



# The Hornblower

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## *COMMODORE'S COMMENTS*

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by Commodore Jim Sisson



The 2007 sailing season is well underway. I am looking forward to one of the best years yet on the water. The club is in great shape. Thanks to the work party earlier this month, we have new gravel covering the heavy traffic areas, the brush and limbs have been cleared from the boat parking area, and the new decking on the dock has a fresh coat of wood preservative.

The new race schedule is posted on the web site and provides more opportunities than last year to come out and race. If you have trouble making the Sunday races, you're in luck. This year we have three more Saturday one-days. Last year the one-days were well attended and I hope they will be just as popular this year.

In addition to the ongoing operations of the club, the BOG is also looking at some longer-term issues to ensure the future health and success of the club. One of the things we are looking at is how to increase member participation in racing, club programs, and social events. This year you can expect to see more communication from the club. The Fleet Captains will also be working to turn out their

respective fleets. The Mentor program, started last year, is gaining traction and has scheduled four events this year.

We need to hear your ideas as well. Over the next several weeks, the Fleet Captains will be contacting their members to get ideas on how to increase participation. Participation is the life's blood of any club. What could the club do to get you out to the lake more often?

If you have been waiting for spring, it is finally here. It is time to brush the pine straw off the boat cover and get your bottom wet. Come on out and join in the fun. If you haven't been out to the club in a while, your friends are wondering where you are. Come say hello.

See you on the starting line.

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## *RACING REPORT*

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The first One Day was not a complete blow out, four J-22's sailed with half the club as crew.

Bob Blythe recapped - "We had a great 2 + hours of sailing. 4 boats out, most with extra crew. (Jim Proctor ended up with 5 aboard.) No marks, just up wind boat on boat work and then spinnaker runs for some of us. The wind was pretty steady SE at 12-14 kts. with brief gusts in the twenties. It was shifty close to shore near the dam, but otherwise the shifts weren't too extreme. On the next to last run, we caught a monster puff that we

were'n't expecting and got up on an extended plane. The crew talked about the loud humming noise coming from the keel, but the boat felt great. Trent did a real good job with the refreshments afterwards. I think everyone had a blast on the water."

The race results for the first two Sunday races are below.

2/4/2007		
	Tot	
Skipper	Pts	Place
Jim Binnings	8	2
David Reich	7	1
Loy Vaughan	12	3
Harry Reich	17	4

2/11/2007		
	Tot	
Skipper	Pts	Place
Nelson Sharp	12	4
Jim Sisson	7	2
Michael Papp	9	3
Tate	19	6
Harry Reich	12	4
Mike Neilson	19	6
David Reich	5	1



Photos (left): Tom Shannon and Fred Smith's trip to The Tradewinds Mid-winter championship in the Keys

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## THISTLE REPORT

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by David Reich  
Thistle Fleet Captain

### Thistle Fleet 110 News

Thistle Fleet 110 is up and running and we are looking forward to a great 2007 Thistle Sailing Season. Most of you get the occasional email newsletters so you should know what's been happening and you continue to be updated on these regularly.

Our fleet welcomes new member Edwin Marty. Please look for Edwin at the club and out on the course. Edwin is a fun guy and will be a real asset to our fleet. His crew Lars Loehman has even been showing up to sail when Edwin is not able to make it. That is a great example of simple participation. Thanks to Loy for nurturing Edwin along in the Thistle. We won't hold that against you for long Edwin!



Thistlers gather for chili after opening day at BSC.

We will be scoring the Sunday Races and One-day's this year for Thistle Fleet 110 and we may be following suit with the Flying Scots to score you whether you steer or crew. So the name of the game is: "Show Up and Score" !!

### Fleet 110 "Shin Dig & Shrimp Boil"

More to come on this soon by email news but here's the first head's up! I am planning to hold a Fleet Gathering at BSC on Saturday, March 31st at the club. We will have a shrimp boil with all the extras. Plan to attend and let me know if you will help out with this great event. We want all to attend with crew and family in tow. We will have some tuning sessions, some Thistle chat, some sailing, and a whole hellaoflotta fun!!

