



January 2024

Commodore's Corner, Zack Lawson

Ahoy,

As winter wraps its chilly arms around us, the Commodore and other adventurers are buzzing with excitement about the upcoming Winterfest Cruise downstream. This promises to be an unforgettable journey, extending as far as the picturesque Joe Wheeler State Park. The chill in the air won't deter our enthusiastic sailors, as we embark on a nautical adventure, exploring the beauty of the waterways.

In a spirited transition meeting held today, the leaders of our seafaring community shared their visions for the upcoming season. Chris, our esteemed Race Chairperson, unveiled a treasure trove of fantastic ideas to elevate our racing experiences. But here's the thrilling part - Chris wants YOUR input! Mark your calendars for a crucial meeting in January where all hands will be on deck to shape the sailing season ahead.

Matt, our dedicated Vice Commodore, is calling on the club members to join forces in preparing our fleet for a series of Learn to Sail classes. Dust off those sailing skills, because we need your expertise to get our club-owned boats shipshape and ready for eager learners. Additionally, Matt emphasized the importance of catching up on maintenance for our beloved Sunfish and Hobiecats. All you scallywags need to help him or you'll have to walk the plank.

Susan, our diligent Education Chairperson, is already charting the course for the Learn to Sail classes scheduled for the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May.

A word from our treasure-loving Treasurer, Elizabeth: the coffers are running low. To keep our ship afloat, she urges everyone to pay their dues promptly. Your contributions ensure we have the necessary funds to embark on these exciting projects and adventures. Let's ensure we have the spending power to navigate the challenges and fun that lie ahead.

Your involvement, ideas, and support are the wind in our sails, propelling us toward a thrilling and successful year on the water.

Wishing you fair winds and following seas,

Zack Lawson Commodore, BCSA

Vice Commodore, Matt Birkbickler



As we gear up for another exciting sailing season I am thrilled to welcome you all back to the water.

Believe it or not spring is right around the corner, and with it comes the anticipation of sunny days, brisk winds, and the joy of sailing. To ensure that our fleet is shipshape and ready for the adventures that lie ahead, we will have a spring cleaning work day. The dates will be announced as we get closer. We encourage all members to take some time to come out and give a hand getting our club house and boats ready for the season. A well-maintained vessel not only enhances your sailing experience but also contributes to the overall safety and aesthetics of our club.

As we embark on this season, let's not forget the camaraderie that makes our club special. Whether you're a seasoned sailor or a newcomer, there's something magical about being part of this community. I encourage you to take advantage of the upcoming social events, regattas, and learning opportunities that will be announced shortly.

Looking forward to a fantastic year of sailing, shared stories, and new friendships. See you around the club, and may fair winds fill your sails!

Matt Birkbickler



Treasurer and Membership Chair,

Elizabeth Starnes

Thanks to those who have renewed memberships or joined BCSA as new members this year. For those who have not, we ask that dues be paid by February 1 each year. After that the door code will be changed. We have a new Commodore and new officers with lots of activities planned for the year. I hope you will send in your membership dues - only \$150 - and take advantage of all the club has to offer.

Checks can be mailed to BCSA -100 Browns Creek Rd - Guntersville, AL 35976; put cash or check in the lock box by the door; or with Paypal - \$155 for processing fee. If paying with Paypal, be sure to include an email so we can put you on our list for the newsletter and information on upcoming events.

PayPal: brownscreekmembership@gmail.com

Welcome new and renewed members for 2024:

Bennett Birckbichler Clendenny Collins
Elliott Hall Hanks Henderson Hurst
Lawson McDowell Morris Moser Myrick
Powell Proctor G. Sledge J. Sledge Starnes
Thomas Upton J. Wilson T. Wilson
Membership Chairman



Clove hitch



Category Hitch
Origin Ancient
Related Slippery hitch, Two half-hitches, Buntline hitch, Cow hitch,

All Fleets Meeting

We will be holding our annual All Fleets meeting to discuss our racing series, scoring format, race committee assignments and regatta schedules. If you **race** or **want to race** you will not want to miss this meeting. This is a BYOB event.

