



Blackbeard's Epitaph

Save These Dates:

September 5-7

Cruise to Beaufort

September 11-13

Queen Anne's Revenge Regatta

September 19

BoD Board @ 9:00

September 19

Shrimp-a-roo

September 20

SJ & Ensign Series Starts

September 26

SJ & Ensign Series#2

September 26

NYRA Full Moon Overnight Regatta



It's that time of the year again when the nomination committee is seeking volunteers, officers & board directors for the fall election.

To volunteer, please text "BSC OFFICER Interested" to Ray Redniss 203-912-8858



Blackbeard Sailing Club

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From the Commodore

Ahoy mates!

Summer has to wind down! It's been a little too hot, but it has been wonderful to see the sunshine and enjoy these beautiful days around the club. We hope everyone is making the most of the season and enjoying all that summer has left to offer.

While *Racing and cruising* are well underway, remember hurricane season is also upon us. Please revisit your hurricane plan, reach out to your "Sail Buddy," and check your ground tackle, all with the hope it's not to be used.

See you out there!

Cliff

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Cruising Forward

Ahoy Mates!

The River Dunes cruise that had been rescheduled turned out to be a nice weather weekend. The staff at River Dunes was welcoming. Most people gathered in the pool for a night swim. During the day, some folks rode complimentary bicycles around the community, some people paddled their kayaks, and all enjoyed the pool throughout the day. During a tour of the Manor House before dinner, we witnessed staff ironing the tablecloths for our table (for which shows the level of service they treated us to). At 6 pm we all enjoyed eating a four course meal in which we all sat at a long table and shared great fellowship. After dinner, some played chess on the fancy game board while others shot pool. A great time was had by all!

Jessica & Scott Huddle



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

2026 Cruise Committee Schedule

- **September 5-7 Beaufort, NC**
 - Let's go have some fun in Beaufort for Labor Day weekend! Anchor with us at Taylor's Creek or book yourself a slip in one of the marinas. Either way we'll all meet and party it up properly for the unofficial end of summer!
- **October 17-18 Minnesott Beach, NC**
 - A fun Autumn raft up party at one of the nicest white sand beaches on the Neuse River!
- **December TBD New Bern XMAS Flotilla**



CRUISE COMMITTEE EVENTS

★ *Set your course for adventure!* ★

LABOR DAY

Cruise

★ **TO BEAUFORT** ★

 **SEPTEMBER 5 – 7, 2026**

Join us for a relaxing long weekend cruising to beautiful Beaufort, NC! Enjoy scenic views, great company, and unforgettable memories.



**SCENIC
CRUISE**



**GOOD FOOD
& FUN**



**EXPLORE
BEAUFORT**



**GREAT
COMPANY**

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

ETYSA Fundraiser; October 3rd - 4th

The next annual ETYSA fundraiser will be held October 3-4th. It includes a Regatta and a silent auction. For our new club members, Edward Teach Youth Sailing Association (ETYSA) is a day camp that operates during the summer to teach sailing to youth ages 8-17 years old. The camps run from June-August and take place at BSC. They also have a race team that competes against other youth sailing teams. The program has resulted with one sailor that competed in the Olympic Trials, and many others that have competed in regattas, and some join our members as crew for regattas. Several of the youth campers become certified sailing instructors and come back as assistant coaches. These youth are the future of sailing.

The Silent Auction and Regatta is a fundraising event for the program. Our members and friends of members donate items that are new or slightly used and we put them on display in the clubhouse for bidding. We also accept gift cards and other items to bid on. We also appreciate anyone who is willing to solicit businesses for donations. ETYSA is a 501c non-profit organization.

If you sign up for the Regatta and need some extra crew, reach out to Vance and he will see which of our youth sailors are available to crew.

You can also show your support by becoming a member of ETYSA for \$50 per year to support this great organization at ETYSA.org.

For more information or questions, reach out to me. If you need a place to store donated items before the auction, reach out to Vance. I will be at the clubhouse on October 2nd to accept donations.

More information about the Regatta and dinner on Saturday evening will be coming soon.

Fair Winds,

Joan Boenig

joan.boenig82@gmail.com

919.637.1306

Vance Hikes

President of ETYSA BOD

717.334.0530



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Portsmouth Dingy Race Series Update

by Chris Beisner

The 2nd half of the Thirsty Thursday Portsmouth Dinghy Race Series (TTPDRS) is in full swing. After a dismal first half series (due to storms, heat and travel schedules), the stars have aligned to give us good sailing weather three weeks in a row. With Mother Nature smiling on us (finally), we've had very good attendance this series with five boats on the starting line two weeks in a row (8/6 and 8/13) and four boats the week prior (7/27). Consistently showing up for races are:

- 🚢 Aiden and Scarlett Hansen - 420
- 🚢 Chris Beisner - Melges MC scow
- 🚢 Buck Newsome and Mark Keane - Flying Scot
- 🚢 Jim Waggoner and Dennis Harms - Flying Scot

We also had some new faces join us on the racecourse at the last race event (8/13):

- 🚢 Gray Wilke and Lucy Horne - 420

Scarlett, Gray and Lucy are members of ETYSA's junior race team. They are taking advantage of the TTPDRS to improve their racing skills by getting in extra time on the water outside of the weekly Junior Race Team Sunday practices. Other members of the Junior Race Team have also expressed an interest in the series.

