhouse with karaoke provided by our own Scott and Donna Wade. More details will follow soon!

Save the date for our Annual Installation Dinner, to be held on Saturday, January 13. We will be welcoming the newest members of the Board of Directors and Officers, as well as presenting awards for efforts made on behalf of the Club during 2023. This is our big, fancy event of the year and we will be sending out an announcement as soon as plans are finalized, and we are ready to accept sign-ups.

Earlier in the day on Saturday, January 13, we will be holding a planning meeting of the Social Committee. This meeting is open to anyone and everyone who would like to help with social events at BSC. More details later!

Calling all Crafters

Do you knit, paint, make jewelry, etc...?

Now is the time to show off your talents to your fellow BSC members at the annual Christmas Potluck on December 9...

and make a little spending money for the holidays...if you sell it, we'll wrap it!

Contact Stephanie Davies or Karen Chandler

stephaniejaedavies@gmail.com

Kpchandler003@gmail.com



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Thanksgiving with the Marines

by Connie Kern

First, I want to take a moment to thank EVERY member of BSC and Fairfield Harbour who collaborated to make this Thanksgiving holiday dinner and Thanksgiving with the Marines such a special day. This includes EVERYONE who pitched in or brought a dish to share. What a wonderful celebration it was!! It's good to see our communities come together to celebrate, and for a good cause! (Special thanks also to FH resident and Jarhead Jay Barker (JJ WOLF) who co-facilitated the countless meetings, revisions and organization that went into this!!)

In my very next breath, I want to offer special thanks to the team that helped set up and decorate the clubhouse (including Werner and Calley Wildenburg and Joan Wilson,) to Angela who stayed past 11 to help prep all the food on Wednesday night, to Joan Wilson who supported me through breakfast service, and to Amy Keane and FH resident Rebbecca Tindall who worked tirelessly to help make and serve all the food for both Thursday breakfast and the annual potluck dinner! I can't even begin to list all the work it took to transition from a full breakfast to dinner in just 3 hours. We could not have done it without Amy and Rebbecca!!!

Our conservative estimate is that we served about 80 breakfasts, including freshly prepared egg bake, spiral ham, an assortment of breads and spreads, cereal and steel-cut oats, and an assortment of coffees, tea, cocoa and cold drinks. Bringing in the community to meet this year's Marines over breakfast worked out splendidly, and built good relations between BSC and FH.

There were an estimated 60 members at dinner, plus the group of Marines that stayed with us throughout the day to fish and sail thanks to many including Tom McKnight, Don Ramsey, Pete Thorne, and Mark Keane. We were joined through the evening by an additional 30 Marines for food and fun. The final group left at 11 pm, after spending hours onboard with Chris Weed and Jason Heald, and falling in love with sailing.

Thanks to our visitors there were few leftovers to put away, despite preparing four 20-pound turkeys and two spiral hams!!! Just a WHOLE lot of clean-up...thanks to Debbie Mills for taking care of laundry, and Paul Mills for wrestling the 60-pound trash bag!!!

Apologies to anyone I missed...there were far too many hands pitching in to mention everyone. And what a great variety of foods we had!!! But most of all, I'm so very grateful for the BSC community, and the heart they have for the USMC.

Connie Kern
Jane Staveley
Social Committee Co-Chairs



Marines out sailing with Chris Weed

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Thanksgiving with the Marines



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Turkey Trot 2023

In past years, the Turkey Trot was a small event, hosted by San Juan 21 Fleet 8 and held at Blackbeard Sailing Club. We usually had 6-10 San Juans competing in Upper Broad Creek, and a potluck supper at the pavilion, with frozen poultry as the prizes.

That started to change last year, with the Sunfish Class joining in. This year, it was a full-blown One Design Regatta! We had 31 boats registered: 6 San Juan 21s, 6 C420s, 3 Weta catamarans, and 16 Sunfish. Stephanie Davies and Ed Thompson were the ROs, with 2 support boats setting the courses, as well as the signal boat (Vern Buckl's "Rumi") running the races. Conditions were excellent, with a few clouds and an average of about 10 knots on a 70 degree day. The breeze was relatively cooperative, with a "trend right" throughout the day. We couldn't have asked for better conditions, especially in late November!

It was decided to do "rolling" starts, so getting 4 classes going took 20 minutes. The first signal was sounded at 11:25, for an "Olympic" course (Triangle/W/L/W) with a mid-leg start/finish. The ROs were a little concerned about the speed of the Weta class, but, in the given conditions, the fleet didn't spread out too far. The first race took the entire one-hour time limit, so the 2nd and 3rd races of the day were set as a W/L/W course. Those two races went very quickly, so a 4th race was squeezed in before the 1500 limit for signaling more starts. The final race of the day was a simple triangle.