### Thistle Southeastern Spring Series

The Thistle SESS begins in only 2 weeks with the Orange Peel Regatta at the fabulous Florida Yacht Club in Jacksonville. Our friend Greg Griffin puts on a great regatta to kick off the season each year. This year they will feature a COACH TCA course on Friday with the class's finest sailors (Greg Fisher, Skip Dieball, Mike Ingham, and others) to give you personal help. You will learn more about sailing a Thistle in these 3 days than you will sailing all season without going. The regatta website is: <http://www.thistlefleet133.com/orangepeel/>

### Thistlin' Tip

The Thistle is a very responsive boat and excels in all conditions. One of the most important points of sailing a Thistle is feeling the helm. Start by making sure your rig is tuned to the sail maker's recommendation in their tuning guide. I can help you with this if you need it. Once on the water, feel the helm of the boat and make the necessary adjustments to have little to nearly no helm. This means no tugging or pushing on the tiller. This can be achieved by 1. keeping the boat flat. If you get a puff and the helm loads up, hike! and ease the main to keep the boat "on its feet". In light air, if the helm seems "mushy", try to induce a little heel by shifting crew to leeward to create a little "Feel" in the helm. Constantly, felling the helm and keeping the boat balanced is the first source to SPEED.

See ya on the line!

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## *SNIPE REPORT*

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By Michael Papp  
Snipe Fleet Captain

### **Snipe Fleet 828 Report**

Calling all Snipers: let us endeavor as a fleet to have a better showing on fleet race days. Upcoming fleet days are:

March 11  
April 15  
May 27

Please come out and support your fleet. If you have any questions or need help with rigging, tuning, or sailing your Snipe, please contact me at 744-2566 or [webmaster@birminghamsailingclub.org](mailto:webmaster@birminghamsailingclub.org). SCIRA dues are due. Paying SCIRA dues make you eligible to race your boat in regattas, and more importantly you will get the quarterly Snipe Sailor magazine, which includes top secret tips, tricks, and hints to help you improve your boat handling skills. Contact me or visit <http://www.snipeus.org/> for more information on how to pay your dues. Registration forms are posted on the Snipe bulletin board in the clubhouse.

Upcoming district and national events include:

Mar 10 - 13, 2007	Snipe Midwinters (Pan AM Qualifier)
Mar 16 - 18, 2007	Don Q Rum Regatta
Mar 21 - 24, 2007	Bacardi/Gamblin Memorial Series
Apr 14 - 15, 2007	St John's Tea Party
Apr 28 - May 5, 2007	2007 North American Snipe Championship
Jun 16 - 17, 2007	Surf City Atlantic Coast Championships
Jul 27 - Aug 3, 2007	US Snipe Nationals

Visit <http://www.snipeus.org/> for more information. And finally, from the crewing basics cheat sheet sent out by SICRA, here are some basic hints to crewing on a Snipe (these hints are helpful for the skipper too).

1. Keeping the boat flat is one of the most important things to making a Snipe go fast. Being constantly aware of boat heel is your most important job.
2. Hiking Pants are one of the best investments you will make in sailing a Snipe. They are almost at the level of "mandatory equipment".
3. Practice, practice, practice - and talk to your skipper and other crews about how to do things better.
4. Keep a positive attitude. Don't let words spoken in the heat of the moment get you down. After the race is over, talk over what should have happened.
5. If your skipper is consistently unappreciative of the work you do, have him crew for you or someone else. Nothing makes a skipper appreciate a crew more than having to crew themselves!





## *FLYING SCOT REPORT*

By Sid Browning  
Flying Scot Fleet Captain

After a few lunches and planning meetings, Flying Scot Fleet 118 has a new plan for this year that emphasizes participation and encourages new sailors to race. We want as many Scots on the water as possible during the 2007 sailing season. To accomplish this, the focus will be on inexperienced Scot skippers and crew. This doesn't mean that the veteran sailors get a pass this year. You guys are greatly needed to show the rest of us how it is done so we can have high-quality competition at all levels this year. I have agreed to take over the title of "fleet captain," but in reality you guys are seeing a team effort from me, Margaret Pittenger and Thalia Baker.

Here's the plan in summary: One competition is based on a high-point scoring system. If you are the first Scot across the finish line out of a fleet of ten Scots, you receive ten points. This competition, called the "Year Long Regatta," rewards consistently fast sailing. There will be separate awards for the sailors acquiring the most points during Sunday racing and the sailors acquiring the most points during regattas. Crew and skippers receive points because we don't want to discourage an experienced skipper from hopping aboard a beginner's boat. The other competition will be our "Championship Series" based on participation. Let's reward the people who are consistently showing up for club activities, serving on race committee or just generally showing up on the water and sailing around the marks.

We also have a fleet web page this year. Thanks to Michael Papp for putting that together for us. Take a look at it for details on our competitions and standings. The site is <http://www.birminghamsailingclub.org/fleETFlyingScot.asp> and there is a link to the page from the "fleets" section of the BSC website.

