



# Konza Sailor

Official Newsletter of the Blue Valley Yacht Club

Founded 1963

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Konza Sailor

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## Editor apologizes for being adrift all summer long

By Bart Bartholomew, editor

It's July 30, I'm getting started on the second newsletter of the year, my Clipper 26 is still in its winter storage site, my Sunfish remains upside down with its standing rigging lying amidst other various items strewn about on my garage floor . . . something is wrong with this picture! Something was really wrong with this picture earlier today when I took a break from working feverishly on my barbershop chorus newsletter. I peered at the lake through the sliding glass door on my house only to see two lucky sailors from the Blue Valley Yacht Club on their yachts gliding smoothly to the northwest under a broad reach. I must indeed change my ways.

I apologize for not carrying out my newsletter duties this summer. If you haven't heard, Mary and I have spent almost three months in San Antonio, Texas helping our daughter and son-in-law take care of their son (our first


grandchild) while both of them continue to hold down very demanding jobs. Playing grandpa has been just absolutely wonderful but I must admit the call of the wind gets louder as each day passes. Hopefully we'll have a long, mild fall and the graceful Take Five will have ample opportunity to sail the waters of Tuttle Reservoir.

This newsletter will contain the old news items that were given to me back in spring plus some recent articles by Bob and Jane Mullen. Hopefully more people will take the opportunity to write articles for future editions. Yes, the members of the Club are interested in your past and present sailing experiences; share them with us.

I wish you smooth sailing with hopes of joining you in the very near future.



## Dam Sailors hear about sailing adventure

If you've never attended a Dam Sailor's coffee call you should consider doing so. Shown here are the attendees at the July 15 gathering where Henry Otto told us briefly about his and Ned Gatewood's trip from Florida to Bimini Island and return. I fully expected to find a full-blown article with lots of pictures from the trip in my mailbox but I didn't. Henry and Ned we look forward to reading about the trip in the next letter. 

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Unless carrying a byline or some form of credit to borrowed sources, all items in this newsletter are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Club or the Board of Directors. All photos in the bulletin are by the editor, unless otherwise identified.

All members of the Club are encouraged to submit articles for inclusion to the newsletter.

**Chris Ross receives honors**

On February 6 at the Boy Scout Dinner, Chris was honored as the Venture Leader of the Year for 2004 in the Pawnee District for his work as Skipper of Sea Scout Ship 5074, the Blue Valley Yacht Club's youth sailing program. He was selected out of 22 Venture and Explorer unit leaders in the Pawnee District that is made up of Riley, Clay and Washington Counties.

Special mention was made during the presentation of all of the support he obtains from members of the BVYC. This is the second time in three years that this award has been given to a Skipper of the BVYC's Sea Scouts.



**Scouts paint mooring balls**

By Chris Ross

The mooring balls sport new numbers courtesy of the artistic talents of Sea Scout Ship 5074. On Saturday, April 23, in about three hours, the paint crew used the work barge to number a total of 30 mooring balls, including Captain Otto's new #4 anchorage.

The work crew consisted of Claire Armstrong, Gill Armstrong (Bosun of the Ship), Paul Armstrong (Parent's Committee Chair of the Ship), and Chris Ross.

Weather was about 60 degrees, and wind was 10-15 knots.

**First sail of 2005**

Photo of BVYC sailor taken when there was still lots of winter in the air and water. Who is this sailor?



## Spring banquet goes down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico

By Ned Gatewood, social director



Jon Held, guest speaker at April 2 Spring Banquet

Sailor Jon Held treated those attending this year's Spring Banquet to a terrific presentation as he recounted his sailing adventure in the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi, and across the Gulf to Florida. Several years ago, Jon took a break for teaching electrical engineering at K-State to pursue his life-long dream of making this trip, and in doing so, followed his philosophy that living life richly is more important than accumulating riches.

Jon began looking for a modest keelboat in need of repairs, repairs Jon was quite capable of making - an impressive fact those attending the Banquet soon come to know. Jon found the right boat on eBay, and so began his adventure.

Most amazingly, Jon began his adventure with almost no previous experiences in sailing big boats. Jon had only sailed small dinghies prior to pursuing this long-time dream. After making extensive repairs and put his boat in the water for the first time, Jon found himself on the Great Lakes, by himself. He cast off lines, raised the sails for the first time, and probably mumbled to himself something like, "Now what do I do?"