All competitors were ashore in good order and enjoyed a "potluck" supper, with the main course of "chicken and pastry" provided. We maintained the tradition of awarding frozen poultry for the top 2 finishers in each class.

Three of the four classes had dominant performances for 1st place: Mark Weinheimer, on #2, "Deuces Wild", swept the San Juan class with 4 firsts, as did Chuck Carroll on his Weta, "Dragonfly". Aiden Hansen took 3 firsts and 1 third to win the C420 class, and Elaine Parshall, on "Ghosts", won the Sunfish Class, with finishes of 3/4/1/2. The final scores are in the attachment below. https://www.regattanet-work.com/clubmgmt/applet_regatta_results.php?regatta_id=27159

Link to all Pictures: <https://orienteer.smugmug.com/BSC-Turkey-Trot-Race-17Nov2023/>



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

by Mark Brennesholtz

Racing Update

Ensign Season a Wrap

The Ensign Fall and Year 2023 ended November 9th with a fine day on the Neuse. The day was cooler and breezier than forecast, with the occasional whitecap. Lots of bottom paint showing, and not many spinners, at least in the first race. As the pictures show, there was some close racing at both the starts and the finishes.

Blue Note swept the three final races and *Red Stripe* took three seconds. After throw-outs, that was also the result for the Fall Series and the Year. *Mutiny* nosed out *Raptor* by one point for third in the Fall. *Long Shot* came in fifth for the Fall and fourth for the Year.

Weather was not as kind in 2023 as in most years. A total of 15 possible races were cancelled due to excess or negative wind. However, 27 races were completed.

The annual awards banquet was held in the Clubhouse and was a lavish affair with Fleet Captain Blake Sohn presiding. Blake also made wonderful trophies that featured his own watercolor prints.

The Ensign 2024 season begins March 28th.



Raptor crew collects very nice trophies at the Ensign awards dinner. From left, Fleet Captain Blake Sohn, Gordon Osborne, Bill Kirsch, & Richard Cipolia (C. Davies photo).

Red Stripe crew Drew McCrocklin & Buddy Dillinger accept the watercolor paint trophies from Fleet Captain Blake Sohn (C. Davies photo).



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Racing Update

Ensign Season a Wrap



Red Stripe setting the chute at the windward mark. *Stripe* finished second in the Fall Series and for the year (C. Davies photo).



Blue Note leads *Red Stripe* and *Long Shot* going to windward on November 9th. Note the amount of bottom paint on display (S. Davies photo).



Mutiny edges out *Long Shot* at the windward mark in fresh breeze (C. Davies photo).



Raptor douses the spinnaker at the leeward mark. *Raptor* came in fourth in the Fall Series, only one point behind *Mutiny* (S Davies photo).



All five Ensigns hit the starting line on a breezy November 9th, the final day of Fall Series (S. Davies photo).

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Racing Update

by Mark Brennessoltz

NYRA Winter Series

The second contest of the Winter Series was on November 10th in not-so-pleasant weather. Ed Doughty's *Bad Fish* won all three races. Tom McKnight's *Anathema* took three seconds, and Charlie Nelson's *Water Phantom* had three thirds in the Spinnaker A fleet. *Bad Fish* has a slim lead in the series, but with five race dates between now and early February, nobody is gloating yet. Tom and Ed have nearly the same ratings, which makes for fun and very tight racing.

Spin C's Buddy Dillinger in *Red Stripe* (not the Ensign) has raced all six races and has five firsts.

The Navigation Fleet, the largest, has five boats in fairly close contention. John Jackson leads with a second and a first in *Georgie Girl*. Paul Mills is second so far in *Vertical Wing* with a third and a second. With lots of races left, everyone is still in the running.



Warm foulies were in order on November 11 in the NYRA Winter Series #2. Here aboard John Jackson's *Georgie Girl* in the Navigation Class (S. Davies photo).



Buddy Dillinger's Olson 28 *Red Stripe* rounds the windward mark just behind the bigger boats (C. Davies photo).



Bad Fish leads beating into the windward mark, with Charlie Nelson's *Water Phantom* and *Anathema* in pursuit (C. Davies photo).