Our next fleet day is Sunday, March 11th. Come to the club that day and either sail your Scot or crew on someone else's Scot. Can we get our own start that day? There's no reason we can't put at least five boats on the line so come out and enjoy your boat. We will have a fleet gathering after sailing that day so stick around for a bit.

## *J22 REPORT*

by Fred Smith and Trent Richardson

**The BSC J22 fleet completed a fantastic 2006 season and looks forward to 2007.** The J22 fleet held a spring and a fall series. The purpose was to attract more participation and reward overall consistent performances. BSC had 2 boats that went on the road to campaign in the J22 SouthEast circuit.

**The results from the spring 2006 series are below.** The format proved a good mix between rewarding regatta performance and recognizing consistent participation. The key race in the series is always the Ironman. The series went right down to the final events in the series. The final standings had Shazam by a nose and the Blythe team in a tie with the Devil. Congratulations to all for a great series and good camaraderie.



Sail No.	Skipper	# Races	Possible	Total Points
926	ShaZam	21	35	66
467	Blythe	25	35	60
664	Smith, Fred	18	35	60
540	Priola	9	35	23
102	Proctor	11	35	19
416	Killion	6	35	14
104	Smith, Bo	8	35	15

The results from the fall 2006 series are below. The racing got off to a slow start with many light wind days. But the Tasmanian Devil made the club proud with a fantastic showing at the key Leukemia cup regatta. But the Blythe team continued a strong campaign right to the end. The final results showed Blythe and the Devil again in a tie, but this time with boats on top. Congratulations to all for a great series and keeping it fun.



Sail No.	Skipper	# Races	Possible	Total Points
664	Smith, Fred	16	26	83
467	Blythe	16	26	83
540	Priola	16	26	39
926	ShaZam	12	26	36
104	Smith, Bo	8	26	16
102	Proctor	10	26	12
416	Killion	0	26	0

**BSC J22 fleet goes on the road for the SouthEast circuit.** In 2006, the BSC J22 fleets engaged a courageous campaign in the SouthEast circuit. The series presented 6 tough regattas from Nashville, Jackson,

Birmingham, and Atlanta. The wind gods were often smiling as we were often rewarded with moderate winds of 25-30mph. Just to feel the J-boats under spinnaker in real pressure made the hassle of the travel worth it all. The Blythe team edged out Shazam with a solid 4<sup>th</sup> place finish out of 34 boats. Shazam was presented with the road warrior award for participating in every event. The SouthEast circuit will return in 2007, but we need to see the BSC caravan increase by a boat or two.

Sail No.	Skipper	Club	Total Points
202	Claire	HIYC	300
727	Morang	LLSC	263
1472	Freeman	PPYC	255
467	Blythe	BSC	219
926	Shazam	BSC	207
1045	Bourquin	PPYC	205
722	Cassidy	LSC	201
948	Harshman	LLSC	150
873	Palmer	LLSC	129
130	Carson	HIYC	126

**BSC conscripts new fleet captain.** Congratulations to Fred Smith on becoming the J22 fleet captain for 2007.

We will have two series this year, spring and fall. Scoring will be based off of a best 7 out of 11 events sailed. Anyone interested in crewing a J should call me or just show up the day of the race.

J22 Spring Series		
#1	Feb. 24	Club One Day
#2	Mar. 4	Sunday Races- J/22 fleet day
#3	Mar. 17	Club One Day
#4	Apr. 1	Sunday Races- J/22 fleet day
#5	Apr. 14	Caldwell Cup One Day
#6	May 5	Club One Day
#7	May 6	Sunday Races- J/22 fleet day
#8	May 19-20	Ironman
#9	June 3	Sunday Races- J/22 fleet day
#10	June 16	Club One Day
#11	June 30	Club One Day



## JUNIOR SAILING

### More Fun is Planned for the Junior Sailors in 2007

by Jack and Kathaleen Rogers

We had a great 2006 Junior Sailing season. Sixteen new and returning sailors attended camp last June. The campers returned to the club over the following months to practice their sailing skills. We also held the Rock Paper Scissors Junior Regatta over Labor Day weekend. Sixteen sailors participated in the regatta including juniors from Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana. BSC was well represented at several out of town events. Joe Hart sailed his Club 420 in regattas throughout Florida. He also practiced with the other 420 sailors at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Van Rogers and PJ Callahan (Mark and Paula Martincic's grandson) traveled to Lake Lanier Sailing Club to attend in the US Sailing Junior Olympic Festival. Van also traveled to Oklahoma Boat Club (Great Plains Championships), Sarasota Sailing Squadron (Opti Nationals), Fairhope Yacht Club (Wadewitz) and Southern Yacht Club (Midwinter Opti Championship).

