

# Windward Heels

Volume I, Issue 1

Chapel Hill, NC

Fall 2

## Dear Friends of UNC Sailing,

With this the inaugural publication of the newsletter of the UNC Sailing Club, I find it necessary to briefly introduce myself, explain your reception of this newsletter, and discuss the progress the club has made in the last year. My name is Scott Holleman, and I am the Commodore of the University of North Carolina Sailing Club. You are receiving this newsletter because either you or your student is or once was affiliated with the sailing club at Chapel Hill. If for some reason you wish to never again receive information regarding the club's activities, you can refer to the contact information on the back cover. If you do possess an interest in the club's happenings, read on, because we as a student organization have made significant steps in the rebuilding of this club in the last year.

I joined the Sailing Club last January after an injury forced me out of participation with the Ultimate Frisbee club team. I found the club in a state I had been unaccustomed to in my years of junior sailing. The boats were in a nearly hopeless condition--the four collegiate Vanguard 420s rested on dollies with flat tires in the corner of a gravel parking lot at Crosswinds Marina. Covered with dirt and peppered with cracks in the gel-coat, I saw the fleet's condition as an ominous beginning to my stay with the sailing club. But those pessimistic feelings were almost immediately replaced with optimism, and I looked to the club's future with visions of great success.

Last semester, then-Junior Jay King became Commodore out of necessity, for the position had been essentially vacated. With a reshuffling of leadership and a rejuvenated membership, the club began to progress. In addition to the renewed interest amongst established club members, several new members joined and became actively involved in the rebuilding process of the UNC Sailing Club. As a group, we recognized the organization's shortcom-



A group of sailors at a Sunday casual sail-around.

ings and established two subsequent goals. One, it was necessary to improve the quality and increase the quantity of boats in our fleet in order to adequately serve the club's needs. We did not, and still do not, have enough boats to safely put more than eight people on the water at a time. With only four old 1977 420s sailable, we saw the need to work towards purchasing newer, better boats so that people are not stranded ashore at weekly sail-arounds due to the inadequate number of boats.

The second goal addressed the competitive aspirations of club members. UNC Sailing has long since withdrawn from the intercollegiate racing circuit. The tradition of competitive sailing established in the past had been abandoned. Even South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association (SAISA) dues had been neglected for several years. We, thus, financially exonerated ourselves last spring by paying dues, back dues, and late penalties and looked towards the fall season of competition.

The accomplishments this Fall season, on

and off the water, have been remarkable. The team traveled to three SAISA regattas. Surprising the entire field of competitors, we placed second at our very first regatta, losing only to the College of Charleston. At North Points #2, UNC managed to defeat the Charleston and took first overall! Certainly, our strong showing will carry over to next semester, where we aim to continue to improve and compete at the SAISA Dinghy Championships. You can read more about the team's accomplishments in the "Regatta Report."

Off the water, the club increased its total membership to more than forty-five members, with an active member count surpassing thirty special individuals. This is up from last January's count of roughly twenty members. We put on a 5-kilometer footrace October 27 in order to raise sorely needed funds; over \$2000 was raised, with a substantial portion of that to be given to the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill United Way. Furthermore, UNC Sailing is negotiating with the authorities who con-

trol access of nearby Jordan Lake with the hopes of securing a venue to become the future home of UNC Sailing, which would eventually include a floating dock and a free-standing storage building.

Noting the progress that has been made within a mere eleven months has made me realize what can be accomplished with the presence of effort, cooperation, and the recognition of an attainable goal. As we look to the future, I see nothing but sunshine for the UNC Sailing Club. Much of that success will depend upon the club members themselves. Much of that success will also hinge on financial support of both the University as well as you, the Friends of UNC Sailing. Until the next newsletter, due in mailboxes in a couple months, I thank you for your time and look forward to working with you who wish to become more involved in the University of North Carolina Sailing Club.