As of this writing, the current series standings, after 8 races over 3 evenings, are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 st - Hansen / Hansen (13 points) | 3 rd - Newsome / Keane (7) |
| 2 nd - Beisner (12) | 4 th - Waggoner / Harms (6) |

With close battles between 1st & 2nd and 3rd & 4th, the second half of the series is sure to be entertaining. All BSC members are invited (and encouraged!) to come watch from the comfort of the BSC deck and heckle, cheer and armchair skipper the races. Bonus points for anyone with the gumption to tell those racing what they did wrong when they come off the water!

The regatta chairs would like to acknowledge those who have served as Race Committee this series: Mark Hansen, Chris Humphries, Debbie Newsome, Joan Wilson, and Ed Thompson. Thank you for contributing to the success of this series!



The "old salts" of the TTPDRS:
Debbie Newsome, Dennis Harms, Jim Waggoner, Buck Newsome, Chris Beisner and Mark Keane



Junior Race Team Members sailing in the TTPDRS: Scarlett Hansen, (JRT Asst. Coach Aiden Hansen, JRT Head Coach Chris Beisner), Gray Wilke and Lucy Horne

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

A Few Dock Reminders

We are in the middle of Hurricane Season, so make sure your boat is in order - anchors, rode, dinks, dock boxes and everything else is ready.

Check your Hurricane Plan:

-  Correct phone numbers (yours and your buddy's)
-  Equipment is located and correctly documented on the plan
-  Engine runs, and importantly, dock lines can be untied

If we make the call to leave the docks, commit time for your boat and to help with club supplies and equipment - BBQ grills, garbage cans, dock boxes, carts, bikes etc...



The marina is for all intents and purposes - full. Vacant slips have blank yellow boards on them. Rates for slips are posted under the clubhouse. We are generating a new waiting list. One needs to be a member, and actually own the boat, to request a slip for it.

Finally, the end of A dock is not to be used, unless one is onboard the whole time the boat is there. B dock slips need the space for coming and going to their slips, and your boat may have to move at a moment's notice. C dock allows for 2 or 3 tie-ups. Contact the Dockmaster for overnight use.

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

5 Students Complete ETYSA's Adult Learn to Sail Class by Chris Beisner

After hearing multiple times that there are people in the New Bern community who are looking for someone to teach them how to sail, I set about organizing an adult learn-to-sail class this spring. With lots of help from Clare Brock and Vance Hikes, the posting for ETYSA's adult learn to sail class went live in May on the ETYSA website.

The course, as advertised, consisted of six classes held at BSC every Wednesday and Thursday over three weeks in July. The class objective was to take students from knowing nothing about sailing (or nearly so) to being comfortable and confident in:

-  Sailing terms and terminology
-  Wind direction and points of sail
-  Rigging / derigging a small boat
-  Leaving from and returning to the dock
-  Sailing in up to 10 knots of breeze

I'm thrilled to report that we had five students complete the class with everyone - students and coaches alike - having a great time and learning a lot. The class consisted of three women and two men ranging in age from late 30s to 70-something. Sailing experience coming into the class was varied, but each student met the "beginner" definition. By the end, everyone was able to rig, launch, sail, return and derig with confidence.

Most of the classes were taught using the ETYSA-owned O'Day Javelins. These boats are small (14 ft), easy to rig and derig, dinghies with room enough for two adults to sit comfortably. Students were also treated to "big boat" sailing one evening when the wind got too high for the Javelins - BSC member Ed Thompson graciously hosted the students aboard "Dutch Wind," a Hunter Legend 40.5, with everybody taking a turn at the wheel. There were lots of smiles that day!

Armed with the fundamentals, students have been encouraged to continue their sailing education by spending more time on the water. That said, if you are looking for inexperienced but enthusiastic crew, I might have some candidates for you.

The plan for 2027 is to hold two learn-to-sail classes and one intermediate class starting late spring. The schedule will be published on the ETYSA.org site by the end of January.

Special thanks and a tip of the captain's hat to:

-  The students: Cheryl, Derek, Pauline, Rick and Shannon. Thanks for signing up and for putting your trust in me!
-  Coach's assistant: Scarlett Hansen
-  Assistant Coach: Aiden Hansen
-  Shore-side support crew: Clare Brock, Skip Byrum and Vance Hikes

Our sailing village came together in a way that was rewarding and great to see. I can't wait to do it again!

Chris Beisner
Head Instructor - ETYSA

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Welcome New Members



Class 'field trip' - evening on Dutch Wind.



Rick and Derek sending it!



Shannon and Pauline - light on wind but big on smiles!



L to R: Coach Aiden, Rick, Derek, Coach Chris, Pauline, Cheryl, Scarlett (coach's asst.), Shannon

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

ETYSA Junior Race Team Update

by Chris Beisner

The Junior Race Team (JRT) has quickly grown from two members on the first day of practice in mid-July to 12 members after only six practices. The team practices every Sunday after noon (at BSC) from 1:30 to 4:00. At the last practice (8/16), the team had three 420's and three Opti's on the water. The week prior the team fielded four 420's.



ETYSA JRT Head Coach Chris Beisner is pleased with the team's improvement. "Many of our sailors are relatively new to sailing. Their progress so far has been fantastic." He cited upwind sailing as a good indicator of their improved sailing skills. "At the start of the season, many of them struggled to sail to the weather mark efficiently. They have all gotten the hang of that now so we're starting to focus more on more intermediate techniques like quality tacks, gibes and mark roundings."