Please review the meeting agenda and feel free to bring your own ideas.

If you have some free time also review the [Cox-Sprague](#) scoring system.

MEETING AGENDA

Location: Browns Creek Sailing Association or Zoom

Date: January 14th

Time: 3:00 PM CST

AGENDA DETAILS

1. **I want to explain the Cox-Sprague scoring system to gain general acceptance:**
 - a. https://www.shieldsfleetone.org/Cox-Sprague_Scoring.htm
 - b. Must race 50% of the races to qualify for a series.
 - c. Use Cox-Sprague on long series and low point for individual races and regattas.

2. **How do we want to classify our fleets: (This is for publishing race results and awards.)**
 - Dinghy
 - Keel Boat
 - Cruiser

3. **Race series questions:**
 - a. What day of the week and time do we want to race?
 - i. 3pm Sundays
 - ii. 3pm Saturdays
 - iii. 5pm Wednesdays
 - iv. Vary depending on sunset
 - b. Do we want two separate series (different days)?
 - i. Keel Boat
 - ii. Dinghy – We could do these just through the warm months.
 - c. Do we want to add a limited cruiser series?
 - d. Do we want to add a short Frostbite Series?
 - e. Do we want to have separate starts for each fleet?
 - f. Do we want the series to be pursuit or
 - g. Maybe both depending on number of PRO's available?

4. **Race Committee discussion:**
 - a. How many times each person is willing to do RC duties?

b. Ask all members to participate as a PRO or a PRO assistant.

5. Regatta Schedule:

- a. TVCC: September 20th - 22nd
- b. Great River Race
- c. Mayors Cup

6. Set a date for Race Committee Training:

- a. Any Volunteers to teach?

7. Set a date for Sailboat Racing 101:

- a. Any Volunteers to teach?

8. You can save Money by prepaying for racing:

- a. Pay \$10 for each race OR
- b. Pay \$60 for the entire year excluding regattas.

9. Conclusion

Zoom Meeting Info:

If you can't make it in person then feel free to use Zoom.

Chris Edwards is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: BCSA All Fleets Meeting

Time: Jan 14, 2024 03:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ellucian.zoom.us/j/95115546061>

Meeting ID: 951 1554 6061

Calendar Invite: [bcsa-all-fleets-meeting.ics](#)

Education Chair, Susan Wilson 

**BCSA Sailing 101 Spring Class
Launches from North Alabama Sailing Marina
Guntersville, AL**



April 27, 28, May 4, 5, 2024

- **Class meets 10 am- 4 pm Saturdays and 1 pm-4 pm Sundays**
- **Saturday schedule: 10 am- noon classroom sailing basics**
 - Noon- lunch on the deck**
 - 1pm- 4 pm sailing training on helm and crew with instructor on board**
- **Sunday schedule: 1 pm- 4 pm sailing training on helm and crew with instructor on board**
- **Students need to attend all four days of instruction and bring a Type III life vest**
- **\$250/\$350 couple, class fee includes 2024 BCSA membership**

Class size is limited

Message Susan Wilson on Facebook

Send check payable to BCSA to Susan Wilson, 100 Browns Creek Road, Guntersville, AL 35976



BCSA Education:

We have a busy 2024 Sailing Education calendar planned for our club. While the skies are dark and cold let's start off the year watching four seminars put out by North U through American Sailing. North U says: "This series of four online classes teaches the strategy and tactics you need to turn your speed into a podium finish." I'm in! I haven't set the dates to watch these at the clubhouse yet, but it will be coming late January and February. Watch your email for the dates!

Session 1: Starting Strategy and Tactics

Session 2: Upwind Strategy and Tactics

Session 3: Downwind Strategy and Tactics

Session 4: Mark Roundings, Finishing and Rules

BCSA Sailing 101 Class is April 27, 28, May 4, 5. This is always a well-attended class and it fills up fast. It's early January as I write this, and we already have six students signed up. The class limit is 12 students. If you know someone that is interested have them sign up soon by messaging me on Facebook or email me.