Ed Doughty's foredeck crew prepares to launch the spinnaker as Tom McKnight approaches the windward mark in *Anathema* close behind. With nearly the same ratings, these two race very close, but *Bad Fish* won all three races this day (C. Davies photo).

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Welcome New Members Neill & Heather Graham



I'm Neill Graham, and I hail from "Little" Washington, NC, growing up by the Pamlico River, surrounded by a family of powerboat enthusiasts. My journey into sailing began as I crewed on monohulls in local regattas and eventually owned a 15 Venture Catamaran. Our family also enjoyed sailing at our lake house on Kerr Lake, where we sailed Hobie 14s and sunfishes. Currently, we sail a Boston Whaler Harpoon 4.6 Dinghy at Kerr Lake.

After high school, I spent around four years on Ocracoke Island, where I worked on the restoration of various boats and met my wife, Heather, while both of us were working at the Pelican Restaurant.

I pursued my academic journey at UNC Charlotte, earning a BA in Mechanical Engineering in 2002. During my college years, I gained experience working at an architectural model shop and honed my skills in composites and laminate layup/vacuum bagging techniques.

My professional career began in Portsmouth, VA, where I worked as an engineer at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, focusing on steam plant troubleshooting for Nimitz Class Aircraft Carriers. I also had the unique experience of taking off from and landing on aircraft carriers at sea in propeller-driven mail planes. In 2007, I moved to Wilmington, NC, to work for General Electric in their Nuclear Power division. My current position is Manager of the Piping Analysis Team, and I hold a Licensed Professional Engineer title.

My sailing adventures led me to the Waccamaw Sailing Club in 2016. I've raced Tanzer 16s, served as a board member, and currently, I race a Vagabond (Hobie) Holder 20. As a Boy Scout Leader, I helped 12 scouts earn their sailing merit badge during a single weekend at WSC. In 2018, I joined forces with a friend and co-worker, Mitch Johnson (current BSC member), to purchase a Corsair (Farrier) F24 trimaran, primarily for day sailing and coastal cruising. We've sailed to Ocracoke, Oriental, and New Bern, among other destinations.

My family consists of my wife of 21 years, Heather, and our two children, Riley and Teague, along with our two Golden Retrievers, Sully and Byrdie.

What I bring to the club is a deep passion for sailing, an Eastern Carolinian's dedication to preserving our coastal environment, and a range of technical skills, including mechanical expertise, boat wiring, composite design and construction, rope work, rigging, and construction experience.

My hopes for the club include camaraderie, a platform to promote and sustain sailing, a welcoming space for family and friends to enjoy sailing, and an opportunity to contribute my skills and learn from others, all while being surrounded by boats and the water!

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

by Jane Staveley

Your Social Committee Needs Volunteers!

The BSC Social Committee has a number of events planned for the rest of the year, but the people who have volunteered to run these events could certainly use more help. Things go very smoothly when we have sufficient crew. We are putting out a special call for newer members! Assisting with a social event is a great way to get to know other club members. The upcoming events are listed below.

Gift Wrapping for Giving Tree, and Decorating the Clubhouse, Saturday, Dec. 2

Holiday Pot Luck and Craft Fair, Saturday, Dec. 9

New Year's Eve Party with Karaoke, Sunday, Dec. 31

Installation Dinner, Saturday, Jan. 13

If you would like to help with any of these events, please contact either Jane Staveley or Connie Kern.

Thank you!

Jane Staveley (919-961-0987; jstaveley@nc.rr.com)

Connie Kern (646-588-8176; serene.health.reflexology@gmail.com)

VOLUNTEER



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

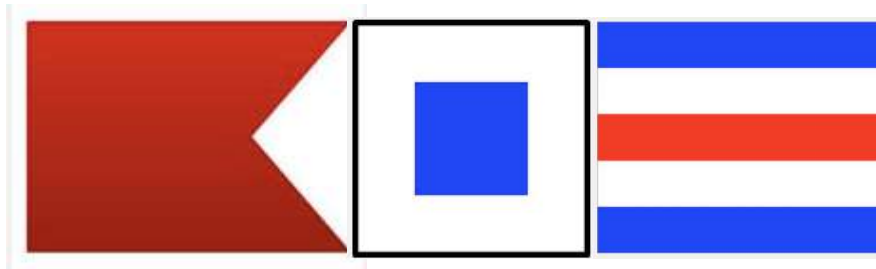
2023 RACE SCHEDULE

Provided by Inter-Club Racing Committee

Final 12/23/2022

Dec 2	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 3 *	X	**	**			New Bern
Dec 16	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 4 *	X	**	**			New Bern
Jan 1, 2024	Mon	BSC	Fred Latham Regatta			X			New Bern
Jan 1, 2024	Mon	ODC	Instead of Football Regatta	X	**	**			Oriental
Jan 6, 2024	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 5 *	X	**	**			New Bern
Jan 20, 2024	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 6 *	X	**	**			New Bern
Feb 3, 2024	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 7 *	X	**	**			New Bern
Feb 17, 2024	Sat	NYRA	Commodores Ball Regatta *	X	**	**			New Bern