Asked about what the future holds for these aspiring racers, Beisner gives an optimistic forecast. "Several of our racers have gone all in and should go far if they continue to invest the time. A couple of them (Gray and Lucy) came out last Thursday for the Portsmouth Series races, and we have three ETYSA boats competing in this weekend's Gurganus regatta. I'm really excited for the team and for all our sailors. They're a great group with a lot of potential."

After the Gurganus, the next official regatta for the team is the Queen Anne's Revenge (QAR) hosted by ETYSA at BSC the weekend of September 11th - 13th. Beisner says he is working to get more members of the team ready for QAR and for travel regattas hosted by clubs in North Carolina (Lake Norman; CYC in Wilmington) and Georgia (Lake Augusta) throughout the remainder of the year. The full practice and regatta schedule for the team is available on the [ETYSA.org](https://ety.org) website.

Membership to the ETYSA JRT is open to any sailor between the ages of 8 and 18. No racing experience is required to join the team.



JRT Members (L to R): Owen, Hisar, Henry, Noah, Beau, Gray, (Head Coach Chris), Lucy, Whit, Scarlett, (Asst. Coach Aiden)

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

ET
Y
S
A



by Chris Beisner

Special Thanks to Assistant Coach Aiden Hansen

ETYSA would like to thank Aiden Hansen for helping coach the Junior Race Team this summer and for serving as an assistant instructor for the adult Learn to Sail class in July. Aiden was instrumental in helping head coach and instructor Chris Beisner with all the on-the-water training and classes. Aiden attended every class and practice with a positive attitude and a limitless supply of encouragement for race team members and the adult learn-to-sail students.

Aiden will be attending Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA) this fall. In addition to his academic pursuits, Aiden is also a member of ODU's Navy ROTC program and a member of the ODU sailing team. His mom, Kristen, and sister, Scarlett, dropped Aiden off at school just in time for him to miss the Gurganus regatta, but with any luck, Aiden will be back at BSC for the Queen Anne's Revenge regatta in September. Whenever he does come back to visit, he will always be welcome.

Thank you, Aiden!



Aiden Hansen
ETYSA Assistant Coach

Ship's Store

Set sail wearing one of these stylish caps to let everyone know you are part of the Blackbeard armada! All new colors to fit your particular style, they are available for \$19 each. Contact storekeeper Erin Vergot (252-229-1942) should you desire one.



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Gurganus Regatta Brings Sailors Together...

by Blake Sohn

... Despite Light Winds

The Gurganus Regatta, held August 22-23, drew a solid fleet of 21 boats—including Sunfish, Wayfarers, San Juan spin, and an open class—but the wind proved far less cooperative than the competitors.

Saturday left sailors eager to hit the water, only to face an onshore postponement. Race officers ultimately canceled racing after recording an average wind speed of about 0.4 knots, with occasional wild gusts of just 2 to 4 knots. As the fleet packed up, rain arrived and sent everyone scrambling for cover.

The day's true highlight came ashore. The shoreside team of Evelyn Thompson, Mary Lang, Deb Burrington (Mills), Janet Hikes and others prepared a wonderful comfort-food dinner featuring the creamiest mac 'n cheese many sailors could remember. It was topped off with pounds of fresh steamed green beans that Janet had hand-snapped herself the night before. Fellowship and fun filled the evening and morning breakfasts—thank you, to the whole shoreside crew.

Sunday delivered sunshine and light but usable winds, giving the race committee a chance to make up for lost time. The first race for the Wayfarers managed only about 200 yards before the breeze died completely, forcing a recall. After a short postponement, pressure finally filled in and the fleet completed three races in the variable light air.N

Awards were presented later that afternoon. Full results are available [2026 Blackbeard Gurganus One Design Regatta - RESULTS!](#)

The regatta which closed out the Clark Series for the year included the Cinco de Mayo, Bill Jarvis One Design and Gurganus regattas. High-point class winners were Uwe Heine (Wayfarer), Tinka Talbert and Clare Brock (San Juan) and Jude Brown (Sunfish). Overall series winner was Jude Brown (Sunfish).

A light-air weekend, but a strong showing of boats, good racing when the breeze finally arrived and plenty of community spirit.



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Fall SJ & Ensign Series Begins September 20th by Mark Brennescholtz



Just a couple of days before the first day of Fall and at the end of this horrible summer, racing will resume for San Juan 21's and Ensigns. Time to brave the heat and get your boats prepared.

Race dates are all Saturdays: September 20 and 26; October 3, 10, and 24; November 7. First gun is 1255 out on the river. There will be no skippers meeting. NOR, entry form and sailing instructions are available from Ensign Fleet Captain Blake Sohn (blakesohn@gmail.com). Socials on the deck follow every race, and awards are November 7.

COME ON, folks! It would be great to see Dave G, Doug L, Eddie P., Ed D., Gordon, Hans, Jeff T, Clare/Tinka, Mike B., Margaret/LuAnn, Mark W. and others out for this series. *Blue Note* and *Long Shot* will race for sure, and hopefully *Raptor* and *Red Stripe* will join them.

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Fall SJ & Ensign Series Begins September 20th



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Shrimp-a-Roo September 19

Bring your appetite and your favorite drink and join BSC for our annual Shrimp-a-roo. This year the party is being held on the new transient dock at the end of the B Dock extension.

