



# Private Ear

NEWSLETTER OF PRIVATEER YACHT CLUB

Lake Chickamauga

January 2014

Peter Snyder, Editor

Hixson / Chattanooga, TN

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## VIEW FROM THE HELM — January 2014

By the time you read this issue the foundation of our new Clubhouse should be in place. I am at the club almost every day. While there, I see many of you drive up just to have a look at the progress. Thanks to all who made this a reality — and especially Rob. With very little help, Rob has overcome all the obstacles. If any of you have had a house built, you know Rob's responsibilities are just beginning. I can only express my excitement by telling you I feel like a child on Christmas morning, and that joy will last throughout 2014. It is going to be an exciting year.



I never realized until I joined the Board how many members quietly donate hundreds of hours to the betterment of PYC. If you attended the awards banquet and heard the Directors give their annual reports you were probably as amazed as I was at our 2013 accomplishments. It is a labor of love for a sport we all cherish.

The 2014 Board has been elected and Director's positions filled. We have a talented group that I am sure will serve the membership and protect the interests of our club to the best of their abilities. Our overriding principle, until the contractor is paid in full, is to be very frugal with expenditures.

At the Annual Banquet, you heard David Queen give his Treasurer's Report. We have in the bank over two thirds of the money needed for the clubhouse. The balance will come from members sending in their final pledged donations and bond money. If you have not yet given, the opportunity is still there. Just send a check marked "Clubhouse Fund". We have several small additions like a bar that has been designed and will be built down the road. The kitchen will be a work in progress.

Our membership is the highest in club history. This translates to a healthy income flow. We intend to keep it that way by marketing PYC to the public, providing Learn to Sail programs for sailors of all ages, and having fun activities, both racing and social, for our membership and friends. When I joined PYC in 1986, the average age of our members was well over 65 years. I am positive that number has dropped by many, many years. It shows in the enthusiasm of our members.

If you have extra time, I am sure the Board of Directors would love to have you volunteer. Our socials require many hours to organize, serve and cleanup. Everyone will soon be assigned

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# COMING EVENTS

Check the PYC website [CALENDAR](#) for more info.

## FEBRUARY

9-February-14	Frostbite Race #4	2 pm Sunday
10-February-14	PYC Board Meeting at David Queen's Office	7 pm Monday
15-February-14	Burning-In & Valentine Party - Place TBA	6 pm Saturday
23-February-14	Frostbite Race #5	2 pm Sunday

## MARCH

10-March-14	PYC Board Meeting at David Queen's Office	7 pm Monday
15-March-14	St. Patrick's Day Race	1 pm Saturday
22-March-14	Keelboat Race	1 pm Saturday
29-March-14	Keelboat Race	1 pm Saturday

## PLANNING RACE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

If you have a day you would prefer - Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday; or, if you have a day you can't do Race Committee; or, if you cannot do Race Committee at all

because of physical or other limitations, then let Scott Irwin know so he can schedule you appropriately. Contact him before March 1st.

Call him at 423-802-5277 or e-mail him at [scootback@gmail.com](mailto:scootback@gmail.com)

## TAPS ON NEW YEARS EVE

The scene was **New Year's Eve at Privateer Yacht Club** at the end of the year 1955. A crowd of over 100 had gathered to celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another. Music was being played on a record player, and couples were dancing when space could be found. Perhaps half the crowd were PYC members, the rest of them friends of members invited to the celebration at one of the only places in town where adults could gather and share a convivial libation that might contain a touch of alcohol, the number of private clubs being few and the advent of "respectable" lounges and sports bars some years in the future.

In the wee hours of 1956 as party-goers began to drift away, engaged couple Joan Hedrick and Dan Williams circulated among the throng sharing sips of champagne, she with the guys and he with the gals. And then, the champagne being exhausted, a small group of late-stayers joined Dan on the porch of the Club House where the group "sang" Taps - not the "Day is done, gone the sun" version of Taps, but the "da-da-DA, da-da-DA" version. Upon completion of this anthem, Dan, with due ceremony, hurled the empty champagne bottle into the lake.