Sincerely,

W. Scott Holleman

## Regatta Notes, by Robert Shapiro

This semester, the UNC Sailing Team gained valuable experience in collegiate racing, while proving that we already have a very skillful group of sailors. We participated in the South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association (SAISA) North Points Series this autumn, racing against schools from North and South Carolina, as well as Tennessee, including the College of Charleston, University of Tennessee, Citadel, UNC-Wilmington, NC State, Clemson, and Duke. Though we were not allowed to participate in the final District Championships, the experience of racing in the Points Regattas allowed those who had never raced to learn the ropes and let the rest of the team race against some very competitive teams.

Our finishes were, however, nothing to be mocked, as we came into this season as an unknown team and left as a force with which to be reckoned. We began the season with a trip to Charleston on September 8 and 9, where we fought light winds, heavy current, and rain to finish a respectable second to the College of Charleston, the only varsity team in the North Region of SAISA. After realizing that we had the talent to compete with any of the teams in our region, we ventured to the second regatta at UT-Knoxville on

September 22. Despite poor wind, as can sometimes be the case on lakes, we proved our abilities with consistently good finishes that allowed us to actually win the regatta.

For our final points regatta, the excitement for racing could be seen at UNC, as we brought eight sailors to Clemson on



Stuart Cullinan, Robert Shapiro, and Mary Carroll on the dock at Tennessee.

October 13. We decided to make it our priority to allow everyone to get some experience, so everyone got to sail at least two races, and we were a commendable fourth in the regatta, behind College of Charleston, Clemson, and Tennessee.

As it turns out, we ended up second only to CofC in the Points Series, far above any goal we had at the outset of this season. The fall season will wrap up in December as the team travels to Florida State University for a regatta, but it is safe to say that this semester was an incredible success regardless of how the team finishes there.

For next semester, we look to work out a practice schedule that most of the team can follow, so that we can hone our skills and skipper-crew chemistry in hopes that we will be able to make a strong showing at SAISACHampionships and earn a berth to some Intersectional regattas next fall.

*Note: After this was written, the UNC Team received a special berth to an intersectional regatta in Charleston.*

## My Experience, by Randall Casper

My name is Randall Casper, and I'm a freshman from Rocky Mount, NC. I had been a sailboat once or twice before, but not until I came to UNC had I had much experience on the water.

Being a freshman, I went around to different clubs during my first week or two at Carolina, to see what all interested me. I was told about the UNC Sailing Club by a few friends, so I attended my first meeting in August. I went to several Sunday afternoon sail-arounds on Jordan Lake and started becoming more involved in the day to day activities of the club.

Sailing was something totally different from what I had done before, and it was a great chance to meet new people. My previous experiences with sailing had been minimal. I have always water-skied and knee-boarded, but never sailed any considerable amount. After have only officially practiced once, I decided to go to the regatta October 12 and 13 at Clemson University, near Anderson, SC.

I had just barely learned to rig a collegiate 420, roll-tack, gybe, and understand the various courses, but I was up for the challenge. At Clemson, we were able to meet and hang out with other sailors from Tennessee, Clemson, NC State, Duke, and the College of Charleston. This was an all-new and exciting experience to sail and meet people, and I have since encouraged others to get involved.

Since then, the UNC Sailing Club has done a 5k fundraiser in order to raise money to improve our boats, so that sailing can be more accessible for people to have the same experiences that I have had thus far. The UNC Sailing Club is a great organization to get involved in.

I believe that President John F. Kennedy best summed up the love of sailing with this quote:

### Fall 2001 Results

North Points #1 @ Charleston - 2nd of 8

North Points #2 @ Tennessee - 1st of 7

North Points #3 @ Clemson - 4th of 6

SAISA/MAISA @ Charleston - 10th of 17

“I really don’t know why it is that all of blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are so committed to the sea, except that I think it’s because in addition to the fact that the sea changes, and the light changes, and ships change, it’s because we all came from the sea. And it is an interesting biological fact that all of us have, in our veins the same exact percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our



A group of sailors at one of the weekly Sunday sail-arounds.

ences that have come with going to regattas, racing, and just sailing around.

