



# Rocky Fork Sailing Club

## THE JIBSHEET

September 2026

### In This Issue...

- Notes from the Commodore
- New Details on Events from Marcia
- Racing
- A Sort of a Joke
- An Editorial from the Scrivener
- Mast-Down Information

### September Calendar:

- **Labor Day, Monday 7 September**
- **2 Races, September 13, 12:30PM Skipper's Meeting.**
- **Cookout & S'Mores, Smith Residence, Saturday 26 September, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Racing as Announced**
- **October Calendar:** (Mast Down Locations may change. Watch Club email.)
- **First Mast Down, Sat. Oct. 3, East Shore Ramp 9:00 a.m.**
- **2026 Chili Cook-off, Sat., Oct. 17, 6:00 p.m., AmVets on North Shore.**
- **Second Mast Down, Sunday, October 18, East Shore Ramp 9:00 a.m.**
- **Third Mast Down, Sat. Oct. 24, East Shore Ramp 9:00 a.m.**

### The Commodore's Corner from Drew Hadley



Ahoy Rocky Fork Sailors!

It's hard to believe we're already heading into the final weeks of our sailing season. Even (especially?) with all the challenges this year, the season seems to have flown by. With fall weather approaching, we're finally seeing more breezy days, and I hope those of you on the water are enjoying the shift.

Martha and I are away for a couple of weeks, taking a break from the Midwest summer, and we're missing time on the lake. We had the chance to watch a Saturday morning dinghy race on Lake Garda in northern Italy — young sailors competing with great energy and skill. It was fun to watch their techniques and feel the excitement of the

race. It also reminded me of my own early sailing experiences — earning the sailing merit badge and spending time on a Sunfish with my grandfather — and how much those moments shape our lifelong interests. I'm sure many of you have similar stories. It's worth asking whether we're creating those same opportunities for future sailors today. I encourage everyone to look for ways to pass on the love of sailing to the next generation — inviting a friend or younger colleague for a day on the water, recruiting crew, or getting younger family members out for a sail.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Steak and Lobster a couple of weeks ago. It was a great evening, and I appreciate all who helped make it happen. We're learning with our new locations, and I welcome any feedback on the Marshall Community Center.

If you've been to the lake recently, you've likely seen progress toward restoring deep-water launch access at East Shore. ODNR has removed the curb and rock fill on the left side of the ramp, and we're now testing depth and slope with a couple of trailers. Stay tuned — we'll continue to share updates, and communicate Club needs with ODNR, as we learn more.

I hope to see many of you on the water in the coming weeks as we enjoy cooler temperatures, fall breezes, and beautiful days.

- Drew



### Social Notes from Marcia Lehar

Greetings Sailors,

First I want to thank all who worked to make Steak and Lobster a success. Everyone seemed to rise to the challenge of a late start and a new venue. The food turned out great and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Our next event is the S'Mores dinner at Mike and Darlene Smith's house at the lake. We'll send out a map on email before the day to show you where it is and where best to park. This is one of our pot luck dinners, so please bring a side dish.

A change to the calendar is for the Chili Cook-off, which we will have at the AmVets on north Shore drive (the same place we had the Luau/250th dinner.) There is plenty of parking and it's just 10 minutes away. If you volunteered for S'Mores and can't make it for some reason, please let us know. If you have ideas, suggestions, or questions please call or email me at [leharmf@gmail.com](mailto:leharmf@gmail.com) or Mike Smith at [mdacsmith@roadrunner.com](mailto:mdacsmith@roadrunner.com). FYI, I will be traveling the whole month of September.

Your Social Committee - Marcia, Tonya and Shirley



### **RACING IS BACK!!!**

In late August, sailboat racing finally resumed at Rocky Fork Lake! Six boats came out for a fun time of two races (each about an hour long) followed by raft-up socializing. As the date approached, we adjusted it from Saturday to Sunday to select the day with better wind. Those winds were reasonably good and out of the west during the first race, but sure got squirrely in race two, as they came from south-west, west, northwest, north and even east! Gotta love our favorite lake.

As announced earlier, due to the weirdness of this season, we're not have any official "Rocky Fork Cup" races but rather just an enjoyable opportunity for sailors to "sail a prescribed course in the vicinity of other boats." So while our primary focus always has been on fun, this year's races in particular are for the sole purpose of fun, not competition. As part of that, nearly all of the boats hoisted their colorful flags, and we had the socializing at the raft-up.