Thus was born a tradition. Annually in the wee moments of each new year for the following 57 years, an empty champagne bottle has been committed to the deep in this fashion. Through years that have seen crowds in the triple digits to gatherings of two or three, Dan and Joan have welcomed the New Year at PYC with champagne and the donation of the empty bottle - on occasion, more than one - to the depths of Chickamauga Lake.

This year tradition was threatened, since there is no longer a PYC Clubhouse, a place for celebrants to gather out of the weather. With the old year 2013 slipping quickly away however, Scott and Marilyn Irwin came to the rescue by offering their cabin as a gathering place for a small group to celebrate this New Year. In addition to the Irwins, the Cyruls, the Coopers, Dan and Joan, and Richard Raulston attended.

And so, as the 14th year of the 21st century began ticking away it's early minutes, a small group accompanied Dan to the construction site of our new Clubhouse, and another "dead soldier" joined its brothers in the lake.

58 and counting...

~ Brainard Cooper

## VIEW - continued from page 1

a date to serve on Race Committee. The Flying Scots, Catalina 22's and MC Scows will be having their annual invitational regattas in April and May. These regattas are a community effort.

As the seaplane pilot who landed at PYC last summer found out, we are a Yacht Club in name only. There is no full time

staff manning a restaurant and bar. Sweat equity is what drives this club. The more you are involved, the more joy and fun you will take from PYC. So please don't wait to be asked to volunteer. If nothing else, send me an e-mail and I'll get it to the right club Director.

*See you on the water!*  
*Steve Sherman, Commodore*

# EIGHT BELLS

**Rhonda Brooks Seeber**

August 22, 1953 to January 23, 2014



**Michael posted a wonderful tribute on his Facebook page:**

“Dear all, it is with sadness that I must let you know my beloved wife of 28 years, Rhonda Brooks Seeber, passed away at 9:15 this evening. She fought a valiant fight against gastric cancer for over a year. I was attracted to her and married her, not just because she was gorgeous, but because she epitomized goodness to me. Over the past several days I have been pouring through a lifetime of photographs of Rhonda, and from beginning to end, even in the silence of photographs, she radiates goodness, like the sun radiates light. Rhonda spent a lifetime giving love to others, lifting people in need, extending kindness to people she knew and people she did not. For thirty years I have been the fortunate beneficiary of her her loving nature. I hope that I have done a good job of returning that love, but I feel like an amateur trying to measure up to a pro. We have shared so many adventures which I will never forget. Rhonda’s greatest creations are our children. They are direct and complete inheritors of Rhonda’s goodness. Through them, and in my heart Rhonda will live forever. Thank you Rhonda!”

**Michael also penned her obituary:**

“Rhonda was born in Miami Florida and spent her childhood in North Miami Beach, where she developed passions for singing, playing guitar, and riding horses. She studied as an undergraduate at University of Florida and Florida State University, earning a masters degree at FSU. She was a Seminoles fan.

“Completing college, she was employed as a marketing director at shopping malls in several cities for the Rouse Company. Later she became a singer/song writer for children. She sang

for children in a variety of settings, and produced two CDs of children’s music.

“She met and married her very fortunate husband Dr. Michael Seeber, in Fort Worth, Texas, subsequently living in York, Allentown, and Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania before settling in Chattanooga in 1997. In Chattanooga, Rhonda provided educational outreach for the Houston Museum; she taught art at Howard Elementary School; participated in early childhood education at Aleph Bet Children’s Center; and served as Communications Director of the Chattanooga Department of Parks and Recreation.

“In all of the cities in which she has lived, Rhonda was actively involved in Jewish life, education, and celebrations. She served as a local President of Hadassah, a Jewish women’s philanthropic organization here in Chattanooga.

“Rhonda’s greatest creations are her children, David, an actor in Chicago, and Sarah, a dancer and physical trainer, also in Chicago. Rhonda was a person who radiated love and delivered kindness to many people. Her children have inherited these qualities. Through them, in her husband’s heart, and in the hearts of those she has impacted, Rhonda will live forever.”

