

Halifax Sailing Association Newsletter

▶ March 2025



Commodore's Message

Ahoy members! Please read the newsletter for information on upcoming activities and recent accomplishments. For my section, I want to update you on what's happening with the dock repair plans, our lease with the city of Daytona Beach, and adult sailing classes for 2025.

First, the dock:

- We have raised just over \$20,000 from our members.
- We have received two repair estimates with two more on the way. So far, it's looking like we'll need to raise over \$100,000 dollars.
- We are considering multiple repair options based on how much money we raise.
- We are preparing applications to request Grant funds from multiple agencies.

I want to be transparent about this, though. There is NO quick solution to rebuilding the dock. Even if we had the money right now, it would be a month or more before construction could begin. Once started, it will take a minimum of 4-6 weeks to complete.

Second, the lease:

- We are in the final 10-years of our lease with the city, in which we pay \$1 per year to lease the land where HSA resides. The lease expires Feb. 28, 2035.
- Some of the agencies we want to ask for grant funds to repair the dock, require at least 20 years of use to the public for them to even consider a project.
- On Feb. 6, we submitted a letter to the city, asking them to extend our current lease to February of 2050, or negotiate a new, longer-term lease.
- On Feb. 21, we followed-up with the city to see if there was any response to our letter.
- As of Feb. 24, we have not received a reply. We will continue to follow-up until we get an answer, and we will let you know what that answer is.

Why is this important? If we're told we may only have 10 years left at our current space, it might make more sense to choose a less expensive repair option for the dock. If we get a longer term, a more expensive and larger option will make sense from a strategic viewpoint.

Third, adult sailing classes:

- We will be publishing our adult sailing class schedule soon. Right now, we have 50% fewer instructors than we've had in recent years.
- If nothing changes, we will be offering fewer classes than we did last year.
- We are considering hiring paid instructors with US Sailing Level 1 certification.
- If we use paid instructors, we will still make a profit from classes, but it will obviously be less than when members volunteer as instructors.

This matters because while the classes are a source of revenue for the club, they are also a part of our community spirit, one way in which HSA provides a service to the public that no one else in Volusia County does. We want to maintain that community involvement with the general public, while also providing great opportunities for our members.

These are all important issues, and worthy of our focused attention. I'm not trying to generate concern, I just want you to be informed with the facts.

We will resolve these issues, and in the meantime, let's enjoy our club at the Reilly's Run and Fleet Race Sundays, as well as on our volunteer workdays, and any time you can make it down to the river.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Best regards,
Commodore Chris

Upcoming Events

Saturday March 1, 9-2 pm

Monthly Volunteer Work PARTY: First Saturday of the every month, except in July! Come share your skills as we spiff up the HSA grounds and boats. Drop in when you can and socialize and/or go sailing afterwards!

Sunday, March 2

March Reilly's Run: Join us at 12:30 pm for our skipper's meeting and sail around the course in a club or personally owned boat. Bring a friend to celebrate with Jim Reilly, the event's namesake and inspiration! Our post sailing potluck is an Irish Feast with corned beef and cabbage. Bring an Irish side dish or something green. Jim promises to bring his leprechaun charm to share with us all!

Friday, March 14, 5 pm

First TGIF of the season: Commodore Chris and Kathy Sinnett will host this first monthly popular TGIF: Social & Sail. Even though our big boats are out of the water at the moment, come join in the fun! Sail a small boat or catch a ride on a club member's boat. Meet at 5 pm for pre-sail briefing. Afterward, we have a potluck appetizer and BYOB event — with a nautical theme, of course! Bring a friend, or potential member.

Sunday March 16

Fleet Race. Sailors' meeting at 12:30 pm, Races starts at 1:30 pm. Come try out your racing skills with a course and race committee. Sailing followed by a potluck cookout- Bring something to share and BYOB!

Wednesday, March 26

Monthly Board meeting. Board meetings are the last Wednesday of the month. Please email Commodore Chris at commodore@halifaxsailing.org if you have any issues/items you would like to see the board address at the club.

Save the Date!

3/1
Volunteer
Work Party

3/2
Reilly's Run
and Irish Feast
potluck

3/14
TGIF: Social &
Sail

3/16
Fleet Race

Each Thursday
Workday
Thursdays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore: Chris Sinnett commodore@halifaxsailing.org

Vice Commodore: Michael Packman mjpackman@gmail.com vice.commodore@halifaxsailing.org

Fleet Captain: Dan Barringer Dano1252@hotmail.com, Fleet.vc@halifaxsailing.org

Treasurer: Caroline Martin icmm309@gmail.com treasurer@halifaxsailing.org

Secretary: Kathy Sinnett secretary@halifaxsailing.org

Membership VCs: Steve Kuiper Membership.vc@halifaxsailing.org; Clay and Katherine McDonald, Membership.vc@halifaxsailing.org

