



The Tell-Tale

Wheeler Yacht Club's Newsletter

March 2010



The flag pole pictured here is very similar to the one Wheeler Yacht Club purchased and Wheeler State Park workers installed in front of the marina store.

New Nautical Flag Pole!

In a joint effort between Wheeler Yacht Club and Wheeler State Park workers, a new nautical style flag pole has been installed in front of the Marina store. 2009 Commodore Bob Lee was instrumental in acquiring the flag pole and the purchase of the pole was approved by the WYC board members last year. The new flag pole looks fantastic and will be able to fly multiple flags at the same time (a lot of them). The flag pole uses a yardarm arrangement about 3/4 up the pole. It has three sets of rigging (left, right and center in a "V" configuration) for the raising and lowering of flags from the main shaft of the pole. The tie offs for lines are at arm level. It looks very much at home in front of the WYC Club House/Marina store!

New "Big Dock" Is The Place To Be!

Officially known as "Dock #700", the largest and newest dock at Wheeler Marina is filling up with massive power cruisers. The swanky new dock is becoming home to several of the largest and finest motor yachts in the area.

Nice Digs For The Big Boys

By Mitch Delk – Tell-Tale news editor and intrepid reporter, with help from Tim Haney, District State Park Manager and Wheeler Park Superintendent



Wheeler Yacht Club
Rogersville, Alabama

The newest covered dock at Wheeler Marina covers a massive footprint. I do not have any measurements in front of me, but I can tell you that the fingers of all the slips measure seventy feet! That makes 140 covered feet from the outermost reaches of the slip fingers. Add in a generous measurement between slips for socializing and I'd guess it's approximately 160 feet across! The vertical distance from the lower edge of the roof to the water level is approximately 26 feet, which is necessary for some of the motor yachts that have been moving in. There is a good amount of pitch built into to the roof. As you walk down the gangway, the impression you get is one of airiness and excellent heavy galvanized construction. There are 24 covered slips and two uncovered slips that make up the dockage available. Big numbers for big boats! All slips have been filled and there is a waiting list – it just goes to show how nice and how popular our marina facility truly is.

Each slip is rigged with its own waste pump out station as well as 50 amp, 125 flash 250 shore power. Lots of power is needed to run the myriad of appliances and heating/cool-

Privateer Yacht Club and Wheeler Yacht Club to Host Catalina 22 National Championship Regatta

Big Regatta Scheduled for May 15 - 20, 2010 on Joe Wheeler Lake! Many Boats Expected!

By Mitch Delk – Tell Tale news editor and Doug Fox, WYC Racing Director

A very large and important one-design regatta will take place this spring at Wheeler Yacht Club – the 2010 Catalina 22 National Championship regatta! It will be hosted by our friends from Privateer Yacht Club of Chattanooga in conjunction with WYC here on Joe Wheeler Lake for several reasons, which include superior inland lake sailing conditions – and size and quality of facilities. At three miles wide and having relatively low hills surrounding the lake, Wheeler offers strong and consistent wind patterns. Our facilities can support a large regatta. Forty to fifty boats are expected to participate. We have lots of slips (many of which have been reserved for the Catalina 22's during race week) as well as prime overnight accommodations at the lodge. The rigging and launch facilities are also very large and can handle the traffic we are expecting.

Privateer Yacht Club (PYC) has the largest Catalina 22 Fleet (Fleet 95) in the world. Several boats in their fleet are expected to be quite competitive at this – the highest level of competition for Catalina 22s. Catalina 22s

are not known for their extreme speed right out of the box, but these boats have been painstakingly prepared within class rules to be as fast as they possibly can be and that's pretty quick. Earlier boats are desired for their lighter weight and sparse equipment. Each boat and all sails will have to be measured before the event and receive a measurement certificate before it can compete. Because it is a one-design regatta, sailing is expected to be tight. Three starts will be run including Gold Fleet, Silver Fleet, and Spinnaker Fleet. Spectators are encouraged to get out on the lake and watch – maybe there will be a WYC observation boat(!). Socials and cookouts for the competitors are scheduled after each day's racing. Some will take place at the lodge, others by the pool. On Saturday, May 15th, WYC will host a welcome cookout for the Cat22 competitors.



Doug Fox is leading the support effort for WYC and will need at least 15 volunteers per day to make this event run smoothly. This intrepid reporter will be volunteering for duty! Maybe you should too! As it turns out, Doug's brother Rich Fox is a former Catalina 22 National Commodore, so sibling support is the order of the day. If you are interested in volunteering to help out with this regatta, contact Doug Fox at (256) 721-1512 or email him at force2341@yahoo.com – he'd be glad to hear from you. It should be a lot of fun, so come out and help support this important and sure-to-be-exciting national sailing event!

