

Hard A Lee

An occasional newsletter of
The Wichita Falls Sailing Club

January 9, 2025

Commodore's Corner

By Rip Medlinger, 2026 Commodore

Ahoy fellow sailors!

It's a brand new year and time to think about things to do at our home port!

I would like to have ideas and suggestions for activities and projects. I would also like to see more involvement from members.

If you are interested in getting on board and maybe holding a position such as House Chair, Grounds Chair, Race Committee, Internet Publishing, etc., please feel free to contact me or one of the other Board members.

I look forward to an active and productive year ahead.

Fair winds

Rip Medlinger, Commodore

2026 WFSC Board of Directors

Commodore: Rip Medlinger – 940/867-2550
Vice Commodore: Sandy Shawver – 940/613-3194
Rear Commodore: Derrick Christoff – 940/781-5856
Treasurer: Matt Baker – 940/923-7387
Secretary: Maja and Glen Spadin – 940/500-0478
Past Commodore: John Kidwell – 940/781-1310

HERE'S A FEW SCENES FROM THE WFSC CHRISTMAS PARTY

What a way to close out 2025! The clubhouse was decked out in full holiday regalia – red tablecloths everywhere, twinkling trees, garlands over the fireplace, and Ol' Glory proudly watching over the festivities like she always does.



We even had a roaring fire going strong... on the TV screen, that is. (Self-cleaning function on the real fireplace needs attention.)



The food was outstanding as usual, the desserts disappeared faster than a spinnaker in a breeze, and the **Bad Santa gift exchange** lived up to its name – gifts were stolen left and right with all the cutthroat strategy of a windward mark rounding. Nobody left empty-handed, but a few left plotting revenge for next year.

Racing awards for the 2025 season were handed out amid cheers and the occasional good-natured heckle, recognizing the top finishers in both the Flying Scot and Big Boat fleets. A great night all around – plenty of

laughs, full bellies, and proof once again that sailors know how to throw a proper party, even if the fireplace won't cooperate.

A Sad Note

It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of long-time member **Rob Havins**, who died recently. Rob was a fixture at the club for many years, always ready with a smile, a helping hand, and that trusty Catalina 22 "Windsanity." He'll be sorely missed on the water and around the pavilion. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.



Give a big round of applause to our new Rear Commodore, Derrick Christoff!

Derrick is stepping up to run the parties and get-togethers for 2026, and knowing him, they're going to be epic. But even Derrick needs a crew – he always needs volunteers to help set up, cook, clean up, or just bring the fun. Don't be shy; jump in and lend a hand. There's always free food involved for helpers, and it's a great way to earn your keep (and maybe some bragging rights).

Projects and Volunteer Opportunities

Improvements never stop at the club. Here's what's bubbling up for Jan-Feb:

- We're tackling those bad boards on the dock. If you're handy with a hammer (or just want to watch others work), contact Harbormaster **Bink Davidson** at 940/867-5220 to get on the crew.
- One of our race buoys has apparently lost its anchor or is dragging – it's currently taking an unauthorized tour of the lake. Volunteers needed to retrieve it so Steve Priester can give it a proper renovation. Any takers?
- That pesky tree by the pavilion – you know, the one that loves grabbing sidestays as you slide by – is getting a haircut courtesy of Grounds Chair Steve Priester. Racing season will be a lot less "branchy" thanks to him.
- We need a **brush hog** to clear out the fire break we cut last year before it gets out of control again. If anyone can volunteer their brush hog (and tractor), let any board member know. Free coffee and donuts for scythe operators too – or anyone swinging a weed whacker!

Lake Level Update

As of early January, Lake Arrowhead is holding steady at about **84% full** – not bad at all after the rains we got late last year. No drought watch in effect right now, but let's all keep doing our rain dances just in case.

Fair winds and following seas – see you at the lake soon!