So maybe that’s why I chose to join the Sailing Club. Regardless of the reason for my venturing onto the water, I have thus far enjoyed the many experi-

## Spring 2002 Schedule

### Club Schedule

Tuesday, 7:30pm - weekly meeting  
 Wednesday, 3pm - team practice  
 Thursday, 2pm - team practice  
 Sunday, 1pm - weekly sail-around

### Regatta Schedule:

February 2/3 - North Points #1 @ TBA  
 February 23/24 - North Points #2 @ TBA  
  
 March 9/10 - North Points #3 @ TBA  
 March 16/17 - SAISA Clinic @ CofC  
 March 23/24 - MAISA/SAISA @ Hampton  
  
 April 6/7 - SAISA Dinghy Champs @ TBA  
 April 20/21 - SAISA Women’s @ TBA

## The First Annual UNC Sailing Club “Run Like the Wind” 5-K Run/Walk

Once upon a time a suggestion by a mere land-lubber, Matt, materialized into one very, matter of fact too early, freezing October morning on the steps of Woolen Gym.

The date was October 27, 2001. All of UNC Club Sailing’s crew, minus the captain and “dad” (Commodore Scott Holleman chose to show up thirty minutes late), arose to the occasion at approximately 8am. The reason all these sailors assembled was for UNC Club Sailing’s 1st Annual “Run Like the Wind” 5K Fun Run.



What was a brainstorming session so last semester would forever, well at least alter if not complicate the college lives of 30 plus sailors.

A sailing club was in need of funds and thought a 5K race would be a simple solution. Little was it known that hundreds of copies would be sneaked after hours and dozens of late night emails would cross their desktops. Arguments about shirt color, size and disgruntled approvals would often occur in Fetzer 106, our weekly meeting room.

In the end over 300 shirts would be sold and 65 die-hard runners emerged on that brisk Saturday morning. As a result of these dedicated and sometimes irritated sailors, over \$4,000 dollars crossed their sticky fingers, of which approximately \$2000 dollars could be claimed for themselves. Furthermore, over \$300 dollars was generously donated to Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Area United Way.

And so the Sailing Club set sail into the warm sunset and sailed happily ever after...until the 420 took on water.

On a slightly more serious note, we threw around many fundraising ideas at a meeting last spring. What was initially an insincere guess at what might raise money developed into a plan

to generate some serious capital for the club.

Treasurer Margaux Lynn harnessed her artistic talent and designed a shirt which has since received approximately 323 rave reviews.

The entire club came together in the planning stage for the 5-k, which really showed down the stretch. The collective efforts of every single member in selling shirts and spreading flyers, and in working for food donations really illustrated the notion of group work and cooperation. Without the help of so many motivated individuals, this event would not have happened.

With all that said, we have our first 5k under our belt. Next year, we look to improve upon our initial success.

-Matt Gardner



The crew, immediately following the conclusion of the race

UNC Sailing Club  
203 Woolen Gym CB# 8605  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**2001/2001 Club Officers**

Commodore: Scott Holleman ('03)

Treasurer: Margaux Lynn ('03)

Team Captain: Robert Shapiro ('04)

Fundraising Chair: Matt Gardner ('03)

Social Chair: Mary Carroll Alexander ('03)

Equipment Manager: Joseph Dratz ('04)

For more information, contact Scott Holleman at (919) 914-4194 or via email at [sailing@unc.edu](mailto:sailing@unc.edu).

The UNC Sailing webpage is located at <http://www.unc.edu/student/orgs/sailing/>

If you wish to be removed from the UNC Friends of Sailing mailling list, please contact Scott Holleman. Also, if you wish to receive the Windward Heels newsletter via email, fill out to formon the Friends of Sailing website, and your request shall be immediately processed.

If your address has changed, please send an email to [sailing@unc.edu](mailto:sailing@unc.edu) with your updated address.

The UNC Sailing Club wishes to thank you for being a member of the Friends of Sailing community, a network whose existence is vital to the success of UNC Sailing.