Those of us at Privateer will remember Rhonda’s sweet smile and buoyant, encouraging participation in many social gatherings of the club, in boats with the COPS, helping Michael with his projects like the hiking trail and the slough foot bridge, and especially her singing with other member musicians at dock parties and deck gatherings. We will deeply miss sweet Rhonda, yet try to share her contagious enthusiasm.

# LUCKY LUCKY LUCKY ®

(tee shirts available from  
Dock Dynasty® Enterprises )

If you weren't at the Annual Meeting, you should have been. The food , service and program were great. And, I was honored again by our Commodore. And, as always, when I am singled out, my tongue tied reaction was less than adequate. (I think this is a result of all those times in school when I was called to the front of the class for the wrong reason and knew my rear end was about to be set on fire.) So, I blew my 15 seconds of fame. But my friend Pete is going to give me a couple more minutes to try and explain my passion for Privateer Yacht Club.

A couple of years back, we sent representatives to two meetings put on by US Sailing for the leadership of sailing yacht clubs nationally and regionally. The overriding message we came home with was that since 1979 participation in the sport of sailing has been on a steady decline and if you want your club to be around much longer you had better do something about it soon.



We are very lucky that our Commodores since then, **Chris Cyrul** and **Rob Fowler** have been wise enough and brave enough to recognize and act on these challenges that are facing sailing yacht clubs nationwide. Through their leadership, we have been able to make changes that will help ensure a healthy future for our club. Having been immersed in the national affairs of youth sailing for many years, Commodore Sherman also fully understands the challenges ahead and will continue our progress.

We are very lucky to have had such a responsible and cooperative Board of Directors during this critical time. And I am continually impressed at how so many of our members, though we be a strong headed lot, can pull together to get so much done. We know how to park our egos when it is necessary. Do you hear me Congress?!!

We are very lucky to own over thirty acres of the choicest real estate to be found anywhere. Imagine trying to start a sailing club on this lake today without this property. We own Privateer Yacht Club. There are two ways I would like for you to consider this. One, it is your dock with power and water, your clubhouse, your land to enjoy. Take pride in it and help take care of it like you own it, because you do. Two, it is ours together. We can only have and enjoy this together. Without each other, we have no program. Without a program, we would not have a facility for long.

The more you give to PYC the more you will get out of it. I promise (however, I cannot get you a better wet slip ). We have all heard of the **80 - 20 Rule**, also known as the **Law of the Vital Few** (see there, you learned something already). In our club it seems more like a 95 - 40 or in other words, 95% or the work is done by 40% of the members. That is way better than most organizations. Yet I would like to see us do even better. So, if you are not part of the 40%, **GET MORE ACTIVE. WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Find what you are comfortable doing and do more of it.

And, get involved in some way that you may not be so comfortable and watch how you grow. Get to know your fellow members better. I believe you will be amazed by what you learn and make friends you wish you had made sooner. Spend more time with us on and off the water. Try to be a better sailor. We are a sailing club. I doubt there is a better group of sailors anywhere to help you learn how to sail better and to do anything you want to do with or to a sailboat. Sailing is complicated, frustrating, exciting, terrifying, and alas, not for everyone. It takes a certain fortitude to be a sailor and a great deal of determination to be a good one. So again, you are in very good company here.

We are so lucky to have each other in this wonderful adventure called the Privateer Yacht Club. Thank you for letting me serve on your Board of Directors these last two years.

~ Eddie Graham

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Check out this gem of a well outfitted Folkboat:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIPf5mDxMcw>

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## INTERIM BOARD MEETING VENUE

Until the Clubhouse can be occupied our Board Meetings will be held in David Queen's conference room.

Location: 2120 Northgate Park Lane, Suite 303.