Before class we need members to get the boats and clubhouse ready for our new sailors. We will get this started in March. Some of the jobs you can help with are:

Clean BCSA clubhouse, clean club Catalina 22's inside and out, check boats rigging and motors, and help with the graduation social. VC Matt Birckbichler will coordinate the boat prep and Jennifer will coordinate the social. Let us know what you would like to help with.

Sailing Parents: Let me know if you can help with some Youth Sailing training. I'm looking for calendar dates that would work for our middle school aged BCSA sailors. We have five Open Skiffs and Seven Sunfish available. Message me through Facebook or email me. We will need parents to help with rigging and chase boats.

Captain Susan Wilson

Cruise Chair, Mark Proctor



Winterfest 23

December 27 was our departure day on this year's winter adventure. It turned out to be our best weather day, sunny and 50° and very light wind. The lake was glass. We motored to the G'ville lock and after a short wait we entered and locked through.



Flotilla enters Guntersville Dam Lock

There were a couple gates open so the current was brisk. Speed over ground was mid six to seven knots at times. We made a stop at Ditto to top off water tanks and so Zach could get a dodger that had been repaired. The dodger would end up a huge blessing to have in the following days lower temperatures. Onward towards Decatur and Riverwalk Marina. We ran out of daylight at the I-65 bridge and tried to find a narrow channel to an anchorage. Poor decision, I ran aground. Following that we all decided to proceed to Riverwalk. Very long day, 10 hours underway. Day 2 dawned overcast, temps in the 30s and a brisk breeze. A short distance from the marina is a railroad bridge. We hailed the operator for a lift and had a short wait on a train. We made it to almost Brown's Ferry nuclear plant when Miss Behave developed an engine problem. Zachar tied to Miss Behave and the trouble shooting began. The decision was made to return to



i at Riverwalk Marina, Decatur

Riverwalk. Enroute Miss Behave came alive, great job men! Everyone made it to the marina under their own power. Riverwalk is a nice place for a stopover, although everything was closed for the holidays.

Day 3 was a challenging day beating back against current in the cold. Zachar put the sails up and carried a beam reach for a long way at a decent clip. Day ended at Ditto Landing. The last day the cold was taking it's toll on the crews. We pushed up river and got thru Guntersville lock without delay. We ended our trip back at NASM after 4 days, 3 nights, 115 miles and 26.5 hours at the helm! All crew aboard SV Back Burner, SV Miss Behave and SV Zachar had a huge time enjoying the river. Join us next time!



Happy Winterfest Crew

Mark

Social Chair, Jennifer Birkbickler



We're thrilled to report that our New Year's party was a smashing success! The turnout was fantastic, and the atmosphere was filled with laughter and joy.

A highlight of the night was undoubtedly the Chili Cook-Off, where the competition was as hot as the chili itself. Congratulations to Jennifer Birckbichler for securing the first-place spot with her sensational chili creation! Kudos also to Ashley France, who med second place, and Sandy Proctor, who snagged third place. The variety and flavors showcased truly made it a culinary showdown to remember.



The Chili tasters



The Chili Chef Winners

As we bid farewell to 2023, we can't help but look forward to the exciting events ahead. Mark your calendars for our February social(details to come) – we can't wait to catch up with all of you again and continue the festivities.

Secretary, Ed Hurst



It's a new year, Officers have been elected, and schedules are being built. We've got a good board with a tremendous amount of experience and boundless enthusiasm.