* NYRA Boat of the Year Race # Clark Cup Series ** Ensigns & SJ21s sail in PHRF fleets P Protected



Club	Club Name	Representative	eMail	Telephone
BTC	Bow To Stern	Mark Fields	markcfields@hotmail.com	(252) 204-6129
BSC	Blackbeard Sailing Club	Arch Altman	raleighwoodcab@aol.com	(919) 306-1567
BSC	Blackbeard Sailing Club	LuAnn Parins	lmparins@gmail.com	(252) 229-6528
ETYSA	Edward Teach Youth Sailing Assn	Heather French	heather.french.massey@gmail.com	(252) 571-0322
FHYC	Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club	Barb Robinson	ribaldness@gmail.com	(715) 781-7737
FLT 8	San Juan Fleet #8	Jeff Thomas	jennjeff@suddenlink.net	(252) 638-1493
FOM	Friends of the Museum (Beaufort)	Brent Creelman	brent@maritimefriends.org	(252) 728-1638
HYC	Hancock Yacht Club	Pete Mack	petermack@coastalnet.com	(252) 229-4940
ICRC	InterClub Race Committee	LuAnn Parins	lmparins@gmail.com	(252)229-6528
NYRA	Neuse Yacht Racing Assn	Clare Brock	commodore@nyra.org	(252) 671-7462
ODC	Oriental Dinghy Club	Bob Slook	bslook@gmail.com	(732) 740-5591
ODC	Oriental Dinghy Club	Todd Cox	toddcoxvt@gmail.com	(802) 999-7572
PSC	Pamlico Sailing Club	Elizabeth Betts	velella6@hotmail.com	(252) 524-1213
SCOO	Sailing Club of Oriental	Rick Fears	rickfears42@yahoo.com	(916) 759-9546

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

2023 ICRC Race Calendar

Additional Events of Interest

Ensign Fleet Races - located on the Neuse River near Upper Broad Creek, New Bern, NC.

Spring Series: 7 Thursday races on Mar 30; Apr 6,13,20,27; May 4,11.

Fall Series: 7 Thursday races on Sep 28, Oct 5,12,19,26; Nov 2,9; Awards & social following Nov 9 races.

Normally 3 races per day.

Contact: Blake Sohn blakesohn@gmail.com or 612-481-9696 for information

Fairfield Harbour PHRF Fun Sails - open to all boats with NC PHRF, no fees or scoring, pursuit format.

Tuesday Series: weekly mid-April through mid-October, weather permitting.

Contact Russ Robinson R.Rubarb@gmail.com for race updates and PHRF-based pursuit start time

Blackbeard Sailing Club Weekly Open Sails - open to everyone at no cost, no club affiliation required.

Pursuit starts based on PHRF ratings - notifications via email distribution list.

Day of the week and time based on weather and daylight hours.

Contact Joan Wilson sail_kitty@hotmail.com or Ed Thompson edthompson2@comcast.net to join

Sunfish Racing

>**FHYC Sunfish Races** - near the boat ramp on Fairfield Harbour Inner Harbour; 3-4 races per day, weather permitting.

Spring Series - 9 Sunday race days on Apr 2,16,23,30; May 7, 14; Jun 4,11,18,25.

Fall Series - 9 Sunday race days on Sep 10,17, 24; Oct 1,8,15,22,29; Awards & social following Oct 29

Contact Jerry Rezab for info at geraldrezab@yahoo.com or (252) 288-4124.

>Oriental Dinghy Club (ODC), Oriental NC

Year series - to be determine

Contact Bob Slook for info at bslook@gmail.com or (732) 740-5591.

>Hot Toddy Winter Series at Blackbeard Sailing Club, New Bern NC

Nov or Dec through Mar, into Apr, Sat or Sun usually 2 weeks or more apart.

2023 Schedule: Jan 1,14; Feb 11; Mar 11; Apr 15

Contact Sonya Dean for info sonyafm@hotmail.com or (919) 271-9899.