Board of Directors Have First Meeting of 2010; New WYC Schedule of Events Available Online

The New Board Has Been Voted In and WYC Leadership Has Big Plans For 2010

By Mitch Delk – Tell-Tale news editor
and Paul Wunsch, WYC Commodore

The first Wheeler Yacht Club Board of Directors meeting took place on 6 February 2010, in the club room located above the Marina Store at Joe Wheeler State Park Marina. There were eleven WYC members present and business for the year was laid out and discussed among the WYC leadership. It was evident that the new year and change of leadership had brought out great enthusiasm and new ideas for the club. The club's balance sheet

looks strong and the events calendar for 2010 is filling up. Racing, overnight cruises, dock parties, an environmental day, the dedication of the new flag pole and of course the big party of the year in the summer – Luau By The Lake – are all on the calendar. Please check out the entire WYC calendar at www.wheeleryachtclub.com.

Jim Kitchens is in charge of membership and he is planning on adding several new members to the club's roster. Barbara Pendleton is in charge of the socials this year and will be looking for members to spearhead a few of the events. Kim Garrett is treasurer this year as well as secretary. Newly approved board member Steve Brazier came forward with an idea for a Coast Guard safety class.

A cookout for the captains, crews and the volunteer working staff of the big Catalina 22 National Championships Regatta is also on the calendar. This cookout will be open to WYC members as well. This will be a great opportunity for WYC members to mix with sailors from the local area and around the country. This regatta is a very big deal and a great opportunity for Wheeler Yacht Club to show what a great group of people and sailing facilities we have.

The first activity on the schedule will be a kickoff breakfast that will take place 20 March at Country Cuisine in Rogersville to open the boating season and familiarize WYC members with the opportunities that will be available to them and discuss these events and any pending business. If the weather is good, after the meeting and breakfast, we may get out on the water or start cleaning our boats for the upcoming season.

WYC has joined the Rogersville Chamber of Commerce to cultivate a relationship with the city and local businesses for our mutual benefit. Dudley Smith and Jim Kitchens have been instrumental in making this happen.

Flag Donated By Alabama Senator



WYC member and '09 WYC board member, Rex Crawford, petitioned the state to supply our new marine flag pole with a U.S. Flag and one was sent by Senator Bobby E. Denton, representative from District #1 (Colbert and Lauderdale Counties). Mr. Denton lives in Muscle Shoals and serves as Dean of the Senate. We'd like to thank Senator Denton and we hope to fly this version of Old Glory this spring. The flag that was sent is three by 5 feet and the manufacturer of the flag pole calls for a 5 by 8, so we'll have to try out the smaller one and see how it looks.

Wheeler Yacht Club – Write a Story Or Send In a Blurb – Get Published In The Tell-Tale

Call For Submissions: Write a Story For The Tell-Tale

By Mitch Delk
Tell-Tale Editor

If you have an idea for a story you'd like to see published in the Tell-Tale, take a few minutes to jot it down and send it to me, The Tell-Tale Editor, Mitch Delk at this e-mail address: mitch.delk@knology.net. Your story could be about a recent outing on Wheeler Lake, or a repair you completed on your boat. It could be about Radio Controlled Sailboat Racing or going through the surveying process on a boat you recently bought or sold. Most any water or boat related story would be a great addition to this newsletter. Photographs to accompany your story would be even better. So, send in those stories and see yourself published!

The "Big Dock"

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ing systems on the large boats slipped in the new dock. There are some very fine power yachts lying in these slips. Several are from far away places while others hail from the local area. Overall they are a sight to behold. I predict there will be lots of activity under that massive roof and out on the lake when the weather warms up!

Did you know there is an official numbering system that applies to the docks at Wheeler Marina? It goes like this: Entering First Creek from the lake, the first transient dock is #600. The next transient dock is #500. The first sailing dock is #100 and the second sailing dock is



Here is a picture of Dock #700 under construction last year. Come see the finished product, it's amazing! I'd have a newer picture, but my camera is broken.

Send In a Blurb Or Photograph: Make An Announcement

By Mitch Delk
Tell-Tale Editor

Ah, you say you don't have time to write a full story? – that's OK, send in a short blurb about something interesting you saw at the dock – just a one paragraph factoid or quick announcement – it could be a photograph of wildlife you saw last time you were out on your boat with a caption that explains what you saw. You could even send in a classified ad or tell everyone you upgraded to a new boat and give some details. Bottom line is, we're looking for quick or small items to publish in the Tell-Tale. The more you submit and get published, the closer we become as club members. Got a good picture of your dog or kids on the boat? Send it in and include a caption!



A sailboat readied for the Parade of Lights at Wheeler.

#200 (the sailors tend to call these "A Dock" and "B Dock", respectively). The small covered dock is #300 (it's the oldest covered dock at Wheeler) and the large covered dock is #400. The newest and largest covered dock and the subject of this article is #700. The numbering system is based on when the docks were constructed, so the sequence is a little different than what you might expect. All slips are numbered with the first number corresponding to the dock where the slip is located – for instance, my boat is slipped on dock #100 at slip #130; drop by and say hello some time! One final note – I am informed by Tim Haney that there are new lights on all of the gangways leading to the docks. I'd like to thank Tim for supplying me with information in this story and in other articles in the Tell-Tale.