

# Scuttlebutt



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A publication of the  
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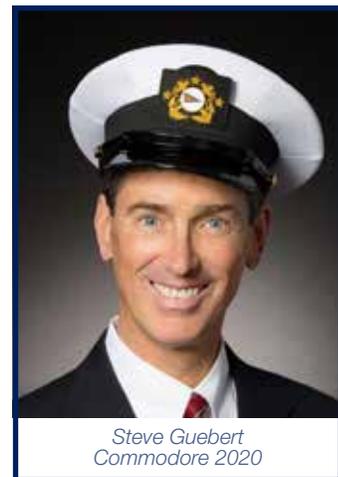
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ATLANTA YACHT CLUB est. 1950  
Atlanta Yacht Club, north of Atlanta on Allatoona Lake, has been home to small-boat sailors of all ages since 1950. On weekends throughout the year, you will find our shores busy with one-design sailing craft heading out for competition or just the pleasure of being on the water.



*Our club started on its journey 70 years ago with the incorporation of the Atlanta Yacht Club in the state of Georgia on July 18, 1950, and the first meeting of members on August 2, 1950.*



Steve Guebert  
Commodore 2020

A lot has happened over those 70 years in our society, in the state of Georgia, and at our club. This year may go down as one of the most unusual years as we adapt to changes brought upon us by the pandemic. Please continue to follow guidelines for social distancing, wearing masks when appropriate, washing your hands, and doing your part to help slow the spread of the virus.

Fortunately for us, being out on the water in a sailboat is a rather ideal way to socially distance! I'd like to thank Vice Commodore Tracy Allardice and Race Committee Chairperson Len Wert for their flexibility and creativity in getting us all back on the water. With a month's worth of fleet racing now under our belts, it appears that this part of our club is operating sufficiently well. I understand that many members are not comfortable serving on race committee at this time, and everyone should know that participation is entirely voluntary. If you prefer not to serve on race committee, I simply ask that you inform your PRO well in advance. I expect we will continue this year with our current plan for afternoon only fleet races, and I thank all of you PROs and members who have served on race committee.

While I expect we will continue with our on-the-water activities, including the Junior, Women's and Club Championships in September, it looks like our social activities on land may remain scaled back. I'd like to thank Rear Commodore Winky Williams and board member Whit Mansfield for making the most of the situation for our 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. With the current conditions, the board made the decision to hold off on any special social activity tied to the anniversary of our incorporation. Depending on how the coronavirus progresses, Labor Day activities may also be more subdued this year. But please continue to check the weekly newsletter emails for updates on current activities.

Please be sure to say thank you to Winky for his leadership and work to get our roads updated with new asphalt or new crushed gravel. This has been a long time coming and I'm glad the board approved the capital expenditure. Enjoy the roads, and please maintain a safe speed.

Please beware that the entrance gate is being kept on card only access. While this is a change from common practice over the recent years, this is in fact in keeping with our club rules. As you come to the lake, don't forget your gate card!

So, let's go sailing!



## *From the* Vice Commodore

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Summer is here and the lake has been full of water, sailboats and more and more motorboats. After a long, 10-week delay due to the virus, we finally kicked off our fleet races on Saturday, June 6 – and the fever for sailing has been off-the-charts-high ever since! Prior to the start of the fleet races, the Laser fleet had been practicing social distance racing on an adhoc basis and it was fantastic seeing them zipping around a simple race course.

The way I would describe the last 3 months:

- April – “lost at sea and navigating uncharted waters”
- May – “analysis paralysis, learning and charting the course”
- June – “getting our sea-legs”

US Sailing has been an absolutely fantastic resource over the last several months as Sailing and Yacht Clubs across our beautiful country have deliberated how to keep sailing alive during pandemic. Race Committee Chair Len Wert and Junior Training Advisor, Trixy Hanson, and I attended various online meetings that both US Sailing and SAYRA (South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association) hosted. We have used insight from these meetings, along with local, state and federal government direction/restrictions, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Natural Resources, and the CDC along with input from the Board of Governors, Steering Committee, Fleets, and members to inform decisions about adult/junior sailing classes, Junior Week and when (and how) we would return to racing.