Whether you bring your boat and raft up, walk out B Dock or ride the powerboat shuttles; plan an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

See you there!!



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Election of Officers and Directors for 2027

The Nominating Committee has been canvassing the membership and recruiting candidates for the upcoming election.

The candidates to date are (their bios appear in this newsletter):

Commodore: Cliff Lennox

Vice Commodore: Charlie Batchelor

Rear Commodore: Bruce Woods

Treasurer: Stephanie Davies

Secretary: Joan Wilson

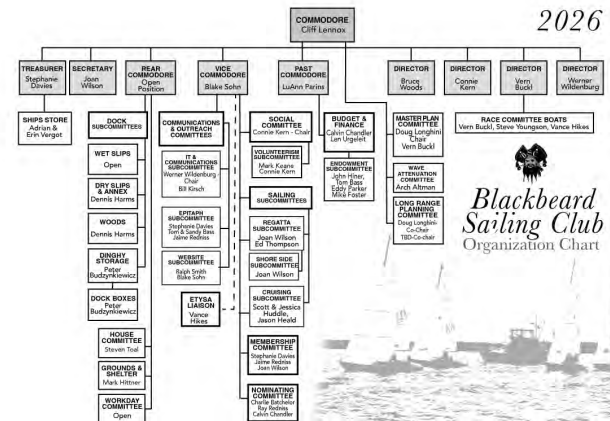
Directors: (2 positions for 2 years, 1 position for 1 year))

Mark Hittner

Blake Sohn

Jurie Swart

Len Urgeleit



We encourage anyone who wants to run for office to contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Longstanding experience at BSC isn't required. You may be a new member with some great ideas to share from your past experience. Nominations will close at midnight on October 1, so there is plenty of time to throw your hat in the ring.

All members in good standing (owing less than \$50 for 30 days) will receive a ballot by email (Election Buddy) in mid-October with the results announced at the General Meeting in November.



Ray Redniss, 203-912-8858 rlredniss@gmail.com



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Election of Officers and Directors for 2027

Cliff Lennox for Commodore

Our Club is in great shape.

We have accomplished many things this past year - Completed the first phase of the Wave Attenuation and Dock Improvements. Organized another successful spring workday event with 125 plus members participating, Initiated our dredging permit application. Held successful racing and cruising events.

We continue to work on the Capital Development Plan involving six committees that will identify, prioritize, apply budgets, timelines and funding opportunities for future projects. We have set up up to host the SunFish Southern Regional Championships and Weta's National Championship regattas in 2027.

But WE have more to do!

With your support, we seek to continue the progress of maintaining and make improvements to the club's facilities. Put into construction B Dock Improvements. Continuation of club deck railing/ resurfacing and enhancements to the club house are on the list of future programs. Keeping the club an inviting and attractive facilities to grow membership and support the club's youth sailing, race, cruise and social programs.

I am honored to be considered for this position.



Charlie Batchelor for Vice-Commodore *Sailing Experience*

I became a Blackbeard member in 2011. I have served on the BOD for 2 years in 2012. I love cruising and sailboat racing. I learned to sail in 1970 in Hawaii while in the Air Force. The training boat was a bulb fin keel Rhodes 19. After 2 years there, I departed USAF and came home to Jacksonville, Florida to start my college at University of Florida.. Bought a Snipe and sailed/raced for several years. In my senior year, I bought a Hobie 14 Canary special edition. I sailed/raced that boat for 3 more years. Since then I have owned a Caprie 15, Chrysler Buccaneer 18, Quick Step 21, Freedom 28 cat ketch, and my current sailboat, a 1979 Bristol 40 cutter (S/V JAZZ). In the winter of 2023, I took JAZZ to Bahamas. I have six segments on the ICW to/from Florida and six segments on ICW north to Virginia. I have delivered sailboats from Newport Ri. ,Annapolis, Georgetown Sc. to the New Bern area. I also had a 13 day delivery with three club members, on an Amel 53 from Aruba to Myrtle Beach.

Professional Experience

USAF 1967 - 1972 as a Medic assigned to Dental clinic. I exited military service with one year of college. I completed college under GI bill with a BS degree in Forest Management (basic pre med plus extra calculus). I was hired by AT&T in 1980 and retired with 28 years in 2008. While at AT&T, I was a Quality



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Election of Officers and Directors for 2027

Charlie Batchelor for Vice-Commodore (continued)

Engineer, Print shop manager with 72 direct reports, Project Manager and a Network Process Engineer in Raleigh from 1996. I also server as Chapter President of AT&T Telephone Pioneers Shadeland chapter in Indiana (AT&T's volunteer organization) for 3 years. With a \$400k balance sheet. we supported grade school education and projects for the elderly. In 2008 after retirement, I studied for two months and attained my PMP (Project Management Professional) national certification. I went back to AT&T for 3 years as a Contractor. After that I helped an owner start a Batteries Plus store in Raleigh form the ground up. I was there about a year and a half.

Goals as Vice Commodore

I will support all current projects that keeps BSC pointing towards the future. I believe we have very talented members and need an increase their participation in club management, projects and socials. It is my goal to balance future project costs and grow BSC's net balance. I believe our future must be derived from younger sailors, racing regattas and new members moving to eastern North Carolina area with sailboats. I believe all members should have fun in the enjoyment of sailing activities and strive to preserve the future of Blackbeard Sailing Club.

