



January 2026

Commodore's Corner, Matt Birkbickler

From the Commodore (Apparently)

Well... this escalated quickly.

Not long ago I was your Cruise Chair, the guy whose job was basically to say “yeah, that sounds like a great idea” and then figure out later how many boats were actually coming, who forgot dock lines, and why someone always shows up with tequila at 10 a.m. Somewhere between planning cruises, helping Jenn wrangle socials, updating the calendar, creating pay links, building forms, sending emails, and generally being unable to say “no,” I apparently got promoted. Please don’t clap. Concern is acceptable.

What’s the plan this year?

Short answer: a lot. We already have a jam-packed year with a full race schedule, socials that start calm and drift into chaos, learn-to-sail class, workshops, cruises, dock parties, and multiple events that will begin with “we’ll just see what happens.” The calendar is filling in, the ideas keep coming, and no one has taken my keyboard away yet.

Important reminder: this club is about fun.

Yes, we race. Yes, we teach. Yes, we hold meetings and occasionally use the word “agenda.” But BCSA exists for one simple reason: to have fun on the water. Not perfect sailing, not expensive gear, and not knowing every knot without Googling it first, just getting out there. If you haven’t sailed in a while, we have boats. If you don’t own a boat, we definitely have boats. If you’re worried you “don’t know enough,” congratulations, you’re exactly who we want. Show up. Get on a boat. We’ll sort the rest out later.

About those Catalina 22s...

I can’t say too much yet, but let’s just say the fleet boats are getting a very meaningful upgrade, the kind that mean no more playing Bop It before you leave the dock. You’ll still need to untangle a line or two, but the experience is about to get noticeably better. More details soon..

Get involved (seriously).

BCSA only works because people show up. You don’t need a title, experience, or to volunteer for everything (please don’t). Crew on a race boat, come to a social, help with an event, take a class, or sit on the porch telling stories that get better every time they’re retold. This club thrives when the docks are full, the boats are moving, and the clubhouse fridge is somehow empty again.

Final thoughts.

I'm genuinely excited about this year. We've got momentum, a strong board, big plans already underway, and a group of people that make this club what it is. So let's sail, laugh, learn, break small things, fix them together, and make this another season people talk about starting with, "Remember that time at BCSA when...".

See you on the dock, probably holding a drink and pretending I know exactly what's going on.

Matt



Matt

Schedule at a glance.

Date	Day	Event	Location	Time
8-Feb	Sunday	2025 Frostbite Series Race 4	BCSA	1-4 PM
21 Feb	Sunday	2025 Frostbite Series Race 5	BCSA	1-4 PM
28 Feb	Saturday	Trivia Night with Lauren	BCSA	5:30-8PM
1-Mar	Sunday	Spring Series Race #10	BCSA	3:00PM

Membership Chair,  **Elizabeth Starnes**

We have several new members this year....If you see a new face, or boat, be sure to make them welcome!

I hope everyone takes advantage of all the club has to offer. Check out the BCSA website for the schedule of events including cruises, racing and socials: brownscreeksailingassociation.org, or join us on Facebook! If you don't have a boat yet, you can use ours - from Sunfish to Catalina 22s. Talk to Susan Wilson about boat usage and rentals.

Elizabeth



**SIGN UP OR RENEW YOUR
BCSA MEMBERSHIP
BY FEBRUARY 1ST!**

 **+ FREE ICE**

 **Catalina 22s, Sunfish, & Dinghies**

 **Socials & Races**

 **Cruises & Regattas**

MEMBERS ONLY CLUBHOUSE ACCESS

DON'T MISS OUT!

RENEW NOW!

brownscreeksailingassociation.org

Race Chair, David Chadwick



Race Chair, David Chadwick

Welcome to the BCSA 2026 Racing Program!

Our racing schedule for 2026 is now published on the BCSA website [Calendar](#) and the schedule for the first half of the year is below. We start on Sunday February 8th with the 4th race in the 2025/2026 Frostbite Series. After 2 more Frostbite races we will have our St. Patrick's Day Regatta on Saturday 14th March, and the Spring Series will start the following weekend.