Difficult decisions to cancel adult and junior sailing classes as well as the 46<sup>th</sup> Junior Week were made in early May. The Thistle fleet canceled the “Roaring 20s” themed Dixie for the first time in [insert # of years]. Big bummers indeed! A “pop-up” pursuit race took place around the island near Galts Ferry on Memorial Day with families sailing together. While I was not at the AYC to experience it first hand, it sounded like a tremendous amount of fun and the breeze did not disappoint.

Let’s now turn to safety. Precautions are being taken with our race committee teams and race management. Steps for proper sanitization of boats and equipment have been provided in addition to disinfectant solutions and supplies. Modifications in race management are at the discretion of the PRO – this year we have managed races from a mark boat, used hippity hops instead of the inflatable marks and used Appendix U Audible Signal Racing System (i.e. sounds only, no flags). Also, we have encouraged members who are not comfortable serving on race committee to not participate and if/when practical for people who shelter together to serve on the same race committee boats or sail together.

Several weeks ago, a major weather system popped up while races were taking place with high winds, heavy rain and hail. The race committee team and other helpful members ensured all boats returned to shore safely, including a couple of 420s that were being sailed by our juniors. Debriefs about the storm, safety and lessons learned took place after the races at the pavilion and into the evening.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend there were many “water related” activities that allowed for social distancing:

- Fleet races Saturday and Sunday
- Mitzi’s fishing contest
- Trailer backing lessons (via Tumlin and Allardice golf carts)
- Paddlefest lead by Nancy and Art Molitor
- And a Junior Yacht Club meeting (water related because our juniors spend more time in the water than the adults)

Our afternoon fleet races will continue and morning races are cancelled. I hope to see you on/in the lake, sailing, and in the fresh air in the weeks to come. What a treasure AYC is! It is a place where we can find some calm, community (at a distance), certainty and comfort in these difficult days and months.





Well, Hello! I haven't seen too many of you due to COVID-19 and I sometimes feel we all need to wear, "Hello My Name Is" nametags.

Here are a few updates from the "Land" side of things. Harry Pierce has completed the key roadwork that was on our maintenance agenda. I believe everything that needed to be cleaned and re-asphalted has been finished and all of the unimproved roads in the E and F cabin areas have been updated with a crushed concrete mixture. The only "road" item still on the list is to treat the cracks in the road asphalt from the flagpole to the point. This isn't urgent and we will wait until fall or winter since this will require blocking off roads for up to 48 hours to let the treatment cure.

The clubhouse roof has been repaired and is again ship-shape. We found some construction flaws in our roof from the clubhouse rebuild that needed to be addressed and Joe Hanson and his team took care of them this spring. His repairs should help our roof to remain in great serviceable shape for years to come. Thanks, Joe!

Thanks to George Willis for serving as our Campground Chair this year. We have a large party of campers each weekend and he has personally replaced all of the electrical outlets to enhance their experience. Additionally, he has placed a hand wash station, has facilitated placing a gas grill at the picnic pavilion, and serves as the "movie guy" for outdoor movies about every 3 weeks. Please thank George when you see him – he has stepped up our campground game!

When you next see Barry or Lane, please thank them for the great work they have been doing this year. Whether it is cleaning the clubhouse, pressure washing, blowing off the roads, repairing planters and signs, fixing electricity failures, or even providing the muscle to repair and move our docks due to the ever-fluctuating lake levels...these guys have been on it. So, please thank them next time to you see them. Our club simply cannot run without them.