Bruce Woods for Rear-Commodore

I am running for election to the position of Blackbeard Sailing Club Rear Commodore, which will become vacant at the end of 2026.

I have been a BSC member for 13 years, have had boats in each of the areas, served as dry storage captain, was on the 50th Anniversary committee, cruising committee, helped out with Shrimp-a-roo, and have served on the board of directors for two terms, expiring at the end of this year.

The Board of Directors terms have been supportive of the goals approved by members in our survey of 2022, primarily the focus on funding and implementing the wave attenuation project and the re-build of B dock. I enjoyed supporting the officers of the club in adopting the financial plan and approving budgets for repair and the new website.

We have B dock to finish, and proposals for other projects to evaluate. I would like to continue to represent the will of the membership; once we get the major projects funded and underway. I think we should re-survey the members to see if there are any other projects work pursuing, and also understand the limits of what should be done.

Some ideas I have include working on communications, outreach, committee management, and fostering the goals we have to use our assets wisely for the purposes of sailing, maintenance, and seeing how the members can make positive contributions to working together for success in sailing our boats.

Please think about what you want the officers and board to work on, and if you think I can help the club by becoming Rear Commodore, I will appreciate your vote.



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Election of Officers and Directors for 2027

Stephanie Davies for Treasurer

I have held the office of Treasurer at BSC since January 2016. During that time I have negotiated a new banking relationship which eliminated several ongoing fees. I manage and track CD's at various financial institutions to maximize the interest earned and to provide the ready cash for the various capital projects ongoing at the club. If elected for another term, I am happy to continue this important work.

My husband and I have been members of BSC for 15 years and have over 30 years of sailing experience, both on the Pacific coast in a heavy 43' cutter and we just sold our 30' center cockpit sloop, *Jeanne Too*. We have cruised in the Chesapeake and local waters.

As well as fulfilling the duties of Treasurer, I assemble and edit the monthly BSC Epitaph, ably assisted by Tom & Sandy Bass and Jaime Redniss. I am a co-chair of the membership committee, in charge of Race Committee and race management. I respectfully ask for your support as I seek re-election.



Joan Wilson for Secretary

Hello, BSC members! My name is Joan Wilson, and I am running for Secretary for the 2027 Board of Directors of Blackbeard Sailing Club. I grew up in Pennsylvania and sailed with my family on the Chesapeake Bay. I am a retired CPA with 15 years working for a regional CPA firm in PA and 20 years working in Controllershship at The DuPont Company. When I retired in 2018, my love of sailing brought me to New Bern, and I found a home in Fairfield Harbour just around the corner from BSC.

I joined BSC in 2020 and purchased a Hunter 36 named Latitude Adjustment, which is located on BSC's A dock. In November 2021, I assumed the role of BSC Quartermaster, responsible for obtaining supplies for the clubhouse facilities. Since the beginning of 2022, I have been co-chair of the BSC Regatta Committee, and I help coordinate the weekly Fun Sails. I have been an active member of the race committee for one-design regattas, and I am the chair of the Shoreside Committee, which organizes the social activities for the regattas. In addition, I have administrative responsibilities for the Membership and Website Committees. I was appointed by the Board of Directors in early 2026 to assume the role of Secretary.

BSC is an amazing club with an incredible group of members who volunteer to make it work! I'd be honored to continue to serve on your 2027 Board of Directors.



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Election of Officers and Directors for 2027

Mark Hittner for Director

Hello BSC members. I am running for the position of Director and here is my background:

2001 - Retired from my builder/remodeler business

2005 - My wife Mary and I arrived at the BSC front gate on the Fall Workday. We signed on as race crew with Mark Brennescholtz that day. The three of us are still racing together but now on Blue Note.

2012 - Joined BSC with 25' and 19' trailer boats. Added the Ensign "Blue Note" in 2016.

2021, 2022, 2023 - Served as Vice Commodore

Larger projects initiated and/or supervised:

Launch ramp extension, drainage correction, swale and silt trap at the picnic shelter, general drainage

Bathhouse restoration after hurricane Florence

A-Dock sidewalk and grounds restoration after Florence reconstruction

Supervision of asphalt and gravel driveway installation

Development of the Annex storage lot

Added handrails to Bathhouse and Clubhouse decks and bathrooms

Added shades to deck with help from Vance Hikes

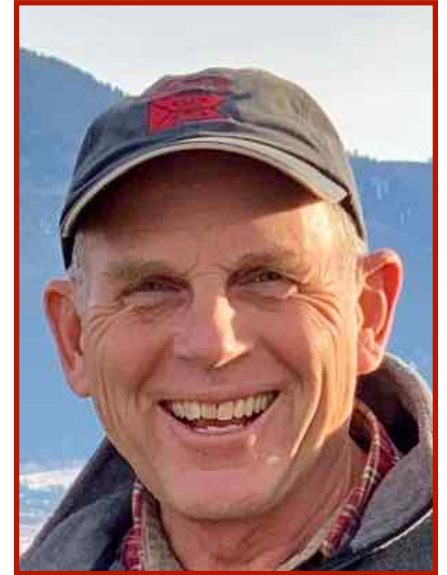
Deck maintenance and then helped with replacement

Presently member of the Attenuation Committee and chair of the Grounds/Shelter committee

I am considered to be fiscally conservative and voted to approve the yearly rate increases that are now being implemented. I believe they are adequate to meet the needs of BSC. At this time, I prefer not to burden the club with a bank loan but that is a Membership decision not the Board's.