Past Commodores: Pete Burg Peter.burg@rocketmail.com, past.commodore@halifaxsailing.org; Lisa Herbster (away at this time)

Education VC: vacant Education.vc@halifaxsailing.org

Events VC: vacant Events.vc@halifaxsailing.org

Affiliate ERAU: Club officers sailingclubofficers@myerauedu.onmicrosoft.com,

Faculty Advisor: chris.herbster@gmail.com

Affiliate Youth: Dave Dunn daveadunndds@gmail.com

Windward Women*: Kathi Porter WindwardWomenHSA@gmail.com

HSA Newsletter*: Christine Janesko chrann@gmail.com

General information*: On website Info@halifaxsailing.org

**committee chair, non-board position*

Fantastic February Reilly's Run!

A variety of boats turned out for the Feb. 2 Reilly's Run, including the Embry-Riddle fleet, a Hobie, Melges 15, Capri 14.2, and, of course, our safety power boat.

Sailors enjoyed a couple of starts, followed by a cookout and potluck meal and an informal update on our dock rebuild, by Commodore Chris Sinnett.



Duck Team Tops \$300

On Jan. 18, the HSA proudly took part in the 2025 Great Daytona Kiwanis Duck Race, a charitable event benefitting local children. Spectators at the Jackie Robinson Ball Park watched enthusiastically as thousands of rubber ducks — poured into the canal next to the ballpark — “raced” to the finish, guided by current and wind.

HSA members ran a booth and demonstrated their Pink Ribbon Sunfish. The team promoted the HSA, collecting names of visitors interested in membership, sailing lessons, children's summer camp, and the women's program. The HSA also sold Pink Ribbon Regatta clothing and gave away whistles, chapstick, and pink ducks. A QR code on the bottom of the ducks linked to the Halifax Health Foundation donation page. The highlight of the booth was the Sunfish, rigged on the lazy Susan turntable, giving visitors the chance to “sail.”

Special thanks to the HSA crew for their invaluable support during this event. Thanks to their efforts and ducks sponsored for the race, HSA earned over \$300 for our HSA team!



Water Treatment Staff Thanked With Lunch

Chris Sinnett

On Feb. 20, a team of water treatment plant employees returned HSA's remaining floating dock components that had washed up on their property after Hurricane Milton. A group of 11 people, including some HSA members, used a crane, a truck, and a heavy-duty trailer to retrieve the pieces.

Based on what we learned when we rented a crane to pick up AHOY after Milton, I can safely say that the city provided us a service that would have cost at least \$750 if we had rented a crane. That doesn't cover the manpower costs, just a crane and an operator.

To thank the employees for their generosity, Dewey Bellich requested and received approval for HSA to treat the employees to a pizza and sub sandwich lunch with sodas and tea. Dewey oversaw the entire event and helped ensure that our relationship with our neighbors remains top notch!

Bravo Zulu, Dewey!
(Bravo Zulu = Great Job!)

Youth Sailing

Dave Dunn

The start to the Halifax Area Youth Sailing Foundation (HAYSF) season has been a busy one! We attended the Gasparilla Regatta in Tampa in January and the USODA Valentines Regatta in St. Petersburg in February.

Practices each week have been cold and windy, but it hasn't slowed down our eager, young sailors. They're working hard through the conditions in preparation for a big regatta down in Jensen Beach in March, where more than 280 Optimists will compete in the Sunshine State Optimist Dinghy Championship!

Gordy Bowers, former Olympic sailing coach, has taken an interest in our group, and is helping with practices. It's been wonderful to have the support, and we appreciate his efforts!

Our spring racing schedule is busy with one to two regattas per month. The practice season will end in May.

Also, summer camp registrations will be available soon, so stay tuned!

VC Fleet

Dan Biringer

We've made good progress on maintaining our keel boats and work will continue on trailer rehabilitation.

I'm hoping we can spiff up the rest of our smaller boats and begin getting them in the water!

There is always something to do on workday Thursdays, so come on down!

We will also be meeting on the first Saturday of each month beginning March 1.



Windward Women

Kathi Porter

Windward Women recently hosted a virtual event, featuring Anne Kolker, the 2023 National Women's Sailing Association Women's Leadership Award recipient.

Women's sailing groups from across Florida joined us to hear Anne's inspiring stories about leading all-female crews and ocean racing. This event was a great opportunity to connect with fellow sailors and strengthen our relationships with women's sailing groups across the state.

After the 3rd Annual Pink Ribbon Regatta, we are celebrating a successful event that exceeded last year's fundraising goal supporting breast cancer survivors. In the coming weeks, we will be presenting donations to the Halifax Health Foundation and Heart Strings, continuing our commitment to supporting this important cause.

We are also proud to share that the regatta earned Gold Level certification from Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas, recognizing Halifax Sailing Association's dedication to sustainability.