Finally, I'll stray into Tracy's lane a little and talk about the docks. Using a Corps of Engineer friend that I know from my Army days, I started a conversation to see if we can get an exception to put tires back on the first two sailing docks and the launch dock. A few weeks ago, Barry, Alan Thompson and I met onsite with Jerry Fulton from the Allatoona Project Office to make our case. The meeting went really well and Jerry is doing an honest evaluation to figure out what makes sense. I recently had a call from Jerry telling me that he is trying to get a regional evaluation of the issue – the question: is the Allatoona Project Office out of line with what the rest of the COE is doing on tires or do they have it right? He told me that he appreciated our research and our desire to be good stewards of the lake, and he asked me to hang on a little longer while he goes through this review. No promises...but at least we have an audience who is willing to honestly take on our issue.

Reminders:

- Please adhere to the social distancing guidelines while using club facilities – these change all the time so please be aware.
- Again, no pets at the lake.
- And the gate is going to remain on card access only; please don't prop it open, put something over the sensor, or arbitrarily set it to automatic.

Thanks, and I'll see you at the Club!

Front Cover Photo — The "new" Thompsons, Anne and Reid, joined 2 years ago after finishing the adult sailing class. They got their spinnaker up for the first time on a glorious June afternoon. It is spectacular!

*Photo credit: Diane Vandeputte*



# EC12 METER REPORT

By John Muhlhause

The intrepid EC12 Fleet has readjusted its 2020 sailing schedule to accommodate the “new reality” we are facing. Instead of hosting separate Spring and Fall Series sailing every other Sunday morning, the Fleet has decided to have a single mega-series beginning in May and lasting through September with races every Thursday afternoon.

Sailing as a smaller fleet from the Viewing Pavilion with no guests, we are able to mark off six skipper positions on the guard rail located at 6-foot intervals to maintain proper distancing. Face masks are recommended, but not required.

As of June 30, we have completed our 5<sup>th</sup> race date with 46 races sailed in our inaugural Pandemic Series for the once-in-a-lifetime (hopefully) Zoonotic Cup. Current leaders are Ian Elliott, followed closely by Bill Tumlin, Scott Vernon, John Muhlhause, George Willis and Gabe Berris. Missing from this distinguished line up is last year’s Fleet Champion, Robert Mitchell, who is doing his part keeping our economy humming. Hopefully, he will be able to join us on the starting line at a future date as Ian and Bill are begging for more competition. (I can hear them mumbling from under their face masks.)



Thursdays have proven to be good days for our fleet races. Motorboat and jet ski owners apparently take that day off to gas up and prepare for their weekend drag races from Canton to the dam and back, plus the number of people congregating at the Viewing Pavilion is minimal -not to mention the fantastic winds we have enjoyed this late into the season. If this good weather continues, we estimate completing between 165 to 185 races. Perhaps with this activity, several EC12 skippers can qualify for the Club Championship?



As you may recall, *Lost in Space* was a 1960's science fiction television series about a space colonist family who ended up lost in space and struggling to survive. (Similar to what we are currently experiencing) They had plenty of drama and laughs along the way. The show was based on the 1812 novel *The Swiss Family Robinson*. Snipe Fleet 330 used *Lost in Space* as an adaptation to their annual Marshmallow Intergalactic Championship and decided to spend a day *Lost in Space* as comic relief from the heaviness of everything COVID and political.

# LOST IN SPACE



**Danger,  
Will Robinson!**



First of all, "THANK YOU" to everyone for making the event possible!

From planning and prep, to moving and rigging boats, inviting others, gathering supplies, making arrangements, picking up trash along the way, smiling at others (even under your mask), being present in person or in spirit, pulling off surprises, taking someone else to sail, sharing kindness and conversations, driving by to say hello, wearing really hot suits and helmets, locating and securing space suits in record time, supporting the fleet from afar... it ALL MATTERS!

It was a HOT, very gently breezy day for the “Lost in Space” rally on Saturday. After rigging fleet boats with the assistance of Mike Carlson and Don Hackbarth, participants gathered at the distancing deck “BBQ pavilion” (gotta’ love that large fan!) and stocked up on rations. Marianne Hackbarth, Susan Carlson and Joy Finch, handled various tasks in hunting/gathering, washing, packaging, sanitizing and setting up the lunch, provided by the fleet. Well, Publix deli helped a bit too.