As a recipient of a Commodore's Award and Board of Directors' Award, I ask for your vote.

Mark Hittner



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Election of Officers and Directors for 2027

Blake Sohn for Director

It has been a privilege to serve as Rear Commodore and Vice Commodore at Blackbeard Sailing Club over the past three years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to lead and support a number of initiatives that advanced the Club's goals and mission. These include the website upgrade, the B-Dock attenuator project, efforts to strengthen volunteerism, and serving as Fleet Captain for the Ensign/San Juan races. Additionally, the committees I have managed, especially racing and social/shore side, have delivered outstanding work. This includes events that brought members together and enriched the Club. I want to thank all the experienced volunteers for their efforts who made this work possible and who made my role so rewarding.

Because my personal priorities continue to evolve, I will be stepping down from the Vice Commodore position at the end of the year. My hope is to remain serving the Club on the Board as a Director. If elected, one of my focuses will be improving financial transparency and pushing for an internal financial audit. Whether or not I am elected, I look forward to continuing to volunteer some of my time on other committees and contributing my skill set to the Club.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization and its members. I respectfully ask for your vote for a Director position so that I may continue to serve Blackbeard Sailing Club and its members.

Blake Sohn



Jurie Swart for Director

Karin and I have been members at BSC since August 2024 and BSC as a facility is absolutely beautiful and amazing. How blessed are we with this sailing club.

My wife Karin and I made many friends, participated in many cruises on our Beneteau 361 with friends and we are so thankful for this club.

We also participated in the 2025 Winter racing season and loved it. The people are absolutely wonderful and makes everything even better.

I am encouraged to participate to preserve and maintain our facility, to do my part, serve and care for the club. This is why I volunteer to run for a board position.



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Election of Officers and Directors for 2027

Jurie Swart for Director (continued)

I am an engineer. Scope the work and let me get to it.

I worked at Comcast for many years and currently I am working for Marriott international ensuring network devices are compliant to standards.

I plan as board member to support our leaders and standby them to accomplish our vision and maintain our club to be best of our ability.

Len Urgeleit for Director

I am running for a board of directors position. In 2025, I joined BSC shortly after moving to Fairfield Harbour from Spokane, WA. I immediately got involved in crewing for the weekly fun races, Ensign racing, and more recently San Juan 21 racing. I have participated in other club regattas and NYRA racing as well. In addition to crewing, I enjoy racing my Pearson 28' in the weekly Tuesday fun races. I had never raced before joining this club. It has been a lot of fun so far.

Since joining BSC, I have volunteered to be on the finance committee and assist with the long-range planning committee. I have enjoyed being able to assist in this area for the management of the club.

My past career background is in building renovation and remodeling. I have a degree in architecture, but after working as an intern architect, I quickly switched over to construction management. I have owned my own business as a general contractor focusing on re-developing distressed commercial buildings by converting them into updated residential, office, and other commercial uses. In the latter part of my career I worked as a small remodeling contractor and worked hands-on in the majority of the trades.

I feel that I can use the knowledge and skills I have learned along my path of life to assist in the continuing success of Blackbeard Sailing Club. I look forward to seeing the club prosper and evolve to meet the needs of its current members.

Thank you for your consideration.



BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

WORKDAY

TOGETHER WE KEEP BSC BEAUTIFUL

OCTOBER 17

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Many Hands Make Light Work!

BBQ LUNCH SERVED AT NOON!

BSC

LEND A HAND.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
LOVE YOUR CLUB.

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

2026 RACE SCHEDULE

Provided by Inter-Club Racing Committee (ICRC)

1/16/26

Date	Day	Club	Event	PHRF	One-Design		Location
More races, events and contact information are listed on next page!							
Sep 7	Mon		LABOR DAY				
Sep 11-13	Fri-Sun	ETYSA	Queen Anne's Revenge Junior Regatta	Dinghy Regatta, under 18 yrs old			New Bern
Sep 19	Sat	BTS	Greens Creek Regatta		X	Under 20 ft	Oriental
Sep 26-27	Sat-Sun	NYRA	Full Moon Overnight Regatta	X			New Bern
Oct 3-4	Sat-Sun	BSC	Blackbeard Regatta (ETYSA Benefit) *	X			New Bern
Oct 9-11	Fri-Sun	NCO	Oriental Cup ^P	X			Oriental
Oct 31	Sat		HALLOWEEN				
Oct 31	Sat	NYRA	Halloween / Winter Race 1 *	X			New Bern
Nov 14	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 2 *	X			New Bern
Nov 21	Sat	BSC	Turkey Trot Regatta		X		New Bern
Nov 26	Thu		THANKSGIVING				
Dec 5	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 3 *	X			New Bern
Dec 19	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 4 *	X			New Bern
Dec 25	Fri		CHRISTMAS				
Jan 9, 2027	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 5 *	X			New Bern
Jan 23, 2027	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 6 *	X			New Bern
Feb 6, 2027	Sat	NYRA	Winter Race 7 *	X			New Bern
Feb 20, 2027	Sat	NYRA	Commodore's Ball Regatta *	X			New Bern

* NYRA Boat of the Year Race

Clark Cup Series

^P Date Protected



It's that time of the year again where the Nomination committee is seeking volunteers. Officers & board directors for the fall election.

