



# West Coast Trailer Sailing Squadron News

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## Summer Sailstice with LESC

The Lake Eustis Sailing Club, with the help of Glenda Libby, one of our new members, invited the WCTSS to participate in their second annual "Summer Sailstice" sailing event to commemorate the longest day of the year by sailing our butts off and having a good time. The event was a unqualified success! Thanks to Glenda, and June, their Commodore, and Pattie Moring who cooked ribs and beer can chicken on a huge grill, for dinner!

The main event on the lake was a "Poker Run" where all 28 or so registered boats sailed to four large floating race marks to retrieve playing cards sealed in envelopes. After collecting the envelopes without opening them, we were to bring them to the club house to receive an additional card to make a five card poker hand. More on that later.

Phil Reed, who lives in Eustis, was nice enough to put me up on Friday and Saturday night, so I was able to launch Whisper at the club and sleep in air conditioned comfort! When I arrived on Friday afternoon, there were already some WCTSS folks in the water and more were coming!

### Here's a list of who I believe represented the WCTSS:

Mark Stewart - Kayak Ketch "Sharkbait"  
Simon and Cristi Lewandowski- Hobie 16  
Erik Jane and April DeVoe - John's Sharpie "Kestrel"  
Ed Combs - Kayak with sail rig  
Jose Rodriguez - Sanibel 18 "Luna"  
Ray Almodovar and son - Windrider 17  
Steve Kingery - Dovekie  
Gene and Mary Koblick -RV Bus and kayak  
Phil Reed - sailed on Whisper  
Steve Wood - Bay Hen  
Dean Pacetti- Slider Cat "Honu"  
Ron Hoddinott -SeaPearl Tri-Sport "Whisper"  
Glenda Libby - Rebel "QuickTime"  
Rick and Linda Eggers - MacGregor 26 "Mental Floss"  
Tom Dyll & family SeaPearl 21

If I missed anyone, I apologize, but it was a busy weekend, both on and off the water! the WCTSS represented about half of those who attended the event, so we were well represented!

The Lake Eustis Sailing Club is almost exclusively a one design racing club, which has an active junior and senior program. They host many very large regattas during the year, but the season comes to an end on Memorial Day, so a fun even like this one was possible.

Having already launched Whisper on Friday, we were anchored in a little cove about a hundred feet from the ramp and club house. After the "Skippers Meeting" where we learned the rules of the Poker Run, all we had to do was raise the sails and cast off. Some of our boats were tied off to their large docks as well. Phil Reed and I got Whisper to the northern most mark second behind a well sailed Flying Scott from LESC. We tried various methods of picking up the cards at each mark. At the first one we put the mark right between the main hull and the starboard ama, that made it easy to get a card, but we had to go into irons and sail backwards to get away from the mark! On the second leg we set the mizzen staysail, and enjoyed a great reach about half way there. Then Phil got out on an ama and

plucked a wet envelope off the mark. On the third mark I just jumped in and grabbed an envelope! I forgot how hard it is to get back aboard! On the last one we went back to the "ride the ama" approach with Phil guiding us in smartly to the mark.

All this time Phil is reminding me, "It's not a race, Ron." But you know what they say. You can take the racer out of the race, but it's much harder to take the race out of the racer! I mean... there were markers out there! And more than one boat for Pete's sake!

Anyway... I did notice that not everyone was going to the marks in the same order, and some people were actually very casual about it. After all we had until 4 PM or something! But no one knew when the sweet SE wind of about 4 to 8 knots would die, and no one wanted to be stuck out on the lake!

The LESC fleet was made up of Scows (NOT a derogatory term), Flying Scotts, Wayfarers, and Glenda's Rebel, although we claimed her as ours or course since she is a member of both clubs. The Scows were in two sizes, 16 feet and a huge 28 footer. The inland scows with bilge boards can really fly, and all of their sailors were race trained. But they seemed to enjoy our collection of eclectic boats that were designed more for cruising the shallow waters of the West Coast of Florida, with emphasis on comfort for the long haul and the ability to sleep aboard or bring camping gear. They had a lot of questions about our boats, how we slept aboard, and how fast and weatherly they were. The scow sailors noted a family resemblance between their bilge boards and the SeaPearls leeboards, and appreciated the SeaPearls slim and slippery shape.

We on the other hand were initiated into the world of one-design fleets, regattas and competitive sailing through our conversations with their members. Their junior sailing program and sailing school was especially inspiring. To keep our sport alive we must include our youngsters. Tom Dyll brought his family, as did Jose, and their boys just romped all over the grounds together having a great time with the LESC kids.

About 4 PM the clubhouse bell was rung and we all gathered outside on the picnic tables to play "Poker." Each skipper got their four envelopes out and were then handed another card. I turned mine over... and it was an ACE! We then opened the first envelope.... I had another ACE! I showed them to Phil. "What the heck is going on? I wondered." My third envelope contained a THIRD Ace! By this time the other skippers thought the fix was in! But there was no underhanded play, I was just lucky! My last two envelopes contained a 6 and a 9, but my three aces ended up to be the best hand and I won first prize, which was a Summer Sailstice 2010 ball cap. I LOVE ball caps!

Now to the DINNER ! Pattie Moring, was cooking up a storm on a huge grill all afternoon. Huge slabs of ribs, and beer can chickens were the featured meats, with lots and lots of covered dishes on a long table to suit all appetites. Phil and I had gone to Publix and ordered a huge Summer Sailstice sheet cake as the WCTSS contribution to the effort, along with a huge can of beans which went well! All our members contributed food to the table as well. The cookout was a smashing success, and everyone enjoyed it. And did I mention there was BEER?

After dinner was over and the cleanup was under way, we finally got hit with a deluge and lots of scary lightning. Luckily most were either at hotels, or camping in the clubhouse overnight. Simon and Cristi spent the night in their van over by the cove, and moved "Whisper" to stop her from rubbing up against Erik and Jane's "Kestrel." Sorry again guys.

Sunday morning LESC put on a pancake breakfast to benefit their youth program and almost all of us participated before taking one last sail before heading home. What a summer treat!