Bill Hooper reported to the “distancing deck” and was served by Marianne Hackbarth, others followed suit. We were glad to have Steve and Judy Guebert join the activities of the day, as well and their son, Kevin, and his soon-to-be father-in-law, Steve Johnson. Commodore Steve also brought a family of prospective members by to say hello and enjoy lunch.



Participants were suited up with lime green “Lost in Space” shirts, donated by the Hackbarths’. The shirts were designed and produced by “Department H” - their grandchildren, who were in search of a summer project. The suit shirts kept sailors very visible out on the water and added greatly to the spirit of the day.

And then...cue the “Lost in Space” music...some creative and playful souls from the Thistle Fleet brought us some unexpected visitors. Thank you, George Willis, Conrad Roos, and Rachel Moncrief! (astronauts and rover driver)

For those of you watching from home, don’t worry, they did not sail with those helmets on!

10 Snipes took to the water and tested all systems before the 2 PM “liftoff.” Winds were light, but enjoyable for a part of the afternoon. The slow, hot return to the launch pad was all too typical for Lake Allatoona in July. Everyone had a fun time anyway, as sailors usually do.

The following participants enjoyed getting “Lost in Space”.

#### **On the Snipes:**

Greg Kibler w/ Rita Fullick	Amy Durrett w/ Mac Durrett
Mike Carlson w/ Aden Willis	Terry Bihary w/ Isabel Ospina
Leif Carlson w/ Francis Hanson	Terry DeGan w/ Sean DeGan
Trey Shipp w/ Pablo Ospino	Don Hackbarth w/ Connor Milam
Joy McDonald w/ Jorge	Kevin Guebert w/ Steve Johnson

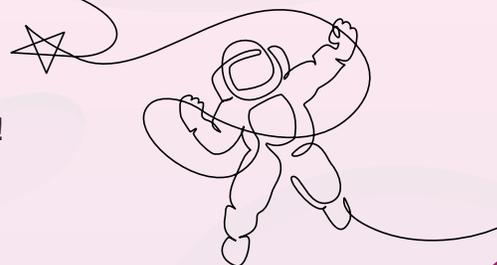


#### **On the shore:**

Marianne Hackbarth, Susan Carlson, Bill Hooper, Judy Guebert, Allison Bihary and son, Adam, Joy Finch and our guests, Patrick and Julia with their children, McKenna and Luke.

All our voyagers made it safety back to planet Earth, and learned from their journeys. We’ll look forward to launching again.

Remember fleet races continue, for those who would like to sail!





## SNIFE FLEET 330

*Joy Finch*

With racing season under way, Snipe Fleet 330 has had a few eager sailors joining the races and members have assisted with staffing race committee. It is necessary for many fleet members to stay sheltered; however we did accomplish our first virtual fleet meeting.

On the warm and humid evening of June 6, seven fleet members used the back porch of the clubhouse to start the meeting from a laptop. What a different way of meeting! With sanitized chairs and sitting physically distanced, everyone wore masks to protect one another. We were joined by other members online through the laptop.

After reports and business, John Muhlhausen lead a Snipe/Sailing/AYC trivia game with some really tricky questions. Does anyone else know, “who was ‘Old Joe’ and who named him, or who is ‘allegedly buried beneath the sandbox in the children’s playground?’” Ian Elliott won the game and a sporty embroidered Snipe Fleet 330 cap.



Conrad Roos, single-handling his Flying Scot, a boat not-new to AYC, but currently not raced. The Flying Scot was designed in 1957 by Gordon K. Douglass who had already designed the Thistle and Highlander dinghies, so though we do not have a fleet of them, Conrad’s boat is with some close relatives out on the lake. (Rumor has it Conrad was seen racing a Y-Flyer recently.)