We plan to have more races in September and early October. Keep your eyes out for postings about them, as we likely will continue to shift dates if the winds are noticeably better on one weekend day versus the other.

As a reminder, crew is always welcome, so especially if your boat is still on the hard, come out and join one of the racers and get some sailing in!



### **Joke of the Month:**

An old sea captain was sitting on a bench near the wharf when a young man walked up and sat down. The young man had spiked hair and each spike was a different colour ... green, red, orange, blue, and yellow.

After a while the young man noticed that the captain was staring at him.

"What's the matter old timer, never done anything wild in your life?"

The old captain replied, "Got drunk once and married a parrot. I was just wondering if you were my son!"

## The Scrivener's Creed

The following is an editorial. It does not reflect the views of anyone other than myself.

### The Community of the Willing

It is a truth universally accepted that our Club's greatest asset is its members. Everything we do, launch and recover boats, seven social events a year, and sharing hard-earned experience is based on it. Like any other asset, to be effective it needs to be maintained, and its limits recognized and respected. We have put in place a support structure, built over sixty years of experience, to make all this possible. This year has put a particular strain on that system, and will again for mast-down because of the challenges associated with the new ramp and unpredictable weather.

We plan weekends on either end of the season to do the work of mast-up and mast-down for a reason; it is the most efficient way to work with a lot of boats. It still gives members a choice of weekends. In recent years, use of these weekends by members has declined. There has been, for whatever reason, a desire to not use the designated days and to try to get a crew together outside the schedule. This puts a strain on rear commodores and other experienced members who help. This year, because of the ramp problems, it was understandable because we didn't quite know what

would work and what wouldn't. Many thanks to our rear commodores and volunteers for making things work this year. Sometimes a member can't make a designated day because of mechanical problems. There are good and reasonable reasons for this, which means it will always happen. But if you don't have one of those reasons, please schedule on a designated day to make it easier for your fellow club members. If you do manage to get a crew to work your boat outside of the designated days, that does not absolve you from helping on one of the Club days, particularly if you already volunteered. If you have used Club help on your boat, you have incurred a debt. Pay it forward to another Club member.

Roughly 70% of our club is comprised of people who live at least an hour and a quarter from the lake. This means that if you want their help, you need to plan in advance and be true to your time. Being true to your time doesn't mean being there on time but with an hour's worth of work to do before anybody can help. It means getting there an hour earlier than you told people, so that you are ready for them, or, do the work the night before. Nobody gets everything completely squared-away before the group gathers; you can, however, do those things that only you can do, so that you are ready to accept help. In our files on groups.io you will find all you need to know about preparing for mast-up and mast-down. This is a great resource. If you have not looked at them, please do. The Club provides you with a road-map to preparing for these days.

If you have been doing the work for years you forget what you didn't know when you were new to it, and you don't tend to narrate things as you go. If you have held back from helping because you feel you don't know enough, please ask questions of the experienced while you are there. If you are the one getting the questions, remember that the Club depends on sharing our experience.

We will always, thankfully, have people willing to help regardless of conditions. It is important, however, that we be aware of this, and not put undue stress on this willingness. This is part of maintaining our great asset we have, this Community of the Willing. And let me say, as I know some of you will, that I know a lot of this because I have, in twenty-five years in the club, committed every sin I have just outlined. There is no better teacher than experience, and I hope I have turned it to good use. It is one of the reasons I decided to share this.



### Volunteers for the First Mast-up, Saturday October 3: (Work Commences at 9AM, will continue to at least 3PM)

If you are unable to make it, please contact Drew Hadley (jhadley001@cinci.rr.com) or Ken Berger (kberger198@gmail.com)

Ken Berger  
Damon Craft  
John Daulton  
Phil Dehart  
Phil Hort  
Tom Kronenberger  
Peter Larson  
John Lee  
Marcia Lehar  
Doug Leyh

Bill Parker  
Terry Purdin  
Jim Redslob  
Bob Rosell  
Nathan Schneider  
Howard Staley  
Tim Stone  
Mark Summers  
Marcel Van Nimwegen  
Tim Weber