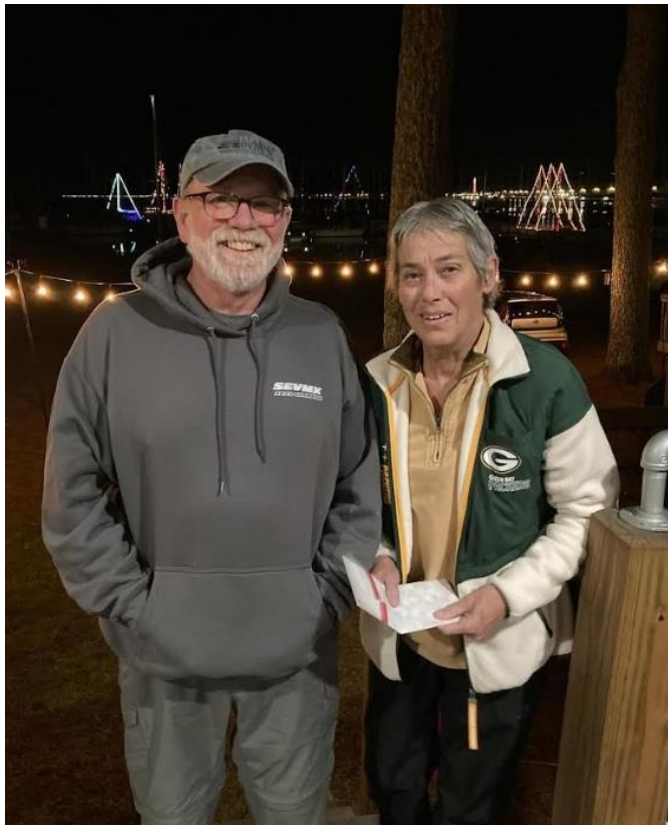
BCSA is what you make of it. The more you get involved the more rewards it returns. But first we need to get the pot right. Let's get our dues in. BCSA dues are among the smallest I've ever seen. You get a lot for your money, Clubhouse access, use of all the BCSA boats, great parties and events. But most importantly you'll form lifelong friendships.

I believe this is my fourth time to serve as Secretary. I suspect that this is because I'm the biggest BS-er. Regardless of this dubious title I really appreciate any materials that are interesting or relevant to BCSA sailing. So, got a neat story or photos, please share.

This weekend Chris Edwards will present the 2024 Race Schedule meeting. See elsewhere in the Drifter. If you plan on racing it behooves yourself to attend. Make sure you get what you want in the new season. It's good just to show up to protect yourself from any nefarious assignment. Be there or be square!

Christmas Boat Decoration





First Place (Leg Lamp) Mark and Sandy Proctor

Second Roger Parisa and friend Sarah.





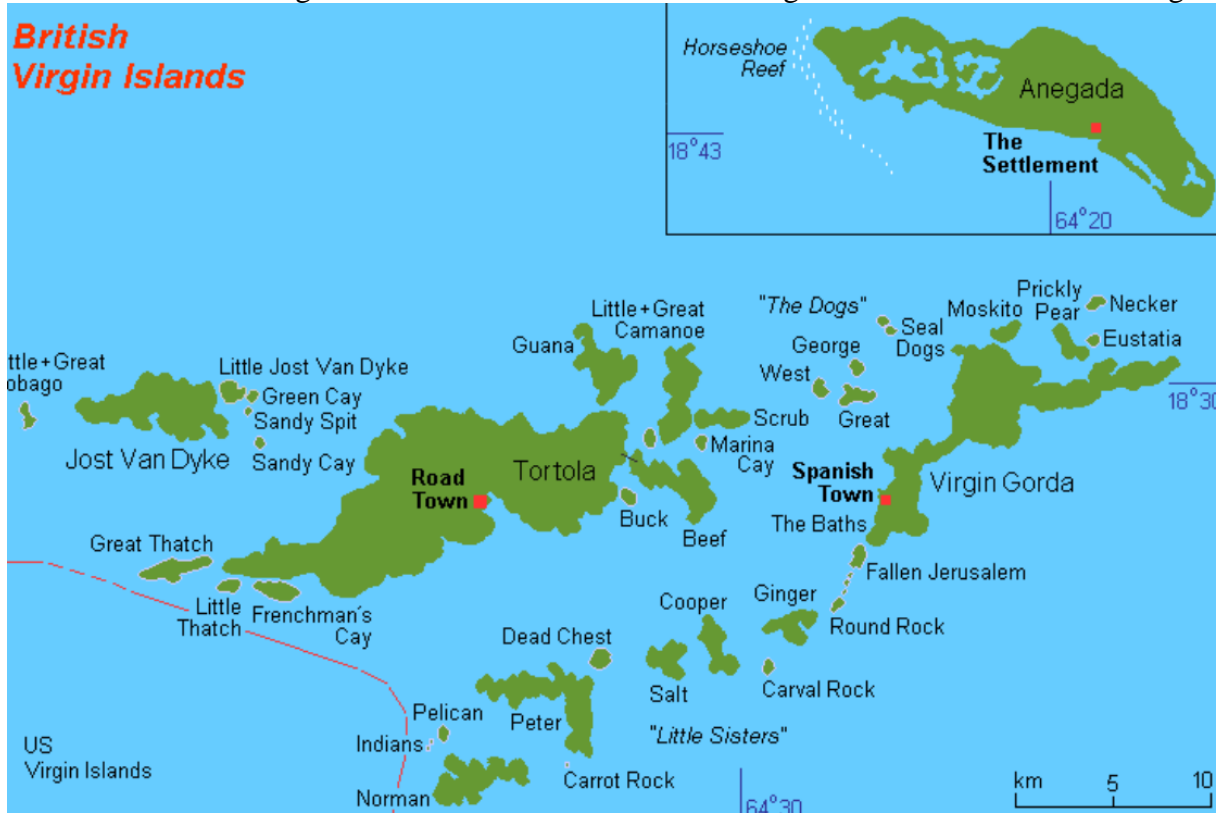
Third Place (Allmond Joy) Greg and Shelly Pillion