Well, he obviously learned quickly and overcame the many trials and tribulations that would appear on his voyage. By the time he reached Florida - body, mind, spirit, and boat mostly in one piece - he had eaten a lot of ice cream, picked-up a lovely mate (the ultimate fate of whom was not made entirely clear by Jon to his audience), and solved scores of problems with clever and inexpensive solutions.

Thanks, Jon, for the wonderful trip!



## Club endures a hot and windy summer

By Bob Mullen, race director

No summer blahs at BVYC. Sailors had a hard time getting started this spring and many boats sat idle, but as summer came on bringing wind and heat, there appeared to be increased activity at BVYC. In early summer a micro burst of some type ripped through the dinghy park raking havoc with several boats. Damage was remarkably light in the park even though boats were piled on top of one another and concrete tie downs were ripped out of the ground. Out in the harbor, Bob and Jane Mullen had the misfortune of seeing their 27 foot keelboat swept into the stumps. This was the second time this year that their boats sustained damage from natural repositioning. The first time, the mooring chain broke; the second time the micro burst and waves caused the boat to bounce the mooring anchor some 100 feet into the stumps. Both boats are now back in action albeit with some cosmetic dents and scratches.

There was plenty of heat in July but the wind was un-

usually strong. According to records kept for 24 days the wind was moderate to strong on 18 of those days. It is hard to believe that the wind howled 75% of the month. And on most of the other days there was enough wind to propel the boats for a while. That was a good July in spite of the heat.

A few things were accomplished during those July blahs. Netting installed in the shelter should now be a deterrent to the messy nesting of the swallows. A new dock for dinghy sailors is in the water and hopefully will be anchored and usable soon. On Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> the club was a beehive of activity as scouts, leaders and parents gathered for a day of training, indoctrination and fun. Even as the mercury hit 104, there were still many sails lofting in the breeze, heads bobbing in the water and a shelter full of hungry people. All of this and there is still a week to go in the month. Perhaps BVYC is a way to beat the heat and summer blahs.



## BVYC welcomes new members

By Bob Mullen, race director

The club membership usually holds steady with between 50 and 60 families. So far this year there have been only two new memberships. The club sends a cordial welcome to these new members and other members are encouraged to say hello to the Toms and Karen.

### Tom McCabe

Tom was transferred from Chicago and joined the club early in the year. He had always dreamed of sailing and finally got the opportunity after moving to Manhattan with Auth-Florence, the postal equipment manufacturer. He has been seen frequently sailing his beautiful Precision 23 keelboat, and although he usually sails alone, we spotted him sailing on a hot Saturday with his son, Joel. Sometimes he can be seen at the club sporting a kayak, one of his other water hobbies. Tom recently sold his home in town and moved out to the lake neighborhood (Lakeland). He has already contributed to the maintenance of the club by working as a mooring crew on the BVYC barge. See photo below.



Tom McCabe servicing moorings in the BVYC harbor

### Thank you Bob and Jane

Each of us owes Bob and Jane Mullen a hearty thank you for all the time and effort they exerted writing the articles for this newsletter. There wouldn't have been a newsletter had they not written the articles.

### Tom and Karen Brosius



Tom and Karen Brosius with their newly purchased Catalina 22

Tom came to Manhattan via KSU where he played football and track. He met and married Karen while a student, graduated and then moved away.

Both Tom and Karen are education majors who prior to their return to Manhattan worked in the Concordia School District. Tom retired from teaching to help care for his father while Karen now works for USD 383 as the librarian at Ogden Elementary.

They recently purchased a Catalina 22 and joined the club in July. They often can be seen sailing with their daughter and son-in-law.



### Points of Sail

The **points of sail** refer to angles that the wind can take coming across a sailboat and going into its sails. Naturally you'd expect that there are lots of variations on this theme, and you would be correct. However, in the interest of shortened communication, sailors have broken things down into four basic points of sail over the years: **running**, **reaching**, **beating** (also known as "**close hauled**") and the infamous "**in irons**" or "**in stays**" (also known as, "Damn, we have ceased moving ...").

## Wildlife at the BVYC

By Jane Mullen

### Deer attempts delivery

One afternoon in the first part of June, obstetrician Ron Marshall was out near the BVYC grounds training his dogs. He noticed a deer on the ground near the culvert pipe on the road into the club. It was a mother deer attempting to give birth to twins.