Please read the schedule carefully as we have some races on Saturdays and some on Sundays to meet the needs of our members. The start time for our club races also varies during the year and changes from 1pm to 2pm and then 3pm as the days get longer. Also note that the start time listed on the website is the targeted start time on the water. The skipper's meeting at the clubhouse is 1 hour before this.

We need race officers to run most of these scheduled races and we kindly request that our sailors who are interested in racing go to our [Race Committee Assignments](#) form and indicate your availability. You can also contact me directly and let me know which race you can be RC. Note that even if you are inexperienced at running races, we still need your support, and we will pair you with an experienced Race Officer so you can learn the process. It is a lot of fun to set a course for the sailors and then start and finish the races.

You will learn a lot!

You can contact me at drchadwi@yahoo.com



Event Name	Race Class	Race Type	RC PRO	RC Assistant	Day	Date	Skipper's meeting	Race start
Frostbite Series #4	Series	Pursuit			Sunday	2/8/2026	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Frostbite Series #5	Series	Buoy	David Chadwick	TBD	Saturday	2/21/2026	12:00 PM	1:00 PM

Frostbite Series #6	Series (Final)	Pursuit			Sunday	3/1/2026	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
St. Patrick's Day	Regatta	Buoy	TBD	TBD	Saturday	3/14/2026	11:00 AM	12:00 PM
Spring Series #1	Series (First)	Buoy	TBD	TBD	Sunday	3/22/2026	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
Spring Series #2	Series	Pursuit			Saturday	3/28/2026	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
Guntersville Cup	Regatta	Buoy	LGSC	LGSC	Saturday	4/11/2026	TBD	TBD
Spring Series #3	Series	Buoy	TBD	TBD	Saturday	4/18/2026	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
Spring Series #4	Series	Pursuit			Sunday	4/26/2026	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
Spring Series #5	Series	Buoy	TBD	TBD	Saturday	5/2/2026	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
Spring Series #6	Series	Buoy	TBD	TBD	Sunday	5/17/2026	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
Mayor's Cup	Regatta	Buoy	TBD	TBD	Saturday	5/30/2026	TBD	TBD
Spring Series #7	Series	Pursuit			Sunday	6/14/2026	2:00 PM	3:00 PM
Spring Series #8	Series	Buoy	TBD	TBD	Saturday	6/20/2026	2:00 PM	3:00 PM
Spring Series #9	Series (Final)	Pursuit			Sunday	7/12/2026	2:00 PM	3:00 PM

Racing Events, Results, and the Master Schedule can be found at:

<https://brownscreeksailingassociation.org/wordpress/racing-events/>

Full Racing Results can be found at
<https://brownscreeksailingassociation.org/wordpress/racing-2/>