>Harkers Island Regatta - Jul 15, 2023

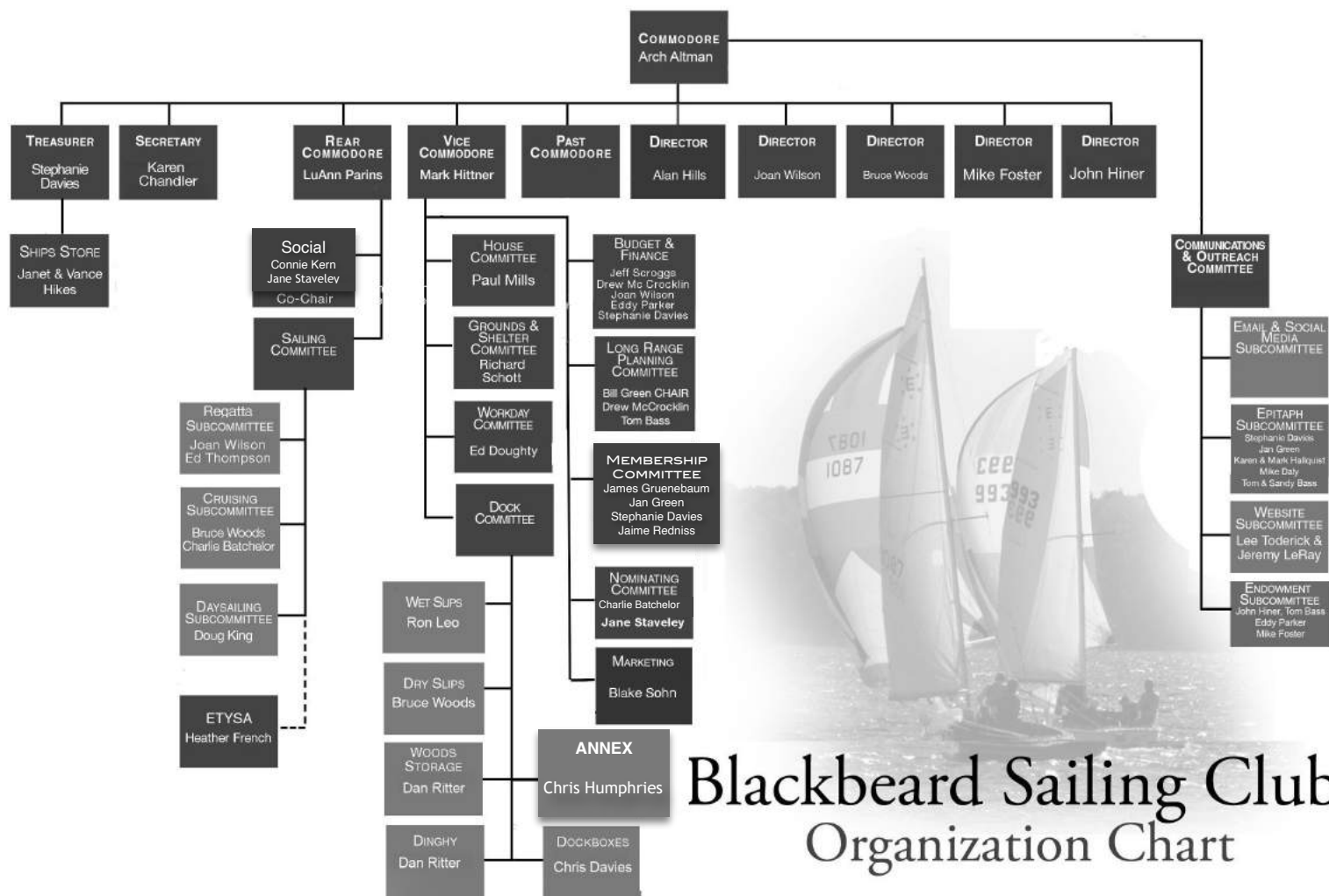
Contact Sonya Dean for info sonyafm@hotmail.com or (919) 271-9899.