To volunteer, please text "BSC OFFICER Interested" TO Ray Redniss 203-912-8858

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Additional Events of Interest

Blackbeard One Design Series - located on the Neuse River near Upper Broad Creek, New Bern, NC.

Spring Series: 6 Saturday races on Mar 28; Apr 4, 18 & 25; May 2 & 9.	
Fall Series: 6 Saturday races on Sep 19 & 26; Oct 3, 10, & 24; Nov 7 (awards & social TBD.)	
Three races per day, first signal at 1255. Contact: Blake Sohn at blakesohn@gmail.com or (612) 481-9696.	

Blackbeard Sailing Club (BSC) Weekly PHRF Fun Sails

Pursuit starts based on NC PHRF ratings - open to everyone at no cost, no club affiliation required.	
Day of the week and time based on weather and daylight hours. Notifications via email distribution list.	
Contact Joan Wilson sail_kitty@hotmail.com or Ed Thompson edthompson2@comcast.net	

Oriental Dinghy Club (ODC) Keel Boat Races

Spinnaker on Saturdays: Mar 28; Apr 18; May 16; Jun 27; Jul 11; Aug 8; Sep 5 & 26; Oct 24; Nov 7 & 14.	
JAM PHRF Buoy on Saturdays: Mar 28; Apr 18; May 16; Sep 5 & 26; Oct 24; Nov 7 & 14.	
JAM PHRF Distance/Pursuit on Saturdays at 1PM: Jun 27, Jul 11, Aug 8	
Contact Bob Slook for info at bslook@gmail.com or (732) 740-5591.	

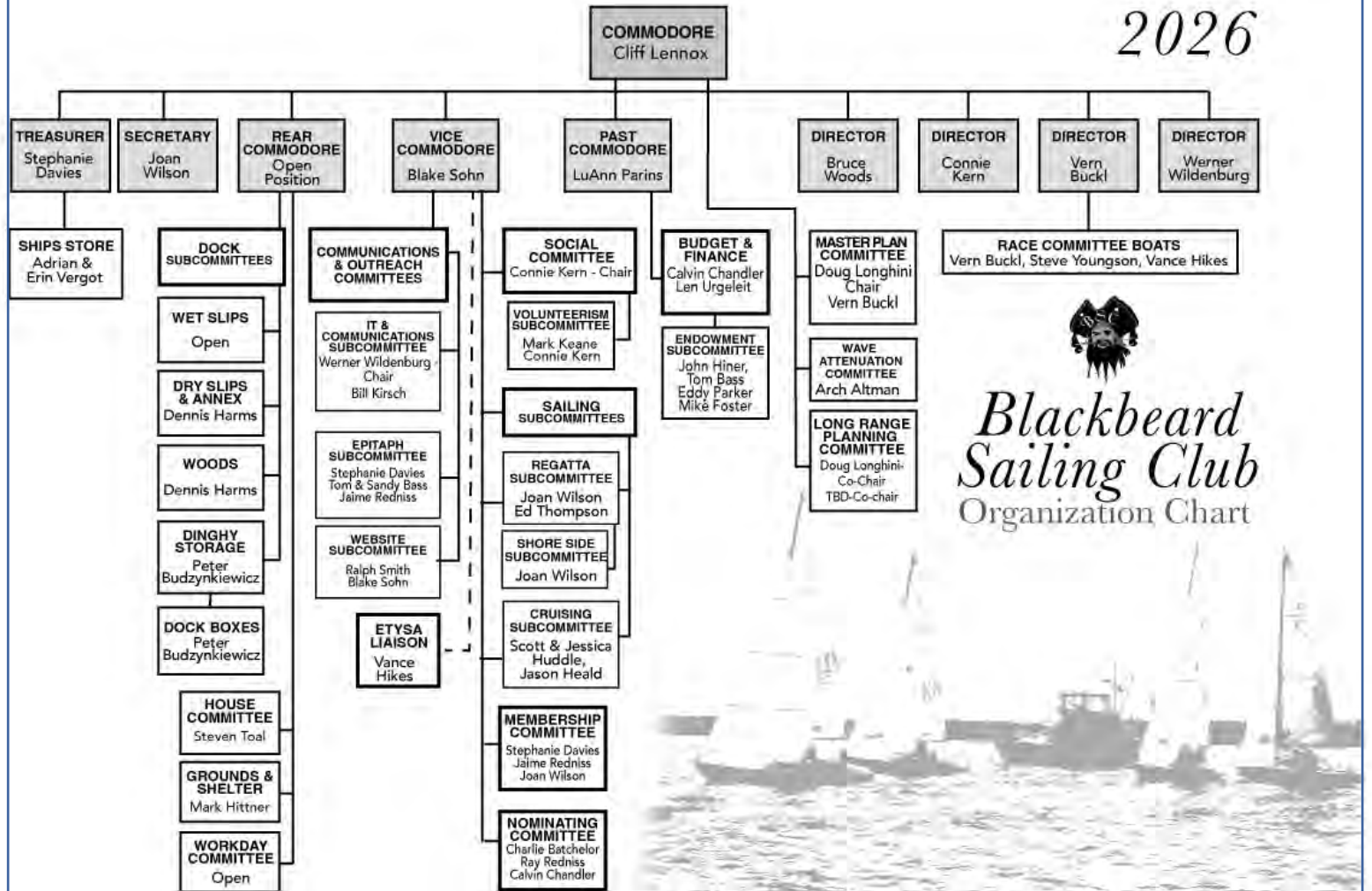
Sunfish Racing	>FHYC Sunfish Races - near the boat ramp on Fairfield Harbour Inner Harbour; 3 to 6 races per day, first signal at 2PM				
	Spring Series: 7 Sunday race days on Apr 12, 19 & 26; May 3, 17 & 24; Jun 7.				
	Fall Series: 7 Sunday race days on Sep 13, 20 & 27; Oct 4, 11, 18 & 25. (Awards & social following Oct 25 races.)				
	Contact Jerry Rezab for info at geraldrezab@yahoo.com or (252) 288-4124.				
	>Oriental Dinghy Club (ODC), Oriental NC				
	Dinghy Races on Sundays: Mar 29; Apr 19; May 17; Jun 28; Jul 12; Aug 9; Sep 6 & 27; Oct 25; Nov 8 & 15.				
	Lasers, 420s & FJs may be chartered at regatta site. Contact info@bowtosternboating.com				
	>Hot Toddy Winter Series at Blackbeard Sailing Club, New Bern NC				
	2025 Schedule on Saturdays: Dec 6, 20.				
	2026 Schedule on Saturdays: Jan 3, 18(Sunday), 31; Feb 14, 28; Mar 7(make-up if needed), 21; Apr 4.				
	Contact Jude Brown for info at heyjfb@earthlink.net or (240) 671-5771.				