Business name: Queen Financial Services Corporation:

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR GOOGLE PICTURE OF BUILDING

## FROSTBITE PICTURES

mostly by Tina Campbell



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## WINTER SAFETY CONCERN

Due to the cold weather, the water will produce hypothermia now even faster than in recent years. This month a Junior Member thoughtlessly took out a Flying Junior in high winds and without a life

jacket. Fortunately, he was called back by a vigilant Family Member. Please use your head. ***The Club Sailboats, including the Flying Scots, are off limits during winter.*** Even falling off a keel boat would be seriously dangerous. Please be careful.



**CLUBHOUSE CONSTRUCTION**  
photos by R Fowler, S Sherman & P Snyder





**RACE COMMITTEE BOAT REBUILD**  
photos by Steve Sherman



# PYC ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2014

photos by Jim Davis

## Members Present:

R. Fowler	L. Knudson Lind
E. Graham	Y. Craig
S. Irwin	S. Wiberley
D. Queen	C. Cyrul
S. Sherman	B. Mason

The annual meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Commodore Rob Fowler. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

**Commodore Fowler** thanked the membership for being present and briefly summarized what he called a very busy year at PYC. He highlighted a variety of activities, capped off by the beginning construction of the new clubhouse. He thanked the Board for their hard work and expressed his appreciation to the membership for the opportunity to serve as commodore.

He next asked for reports from each of the current board members, as follows:

### **Vice Commodore/Director of Racing:**

Steve Sherman thanked everyone for their active participation in a wide variety of sailing events and noted that we would be distributing a variety of sailing awards later in the program. He thanked Josh Landers for organizing the Frostbite Winter Sailing series this year, and reported that there were several races remaining in that series.





**Dock Master:**

Scott Irwin reported on several successful undertakings this year, including major repairs to “B” Dock, as well as the repairs of damage to the floating docks, caused by downed trees. He reported that there were no major problems pending at this time related to the docks, and that temporary electricity should be available again in the very near future.



**Treasurer’s Report:**

David Queen distributed financial statements for PYC for the current period. He discussed the contents of the Profit and Loss statement, assuring the membership that we are currently in sound financial shape. He also reviewed the status of pledges made and collected, as well as an overall summary of funds available for construction of the clubhouse.



**Membership Director:**

Brant Mason reviewed the activity that has occurred over the past year, which brought our membership numbers to **135 Families and 15 Associates**. Brant was thanked by Rob Fowler for all his hard work in this role over the past two years.

**Clubhouse and Grounds:**

Eddie Graham reported that several major projects had been completed during this past year, including most notably the new Dinghy Deck, which has already seen significant use. He also noted the significant improvements had been made to the drainage problems we had been experiencing in South Cove. Now that all club furniture and equipment has been stored in the trailer, we will hold off on a work day for the grounds until sometime in the spring. Eddie was thanked for all his hard work these past two years by Commodore Fowler.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Linda Lind thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as Secretary for the past year and referenced the presence of the monthly minutes in each issue of the Private Ear. She also commented on her efforts to write articles for the Private Ear in her role as Secretary and encouraged other members to do the same.

**Social Director:**

Yvonne Craig presented a summary of all the activities of the club over the past year, including regattas, social events, and a wide variety of other gatherings. She thanked everyone for the hard work they put into organizing these events.



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**Club Boats and the Junior Program:**

Spencer Wiberley reported on the ongoing work being done to ready the Committee Boat for its new pontoons, as well as the other work that had occurred this year with other PYC boats, as well as with the Junior Program.

**Vote on an Amendment to the Constitution:**

An amendment to the Constitution to allow a broader range of officers to sign PYC disbursement checks had been distributed to the membership in advance of the meeting. Rob reviewed the contents and asked the Secretary for the count of votes. Linda Lind reported that 97 votes had been cast, 96 in favor, one opposed. This meets the requirement for 2/3rds of the membership to vote on a Constitutional Amendment, and thus the proposed change was approved. The wording in the Constitution will be updated to reflect this change.