We will kick off the 2007 junior sailing season with a "Get Back in the Boat" practice and social on April 21 or 22. Returning campers can practice the sailing skills they learned last summer. Juniors who have not attended camp are welcome to come out to see our boats and facilities and meet other junior sailors. More information will be posted on the web site.

We will hold our annual Junior Sailing Camp on June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. The Sailing Camp is open to all juniors age 7-17, regardless of sailing experience. Juniors must be able to swim unassisted for 20 yards. More information including registration forms is on the BSC web site. Priority registration for BSC members ends May 1<sup>st</sup>. We filled all of the camp spaces last year, so please turn in your registration forms early. After May 1<sup>st</sup>, registration will be open to non-members.

The Rock Paper Scissors Junior Regatta will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 1-2, for Optis, Lasers, and Club 420s. The regatta will be open to all racing levels.

Please mark your calendars with these events. There are also a number of Junior events throughout the region that our sailors have participated in. Check out these opportunities on the calendar posted on the BSC Junior Sailing website. BSC has 4 race-ready Optis and a great trailer so getting a boat to one of these events is easy. Making friends and competing with sailors from neighboring clubs is a lot of fun!

If you have any questions about Junior Sailing at BSC, please contact Kathaleen Rogers at 979-1831.



Photos: (top) Van Rogers at Optimist Midwinters at Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans. (bottom) Rock, Paper, Scissors Regatta participants.

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## LEARN TO SAIL

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by Michael Papp

The adult learn to sail class registration forms have been posted on the website at <http://www.birminghamssailingclub.org/learntosail.asp> . I have 73 people on the list of people who are interested in taking the class, but logistically we can only handle 20 people at a time (Jack Rogers and I are only volunteers after all). If you or somebody you know is interested in taking the class, please send in the registration forms as soon as possible. We hope to keep up with the Neilsons and have 40 participants every year, so seating is limited and your check reserves your seat in the class.

I also encourage racing skippers to utilize the Crew List on the website. There are a lot of people interested in crewing. Some have lots of experience, and some are just excited to be out and racing and want to learn, so please make sure you invite these folks out on the water. We are like a family on the water, and we always need more people interested in sailing.

You may also notice that the Learn to Sail class is scheduled to finish up right before the Ironman in spring, and right before the October racing frenzy in fall. This ensures that there is a fresh crop of sailors ready to crew for these events, so not having crew is not an excuse not to race.

As always, we need volunteers to help out with the on the water days, so if you are interested, please let me know. I can be reached at 744-2566 or [education@birminghamssailingclub.org](mailto:education@birminghamssailingclub.org).

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## CLUB NOTES

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### *BSC Work Day*

by Nelson Sharp,  
Grounds and Docks

If you are like me, as the weather slowly gets warmer, thoughts of sailing begin bouncing around in your head. We wanted to get the Club in top-notch condition so we could spend weekends on the water doing what we love. On Saturday, February 10th, thirty-three ( yes that's 33) sailors arrived at the club with tools in hand. Everyone pitched in to clear brush, spread gravel, clean gutters, preserve docks, burn brush, and much, much more. If you have not been to the Club yet, you should come and take a look.

O.K. it was not all work.

As is the case with everything we do at BSC, we made an attempt to make it fun. First, there was comradery with fellow sailors. Then we were treated to a delicious chili lunch and the usual beverages. After lunch, the pain from the hard work faded away as we admired what had been accomplished.

Although there is always more to do, the Club looks great. I sincerely appreciate the overwhelming attendance and effort. The next workday will surely bring just as many projects and just as much fun. Now it is time to go sailing. Get out to the club and put your boat in the water!



### *BSC Website*

by Michael Papp, Webmaster

Thank you to all the members who have contributed content and pictures for the website. I may not use all of it immediately, but I will use as much as I can. Thank you to John Action for submitting the picture of the Thistles sailing on February 4th for this month's masthead image. As dark as the lake and sky are, it is amazing how those spinnakers light up the Logan Martin. If you have any questions, comments, content, or suggestions for the website, please let me know at [webmaster@birminghamsailingclub.org](mailto:webmaster@birminghamsailingclub.org). I will incorporate as much as I am able to into the website. Don't forget to check out the latest edition of the Hornblower, the race schedule, or the all important race results on the website. I plan on loading updates on Tuesdays of every week. Committee chairs: please send me updates for your pages. The BSC site is a living site, and I endeavor to make sure that we don't have 3-year-old announcements on the site like some other sailing club websites. Explore the new site at [www.birminghamsailingclub.org](http://www.birminghamsailingclub.org).