Cruise Chair, Jeffrey Wilson



Jeff Wilson Photo

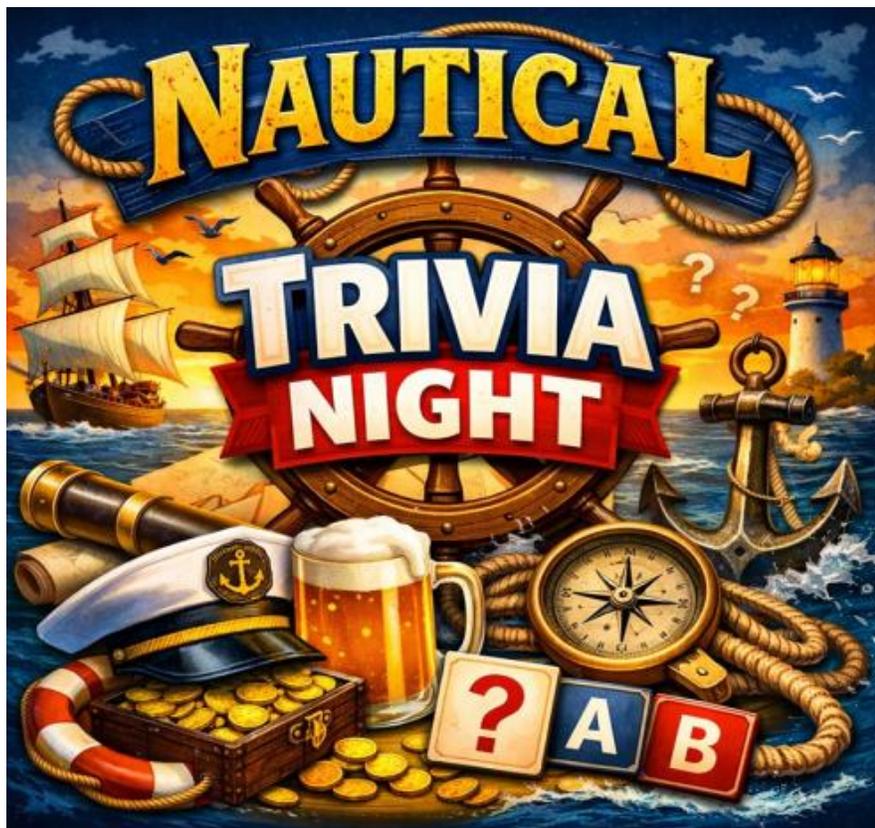
It's Cold Out! No Cruise Schedule Yet! Preliminary planning is for a trip to City Harbour toward the end of February. Watch the Web Page!

Social Chair, Jennifer Birkbickler

We wrapped up the year on a high note with our 2nd Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, and it was a fantastic time. Great outfits, lots of laughs, and wonderful company made it the perfect way to celebrate another successful year at the sailing club.

As we look ahead, we're excited for another great year filled with fun, engaging events—better than ever. Our next social gathering is Trivia Night on February 28th, hosted by Lauren from the Main Channel. Join us under the white tent for an evening of friendly competition and good food.

Cocktails begin at 5:30 PM, with trivia kicking off at 6:30 PM. We'll be serving chicken fingers and potato wedges, and it's BYOB. The cost is \$15 per person, which helps cover the host and food.



Jennifer, Social chair

Contacts

2026 Board and Committee Chairs

Officer	Position	Officers Flag	E-mail
Matt Birckbichler	Commodore		mattyb8562@gmail.com
Ross Crutcher	Vice-Commodore*		
Dallas Mayo	Secretary*		Shenanigans770@gmail.com
Margaret Hurst	Treasurer*		margo.hurst23@gmail.com
Dave Chadwick	Race Committee		chris@edwards.pub
	Member at Large*		
Jeff Wilson	Webmaster		jeffrey. wilson007@gmail.com
Jeff Wilson	Cruise Committee		
Jenifer Birckbichler	Social Committee		JBirckbichler@gmail.com
Zack Lawson	Education Chair		zackfuffet@gmail.com

*Voting Member



BCSA Sailing 101 – Spring Class

Ever wanted to learn how to sail but didn't know where to start?

Or maybe you've been around boats for a while and want to finally understand what's actually going on?

The BCSA Sailing 101 – Spring Class is designed primarily for new sailors, but sailors of any experience level can benefit from the hands-on instruction and on-the-water experience.

This is a 4-day course over two weekends, combining classroom learning with real sailing time.

No prior sailing knowledge required.

📍 Location

*North Alabama Sailing Marina
Guntersville, Alabama*

📅 Class Dates

• Saturday, April 24

- *Sunday, April 25*
- *Saturday, May 2*
- *Sunday, May 3*

Students are expected to attend all four days.

A detailed class schedule will be sent out closer to the event.

What You'll Learn

This course blends multiple learning styles to help build real confidence on the water:

- *Classroom instruction*
- *Hands-on dock time*
- *Rigging and boat familiarization*
- *Sail controls and terminology*
- *Basic seamanship and safety*
- *Supervised on-the-water sailing with instructors*

You'll spend time learning it, rigging it, and sailing it.