**Report from the Nominating Committee:**

Rob asked **Pat Crowe** to report on the work of the Nominating Committee. Pat Crowe recognized his other committee members, **Bill Robertson** and **Bill Denes**, and thanked them for their hard work in finalizing the recommended slate of officers for the coming year. Pat presented the recommended slate of officers and other board members, and there was a motion and a second to close the nominations. Rob asked for a vote, which reflected unanimous support for the nominated individuals. Rob thanked these individuals for their willingness to serve, and flags were presented to the designated flag



officers. A flag was also presented to **Pete Snyder** for his role as webmaster for the club.

**Racing Awards:**

As Director of Racing, Steve Sherman then presented awards for the various fleet racing activities of the year, in addition to the **Frostbite Award** from last season, which went to **Rob**

**Fowler** and crew. He made particular note of the high number of Saturday races completed by **Lloyd Cox**, higher than any



other sailor in the club. He also presented the **Henk Zander PHRF Award**, as well as the **John Wesley Trophy** for the **Wednesday Night Series**, to **Bill Robertson**.



**Junior Sailor of the Year:**

Steve George was asked to present the award for Junior Sailor of the Year. He provided an overview of sail camp activities



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**PRIVATEER YACHT CLUB SHIP'S STORE**  
 available through Coral Reef Sailing  
 Go to this website:  
[http://www.coralreefsailing.com/index.php/privateer-yacht-club.html?\\_\\_store=pryc](http://www.coralreefsailing.com/index.php/privateer-yacht-club.html?__store=pryc)  
 Check back later for member discounts during promotional sales on all types of apparel and gear, even outside the range of customized pieces.

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 585-224-0641 or www.coralreefsailing.net

**Board Meeting Minutes** - continued from page 10

for 2013, then summarized the accomplishments of this year's winner. The 2013 award was presented to **Daniel Locke**, who was present to receive it.

**John Wesley Regatta Chairperson of the Year:**

The results of the voting for the award of PRO of the Year were announced, with **David Bergevin** winning this honor for his work at this year's Zombie Pig Regatta. David thanked all the people who assisted him with this regatta.



**John Wesley PRO of the Year:**

Next, the results of the voting for the Regatta Chairperson of the Year were announced, with **Linda Knudson Lind** winning this honor for her work on the St. Patrick's Day Regatta. Linda thanked the myriad of people who helped her with that event, with special thanks to the members of the Flying Scot Fleet.

**Commodore's Award:**

Rob Fowler next awarded the Commodore's Award to **Eddie Graham** for his consistent presence, his can-do attitude, and willingness to always lend a hand to any project that needed to be completed at PYC. This was Eddie's second year in a row to win this award, and Rob thanked him again for his very positive role on the board these past two years.



**Brainard Cooper Award:**

As last year's winner, Steve George presented the Brainard Cooper Award to an individual who promotes sailing and has served as an active contributor to PYC over the past year. This year's award was presented to **Linda Knudson Lind**.

**Transition of Commodores:**

Rob Fowler called for adjournment of the meeting, banged the gavel one final time, and transitioned it to next year's Commodore, **Steve Sherman**.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Knudson Lind**



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**CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**

- Steve Sherman, Commodore: 423-432-6501  
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- Scott Irwin, Vice Commodore, Racing: 423-802-5277  
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- Rob Fowler, Past Commodore: 423-468-0149  
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## Privateer Yacht Club

was organized on July 25, 1940, in order to promote sailing in the Chickamauga Lake area and particularly in Chattanooga; to teach its members to talk the language of the sea and build up a marine tradition for “The Great Lakes of The South”; to help promote water safety and a code of ethics for the waterways; to form a social and activity nucleus for people in the area interested in sailing; and to develop an active relationship with other sailing and boating organizations to promote racing and other boating activities.

Photo above by Mike Rasbury of Mike Seeber’s shiny Impulse 26, with Rhonda on the high side.

**Frostbite Race** - photo below by Corey Blair (see more at <http://coreyblair.us/photos.html>) & turn to page 5

*Private Ear* NEWSLETTER

[www.privateeryachtclub.org](http://www.privateeryachtclub.org)

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January 2014