### *Powerboat Notice*

by Dave Coshatt

My personal schedule has kept me away from the club (I live 10 minutes From BSC, lame excuse I know). But thanks for the emails that kept me informed about the boats. A big "thank you" to the persons who did the work on the large boat, you know who you are!!!!

**SMALL COMMITTEE BOAT----** The new motor should be installed within the next two weeks. Mercury 40 horse, 4 stroke, new controls, no more worry!!!!!!! Thanks to our Board this was approved at their last meeting **THANK YOU!!** Some small repairs will be needed to be made, no big problem, she should be ready to go.

**LARGE COMMITTEE BOAT----** A complete overhaul, mostly cosmetic work, will begin this summer. When our race season is not as demanding, I think two weekends, beer, 10 workers, 1 supervisor (me), some paint, wood, beer, screws ,nails, beer, ice, good weather, and some beer, we should be complete. I'll keep in touch to you know when the work party will start!! All jokes aside this will be great project **LET ME** know if there are any improvements that can be made.

We have a new anchor coming (Dan Forth)-- Installing depth finders on both boats?? Horns?? Lights?? Anything just let me know and I'll look into it (the board approved my budget, they messed up big time)

**NEVER EVER PUT MIXED FUEL INTO OUR BOAT ENGINES.** Our boats never require oil / gas mixed ratio.

That's all I have to rant and rave about, see ya on the water

***GYA Events***

by Kent Irwin

We are making plans for another exciting season of Capdeville racing. We have had a measurable increase in boat speed after rig tuning, bottom sanding (David Reich) and Donnie Brennon centerboard magic. We are sailing with the “front” pack and we still have more speed ideas in the works! In the spirit of the Capdevielle team we will be sharing our rig tune numbers and other ideas that work with you.

**2007 Race Schedule:**

March 10-11	Mardi Gras	NOYC
April 14-15	Pat Gilliland	JYC
May 5-6	Opening Reg.	Pont YC
May 19-20	Spring Reg.	Buc YC
June 2-3	Candler	St ABYC
July 7-8	Meigs	FWYC
July 14-15	Summer	MYC
July 21-22	Jr. Lipton	Pont.YC
July 28-29	Weatherly	GYC
August 11-12	Knost	PCYC
September 1-3	Lipton	BWYC
September 15-16	Race Week	LBYC
September 20-30	Wadewitz	FWYC
October 20	Schreck	PYC



If you are interested in participating in any of these events contact Kent Irwin at [gya@birminghamsailingclub.org](mailto:gya@birminghamsailingclub.org).

***Knost Team***

by Amy Sides

The Knost Regatta is an all-female Capdeville event held August 11-12 in Pass Christian, MS. BSC has sailed in this regatta a couple of times, and the ladies that participated had a great time (and didn't do too bad, either). If you are interested in participating as a member of the Knost team, please contact Amy Sides at [amylewissides@yahoo.com](mailto:amylewissides@yahoo.com) or 663-3312.

***Hornblower***

If you have an article or picture that you would like to share with the *Hornblower*, please e-mail it to Amy Sides at [hornblower@birminghamsailingclub.org](mailto:hornblower@birminghamsailingclub.org).

***RACING SCHEDULE / COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS***

Date	Event	Fleet Day	PRO	Race Committee
March 11	Sunday Races	FS/Snipes	Jerry Hart	Diane Hart, James Dudley, Ed Baker
March 17	Club One Day		Michael Papp	T. Ellis/ T. Pack, John Lonsdale Eccles, Robert Walsh
March 18	Sunday Races	Lasers/Cats	Mike Graham	Trent Richardson, Kerri Richardson, Tom Brown
March 25	Sunday Races New Member Day		Vincent Priola	Hank Cason, Richard Durham, Marion Gilmore
April 1	Sunday Races	J22/Thistles	David Hardwick	Andy Hatley, Bob Bamberg, Steve Gautney
April 8	No Sunday Races (Easter)			
April 14	Caldwell Cup		Jim Sisson	P. Chitwood/A. Flowers E. Cassady D. Glasgow/S. Small
April 15	Sunday Races	FS/Snipes	Bert Denton	Mallory Miree, David Drosdick, Butch Goldblatt
April 22	Sunday Races New Member Day	Lasers/Cats	Richard May	Allison Northen, Brian Millwee, Danny Waters
April 28	Learn to Sail			
April 29	Sunday Races		Bill Berry	Dennis Blass, Jim Johnson, Jim Schomak

**There will be no racing held on Sunday, April 8 due to Easter.**