cleat hitch	
Names	cleat hitch, cleat knot, cleat tie
Category	Hitch



BVI
British Virgin Islands

Margaret and I chartered a Bareboat Jeanneau 370 in the BVI in October. We are talking about going back in November and possibly setting up a flotilla if there is any interest. We visited most of the bigger attractions with the exception of Anegada. We went to the Baths on Virgin Gorda, Saba Rock, Jost Van Dyke, Foxy's Soggy Dollar Bar, Willie-T's on Norman Island. More on this in subsequent Drifters. We had lots of fun and are anxious to return now that we know where to go. Thanks to Dave Carsten for sharing his advice and vast knowledge on the trip.









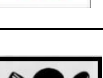
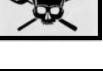




Roadtown Tortola , BVI Overlooking Conch Charters

All the channels were well marked. Marinas were always close by. Mooring Balls were always available. If you can sail Gunter'sville Lake this is no harder. But get a boat large enough to have A/C. It's Hot!

2024 Board and Committee Chairs

Officer	Position	Officers Flag	E-mail
Zack Lawson	Commodore		Zack@skiersmarine.com
Matt Birckbichler	Vice-Commodore*		mattyb8562@gmail.com
Ed Hurst	Secretary*		Shenanigans770@gmail.com
Elizabeth Starnes	Treasurer*		estarnes245@gmail.com
Chris Edwards	Race Committee		chris@edwards.pub
Pat Upton	Member at Large*		patrickupton@sbcglobal.net
Jeff Wilson	Webmaster		jeffrey.wilson007@gmail.com
Mark Proctor	Cruise Committee		MSProctor2003@yahoo.com
Jenifer Birckbichler	Social Committee		JBirckbichler@gmail.com
Susan Wilson	Education Chair		suhurwil@gmail.com

*Voting Member

Our Dockmaster, Dallas, has been dreaming up an event to get people sailing. Details are sketchy at this time but this is what I think I heard:

The Great 2024 Sail Challenge

The purpose is to get people out sailing at least once every month.

You must leave the Marina and raise your sails at least once every month.

There will be a logbook (Float Plan) to log your trip. You must sign the log book and keep all required safety equipment for you and your guest. *I'm not sure what nonsense this entails, But BCSA has no liability in the event-expressed or implied.*

\$20/Year to buy recognition and wacky awards at the end of the year.