Upon closer examination Doctor Marshall discovered that both babies had died and the mother deer was very sick. He proceeded to deliver the two deer; shortly afterward the mother got up and walked off. Someone later said they had seen a dead deer in the area.

Dr Marshall said he had never delivered a deer but the process was about the same as with humans.

### Birds!!!

The Purple Martin house often looks like it is filled beyond capacity. Sometimes 30-40 martins can be seen flying around the house. Thanks again Ned. Maybe we need to think about another to accommodate all the birds who seem to like the area.

After much discussion and consternation about the guano problem that resulted from the barn swallows in the shelter a decision was finally made by the Board to try stapling netting over the beams. It wasn't that we didn't like the birds themselves (for they ate a lot of mosquitoes) but it was the perching and consequent overabundance of droppings that presented an aesthetic nuisance. It was not very appetizing for picnicking.

### and Snakes!!!

Bob Mullen and Net Gatewood put up the almost invisible netting at a cost of under \$50 and about nine man hours. Several days later an inquisitive four and a half to five foot black snake with orange markings crawled over the top of the net to the middle of the shelter and then decided to poke its head through the net, getting caught. It was discovered alive and trying to get loose.

An hour or so later the snake was still tangled in the net so Ned gently cut the net. The snake dropped to the ground, hissed several times and slithered into the rocks beside the shelter to recover from its ordeal.

How's that for a snake story? Let me tell you, it was **BIG!!!**

### Froggie!

One day while watering the flower bed, as I dipped the can into the lake there was a bit of commotion inside the can and out hopped a very pretty bright green frog about the size of an apricot. He sat on the edge of the can and stayed there as I watered the flowers.



We both made the trip to the water three times, froggie riding on the edge of the can, jumping inside the can while it was filling, and then riding to the flowers on top of the can. I left him sitting on the can.

He hasn't been seen since.

### Sucking catfish!!!

My grandson was standing on the bow of the boat and was very excited to see a large catfish (about a foot and a half) lazily sucking algae off of the mooring ball.

Now this occurs quite often but what was so amazing was that he just kept on eating even though we were very close to him. I got in the dingy and was almost eyeball to eyeball and he still didn't swim away. It seemed to be a very tame fish or a very trusting one at least. I guess we finally made enough noise and he swam away. Sailors spending the night on a keelboat will probably hear him again nibbling on the bottoms of the boat.



## Race Program

By Bob Mullen

The shaky BVYC spring races have come and gone. After several cancellations the spring series finally ended in JULY!! Chris Ross won by a landslide as he coasted to his second BVYC championship of the year. He had already won the annual Scott Liebler Long Distance Race on May 28<sup>th</sup>. On the last day of the spring series, he finished behind Franz Samuleson, who sailed to 3 first place finishes; however Chris had consistent places in all races to claim the championship. A Wednesday evening race proved to be popular as six racers turned out for that event. Look for more Wednesday races when the Fall Series starts in September.

And mark your calendar for the annual Labor Day Race that will be held on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. (Not Saturday or Labor Day). Ned Gatewood's refreshments were a big hit during the Wednesday race and he promises more if we can get a good turnout for the Labor Day Race.

The fall race program will kick off on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> with around the buoys set up in the harbor and extending out into the main body of the lake. This should make for a good race for both dinghies and keelboats. It will also allow good viewing for spectators in the shelter or at dockside. The 2<sup>nd</sup> race will be more of the same. Sunday races will be held either in the harbor or main body of the lake.

Captain's call will be 1 hour before race time for all races. Participants must register to enter either by phone (539-4759) or e-mail. Entries must be received by 6:pm on Tuesday prior to a Wednesday race or by 6 pm on

Friday prior to Sunday races.

### Proposed Race Schedule for Fall Series

Sep 7<sup>th</sup> – Opening Race of Series (Wednesday 6:00 pm)

Sep 14<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday

Sep 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday

Sep 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday

**REMEMBER:** The annual long distance race will be held on **Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 pm.

The above schedule may seem a bit ambitious but interest seemed to improve as the water became warmer. We are hoping that the above 80 degree water and air temps of September will spur additional interest.

In between the race schedule we also hope to hold 2 additional race events: A fun race with "kid at the helm" and a scavenger hunt race.

Look for more details via e-mail. Sailors new to racing are encouraged to join the fun for non-cut-throat racing. Call the race director for instruction and details of how to get involved.



**Reconstructed dock soon to be emplaced for use by dinghy sailors**