Miscellaneous	2025 Date	Day	Club	Event	Location
	Apr 10-12	Thurs-Sun		Oriental Boat Show	Oriental NC
	Apr 15-19	Wed-Sun		Charleston Race Week	Charleston SC
	April 17-19	Fri-Sun		CAT Small Boat Racing Event	New Bern NC
	Jun 1-26	Mon-Fri	BSC	ETYSA Youth Sailing Camps	New Bern NC
	Jul 6-31	Mon-Fri	BSC	ETYSA Youth Sailing Camps	New Bern NC
	Oct 10-11	Sat-Sun		Mumfest	New Bern NC

Club	Club	Representative	eMail	Telephone
BSC	Blackbeard Sailing Club	Joan Wilson	sail_kitty@hotmail.com	(610) 357-7476
BTS	Bow To Stern	Jim Edwards	info@bowtosternboating.com	(252) 249-2424
ETYSA	Edward Teach Youth Sailing Assn	Clare Brock	clbrock@embarqmail.com	(252) 671-7462
FHYC	Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club	Leigh Hart	dol123@me.com	(919) 801-7123
FLT 8	San Juan Fleet 8	Jeff Thomas	jennjeff@suddenlink.net	(252) 638-1493
FOM	Friends of the Museum (Beaufort)	Brent Creelman	brent@maritimefriends.org	(252) 728-1638
HISC	Halkers Island Sailing Club	Sonya Dean	sonyafm@hotmail.com	(919) 271-9899
ICRC	InterClub Race Committee	Joan Wilson	sail_kitty@hotmail.com	(610) 357-7476
NCO	Nautical Co-op of Oriental	Todd Cox	toddcoxvt@gmail.com	(802) 999-7572
NYRA	Neuse Yacht Racing Assn	Stephanie Davies	stephaniejaedavies@gmail.com	(949) 533-5543
ODC	Oriental Dinghy Club	Don Munn	donmunng@gmail.com	(919) 274-7625
ODC	Oriental Dinghy Club	Todd Cox	ODC.race@gmail.com	(802) 999-7572
PSC	Pamlico Sailing Club	Elizabeth Betts	velella6@hotmail.com	(252) 524-1213
SCOO	Sailing Club of Oriental	Rick Fears	rickfears42@yahoo.com	(916) 759-9546

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

2026 Board of Directors & Departments



**Volunteers are not paid, not because
they are worthless but because
they are priceless.**

BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Blackbeard Sailing Club

Club Location

Upper Broad Creek on the Neuse River
1215 Barkentine Drive
New Bern, NC 28560
N35° 03.75 W76° 56.85

Mailing Address

PO Box 24
Bridgeton, NC 28519

Website

blackbeardsailingclub.org

Be sure to visit the BSC website which is loaded with official information, current news, membership directory, slip information and much more.

Email to Epitaph Editors

bscepitaph@yahoo.com

Tom & Sandy Bass, Jaime Redniss
and Stephanie Davies

Epitaph Submission Guideline

Submissions to the Epitaph are due by the 23rd of each month for the following month's publication. We welcome the membership's input including:

- stories and cruising articles
- how-to articles and other news
- committee reports
- racing news and reports
- photos in jpeg format
- event announcements and calendars

Please send all material to the Epitaph's editors at bscepitaph@yahoo.com.



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Director Vern Buckl
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BLACKBEARD'S EPITAPH

Congratulations Gurganus and Clark Cup Winners



Jude Brown is the overall Clark Cup Series winner.



Uwe Heine on *Anansi* wins the Wayfarer class in the Clark Cup Series



Jude Brown wins the Sunfish class in the Clark Cup Series



Clare Brock and Tinka Talbert on *Squirrels on the Highway* win the San Juan 21 class in the Clark Cup Series and with three bullets they also win the Gurganus One Design



Al Lang wins the Sunfish class in the Gurganus One Design



Ann Marie Covington and Regina Ali win the Wayfarer class in the Gurganus One Design



Scarlett Hansen and Andrew Connelly win the Open (420) class in the Gurganus One Design