Miscellaneous:

Date	Day	Club	Event	Location
Jun 5-Jun 30	Mon-Fri	BSC	ETYSA Youth Sailing Camps	New Bern NC
Jul 10-Aug 4	Mon-Fri	BSC	ETYSA Youth Sailing Camps	New Bern NC
TBD	Thu-Sun	FLT 8	SJ-21 Eastern Nationals	TBD
Oct 7-8	Sat-Sun		Mumfest	New Bern NC

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

2023 Board of Directors & Department Leads



Blackbeard Sailing Club
Organization Chart




**Volunteers are not paid, not because
they are worthless but because
they are priceless.**

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

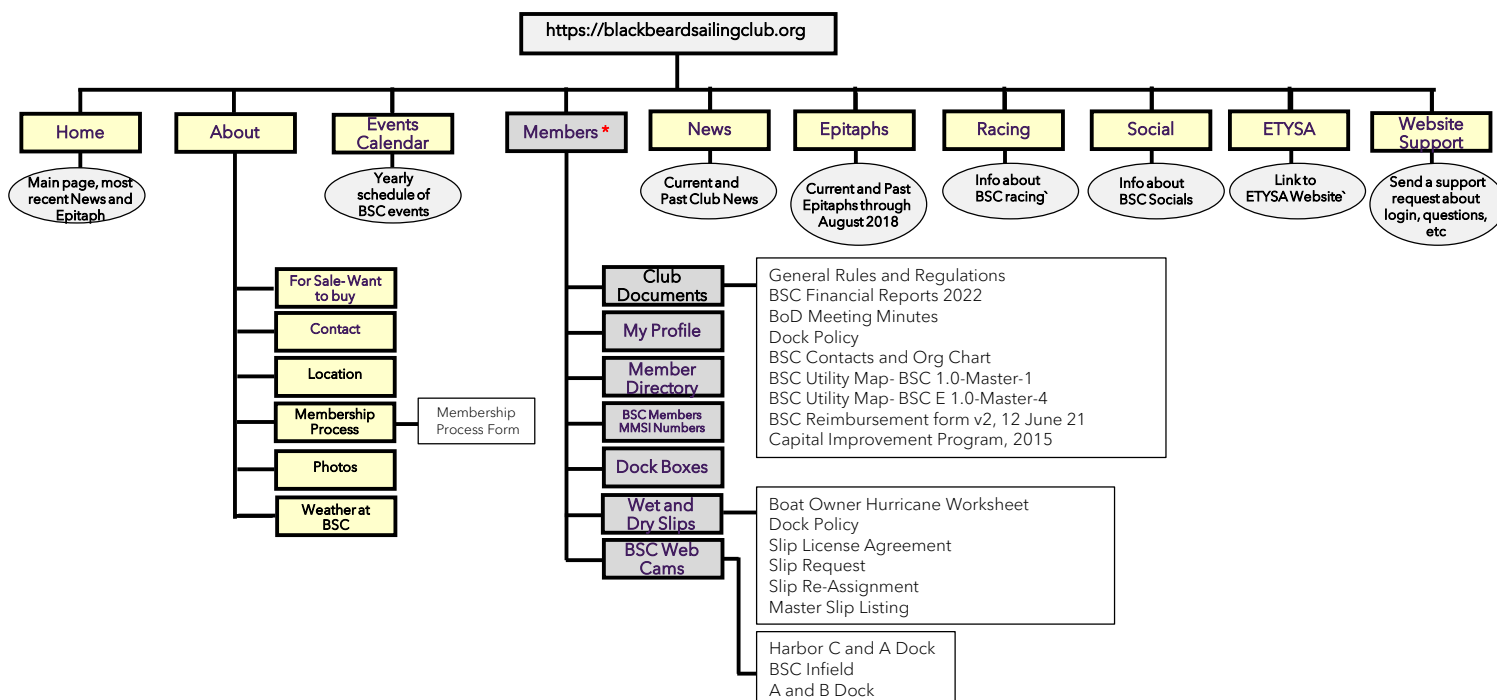
New Website Map

by Lee Toderick

The URL is <https://blackbeardsailingclub.org>

-  Your old member id and email address have been copied to the new site.
-  To get a new password, open the BSC website and click on the "Login" icon. Click on the link for "Forgot your Password?" and follow the instructions.
-  If you have any problems, just click on "Website Support" and fill out the form.

If you can't log into the website, send a website support ticket - Menu option Website Support, then fill out your request and click Submit.



* Members access is restricted- requires login

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Renegade Boats

The boats/trailers pictured below do not have yellow ID tags and the club cannot figure out who owns them. If you own them or know who does please contact me at 252-638-5728 or mark.hittner@yahoo.com

All members:

This has been a persistent problem at the club and causes unnecessary work for the slip masters and myself. When in need of storage PLEASE request a slip assignment on the club website: Members > Wet and Dry Slips > Slip Request.

DO NOT PLACE A BOAT/TRAILER IN AN EMPTY SLIP.