Class Pricing

- *\$250 – Individual*
- *\$425 – Married Couple*
-  *Married Couples*

Both individuals must complete a Learn to Sail application.

During checkout, the payment window will appear for each applicant — only one person should complete payment.

Select the Married Couple payment option one time only.

The second applicant may simply close the payment window without submitting payment.

What's Included

- *One full year membership in the Browns Creek Sailing Association (BCSA)*

Your membership continues well beyond the class and includes access to club sailing, events, races, socials, and member perks.

 *Membership benefits:*

<https://brownscreeksailingassociation.org/membership/>

 *How to Register*

 *Learn to Sail Application:*

<https://brownscreeksailingassociation.org/2026-bcsa.../>

 *BCSA Membership Application:*

<https://brownscreeksailingassociation.org/browns-creek.../>

Important:

On the membership application, write in the comments:

“BCSA Sailing 101 – Spring Class”

⚠️ Do NOT submit payment for club membership.

Membership dues are included with the class.

Secretary, Dallas Mayo 

Ed and Margaret’s Chili Recipe



Winners of the Annual Chili Cook-off

We’ve had a lot of activities around BCSA in the last couple of months. Since it was just way to cold to sail we had to concentrate on parties and other shenanigans.

December 7th we had our annual Chili-cookoff. Jennifer has been dominating the event for the last several years with her white-chicken chili. But, she was opposed by commodore and significant other Matt. So I thought I had a chance since they are splitting the vote.

The truth is I'm not much of a cook. For me chili has a label Van-Camps. Having a north west Arkansas origin we normally embellished it with Tomato Ketchup and if we wanted to be fancy we put a slice of cheese on top.

But I had one secret weapon, You-tube. So I researched every chili recipe clip. What was common, what was different, and what sounded good.

Second I extended my research at Publix International Food section. I reasoned, who grows Chilis-obviously those in the SW. If it looked good I bought it. So here is what I came up with;



- 2 Pounds 80/20 Ground Beef*
- 1 TBS Ground Cinnamon*
- 1 TBS Chopped Garlic*
- ½ Chopped Onion-Yellow*
- 1 Bell Pepper*
- ½ tps White Pepper*
- 2 TBS Coaco*
- 1 TBS GOYA Adobo Sauce*
- 1 tbs Smoked Papparika*
- 7 oz can of roasted Chipolties*
- 1 can Black Beans*
- 1 can Kidney Beans*
- 1 can Frijoles Negros (I think this is the same as the black beans but was authentic mexican sounding)*
- 1 can Fire Roasted Tomato Sauce*
- 1 can Rotel*

*2 TBS Dark Chili Spice
2 pkg GOYA Sazon (Mexican Allspice-I think)
2 oz Mushroom Ketchup (available from Amazon)
1 Btl Coors Light used to control the moisture*

I Sauteed the Onion and Ground Beef and stirred in the Bell Pepper and all the ingredients in a lg Slow Cooker. I believe several of the ingredients could be eliminated. I'm not sure there is any difference between Black Beans and Negro Beans but my MO was more ingredients-more better. If I did it again I think I would eliminate the Sazon sauce and I would use Half Pork.

Even though I thought it turned out pretty good, I might have done good since the Birkbickler syndicate was split. And I had my lovely misses helping and voting for me.



Moon Light Sailing

**Creating memories
that no amount of
therapy can remove!!!**

**HONEYMOON
ANNIVERSARY
DOUBLE DATE
BIRTHDAY**



Itinerary

***0-5 knots of wind
Motorsail & kill motor to enjoy
the silence of sailing,
everyone gets time at helm**

***5-10 knots
Sailup ASAP
everyone gets time at helm**

***10-15 knots
Sailup ASAP
everyone gets time at helm**

Moon Light Sailing

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