The “Roaring Twenties” indeed! That was to be the most fun Dixie we would ever have — until we didn’t! What a memorable year this has turned out to be — lots of white space on what is usually an action-packed spring and summer calendar. Commissioning? Out! The Thistle spring regatta circuit? Kaput! And we don’t know yet what the fall agenda holds, but even the TCA Nationals in Cleveland (the 75th — a big celebration year!) has been “postponed” till August 2021.

All that said, however, Fleet 48 is still the poster child for making lemonade out of lemons, and we are SO lucky that our lake home-away-from-home has everything we need, from fresh air to fun to friends willing to practice social distancing. Let there be no mistake — this year’s Dixie may not have survived the furlough, but if you thought it would become the “Boring Twenties,” you have underestimated the Thistle Fleet!

So back to the Dixie — what is that country song about thanking God for unanswered prayers? You may remember that Memorial Day Weekend was totally without a single breath of air, either Saturday or Sunday. We very well could have had an even more different kind of Dixie — one with no races at all! But we still had an overload of pent-up energy, so when the wind did show up on Monday, we hastily organized a Pursuit Race around the island and back. It was a ton of fun, and even though Jennifer Garrett was sailing her “Brand Y” boat, she and crew Adrienne Warnken managed to hold off a navy of spinnaker-flying Thistles on the downwind finish leg to win the day. Kudos, ladies!

Now that fleet races have resumed, we can actually boast better participation than in recent years — coop us up long enough and you may be surprised at what you get! With 21 different skippers sailing a mere 15 courses, we have had as many as ten boats on the line with an average of 6.5. One of the challenges of small-boat sailing in the Era of Coronavirus is practicing social distancing all while being in close proximity with crew members. Lucky Thistlers — so many of us are sailing with family members this year that with our A-teams on board we can still follow the rules.

Have you taken note of “Screaming Yellow Zonker” making waves out there with our newest female skipper at the helm? Darby Dryden and her dad are now co-owners of 3166 with Peter Tischner, and Darby is already living into her DNA, with 15 races and several first-place finishes under her PFO. It was an interesting first date over Memorial Day Weekend, when some much-needed work on the hull revealed some uninvited critters living in the bow tank. Mice ejected, Bryce checked the next day to make sure they were gone — only to discover that a 2-ft rat snake had moved in! Another eviction, all ended happily, and as far as we know the only critters now on board have two legs — no more, no less.



*Darby in her new boat, Screaming Yellow Zonker with Lucy and Ellie as her crew*

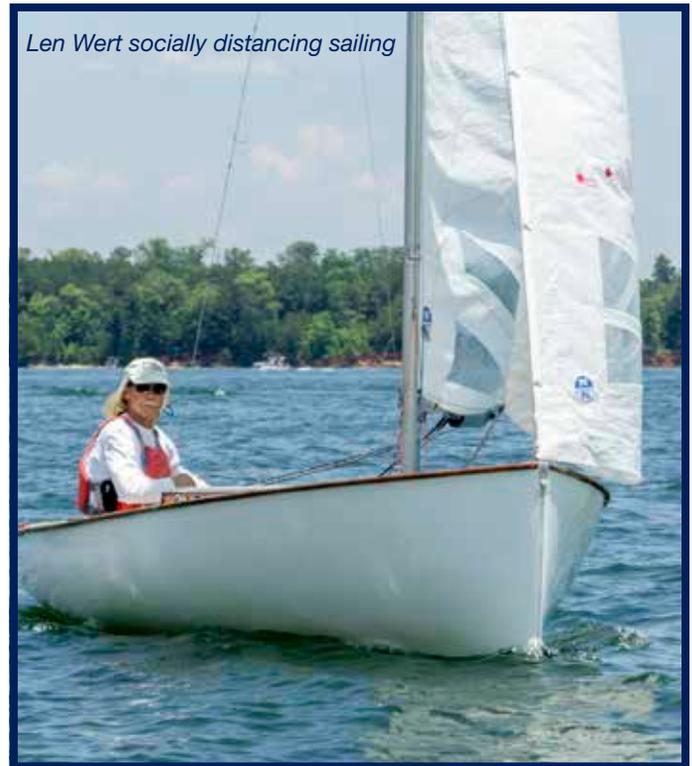
More fun stuff viewed from the helm:

See *THISTLE*, page 11

*THISTLE con't. from page 10*

- On Father's Day, Reid and Anne Thompson and their daughter Hannah led their first race, winning the start and rounding the weather and leeward marks in first place in a fleet of eight boats.
- Len Wert has no live-in crew, so has been sailing single-handed in order to keep himself extra safe when visiting and assisting his mom in Florida.
- Aaron Smith needed a crew on a June Sunday and called none other than Will Stout. It was great to see Will out crewing, helping to mentor (and do we dare say push?) Aaron.
- Debbie Dryden crewed for Darby one Saturday afternoon — girls just wanna have fun!
- Ashley Davis made it out with both sons, Daniel & Jamie. And that's not all — there has been a tremendous amount of “just sailing about” as well as racing and mentoring, and we are still replenishing our fleet with new faces. Mouricio Ochoa and Isabel Ospina have their AYC membership application in and are looking to purchase a Thistle. They have two sons, Pablo (13) and Diego (11) who are all in! Steve Bauer has introduced Ryan Green and his fiancée Olivia to AYC. Ryan has moved from Ohio and grew up at Steve's home club. Their plan is to crew this year, join as members next year and purchase a Thistle.

Plenty of fun to be had on shore, too. The camping area is alive and well — one weekend we counted eleven tents! George Willis has been dubbed the official mayor and movie mogul. Our fleet picnic on the lawn at McCormacks' cabin was evidently meant NOT to be, as the thunderstorms that would have washed us away started precisely at 6:30 pm and ended at 8:00 on the dot. We shall reconvene! Look for an email reminder. In the meantime, it's all good. Keep making lemonade!



*Len Wert socially distancing sailing*



# Y FLEET #1

*Fleet Captain, Amanda, Y 2660*

The Y fleet is up and sailing again! The MidWinters was postponed to be combined with the Beers Memorial Regatta in October. With all the Spring and early Summer regattas being cancelled, we are hoping our fall regatta may be one of the few “live” regattas of 2020.

Averaging 6 boats on the line for fleet racing is a great start to the sailing season at AYC. Since we lost 2 months of racing, the fleet voted at June’s meeting to offer Y racing every weekend that the race committee barge goes out. Another change to racing is that we will have only one season for scoring purposes. For all practical purposes, we lost the Spring series to the pandemic, so we will only have a year-long season. Whatever sailing we can get in between now and October 4 will determine the 2020 season scores.

Y fleet junior and past Junior National Champion, Ava Kuznicki, is off to the University of South Carolina this fall! Congrats to Ava for her excellent grades that earned her the scholarship money they she richly deserves!

Kathy Williams is healing from corrective back surgery. The hope is that her motion will be pain-free after this. Speedy recovery and hope to see you on the water soon.

The Last Mark Parties have been a huge success. On Saturday race dates, OTHER than fleet meeting dates, the fleet has been having a Socially-kinda-distant after race cocktail party down at the Point with a different signature drink to sample while sharing mark-rounding stories or close-finish disputes with fellow racers. With drinks like ‘Corona for the Corona’ and ‘Hawaiian Rainforest’ you never know what will be served up at the next Last Mark Party. So get on the race course - especially on a Saturday - and join the fun after returning to the docks. Second Saturday of each month we will have fleet meetings -- even BETTER parties than Last Mark Parties!

Our family has lost a Y sailor. John Carson, long time Y sailor, passed away. I never saw him around the club or on the water without his family: wife, Jonna, and one or both kids, Jennifer and Jonathan. He was a regular out on the fleet starting line and a wonderful volunteer to the club. Keep Jonna and the kids in your prayers.

Keep showing up to the starting line each week to hone your skills in the greatest planing scow EVER cuz the Club Championships this September is in the Y-Flyer!!

Trimming that mainsheet like a mad woman,



