



Breezes AND Blows



Ocean Springs Yacht Club

March 2024

100 Front Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Commodore's Report



After seven months we have finally returned to the upstairs! The bar was the first part of the renovated building to begin operations after the fire, followed by the kitchen approximately ten days later. Even though we are close to being fully operational, there are some kinks to work out. Please keep in mind

we are still experimenting with seating in the bar, dining room, and on deck. Our new dining room tables have arrived and are in use. New barstools and dining room chairs have been ordered. What to do with the old barstools is open for discussion.

If you are in the bar or dining room in late afternoon you know the glare from the sun can be blinding. We are discussing solutions to this problem.

Our staff was first put to the new operations test on Friday, February 16, for the royal reds shrimp dinner, and again on Saturday, February 24, for the first grill your own steak night of this year; they all performed outstandingly. Both events were heavily attended and the bar and kitchen volumes were off the charts!! I want to thank our staff for their efforts and hard work in making these events so successful. And I want to thank the membership for your attendance, and hopefully more to come.

Thanks to all of you for your support in this time of anew!

Carroll

Carroll Kovacevich
2024 OSYC Commodore

The Yacht Club Board for 2024 is bringing back two committees:

(1) The House Committee: This Committee is concerned with the Facility, the Grounds (Gardening) and Pier.

(2) The OSYC Emergency Management (EM) Committee: This committee meets only when needed and helps prepare for storms and any other events (let's hope this committee never meets).

For those that want to join the House Committee and/or the EM Committee, please send your name, email and telephone number to: re@osyc.com

2024 Flag/Corporate Officers:

Commodore - Carroll Kovacevich
Vice Commodore - Michael Ramsey
Rear Commodore - Dos Hetrick
Fleet Captain - Amanda Romano
Treasurer - Meade Tyler
Secretary - Vince Smith



Board of Governors

2nd Year Board Member - Sandra Carter
2nd Year Board Member - Wendie Dana
1st Year Board Member - Nancy Duckett Allen
1st Year Board Member - Bruce Small
Past Commodore - Nicole McClendon



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P.O. Box 821, Ocean Springs MS 39566 (228) 875-1915

From the Vice Commodore,
Michael Ramsey



Ahoy!

The upstairs is finally reopened! It has been a long time coming and there is a lot more work to do, but we have finally reached the point where we are over the hump. Please continue to be

patient with our staff as they adapt to the new point-of-sale system and to the reorganized bar and kitchen. Over time we hope that the changes that we have made will make the lives of our staff and our members much easier, but there will be some growing pains as we adjust and as we hire additional staff to meet the needs of our members. If you do have any issues or concerns, please bring your concerns and recommendations to Carroll, Dos, or myself so that we can consider working your recommendations into the rebuilding plan.

As the weather warms up, we are going to work on making the outside of the Club look as great as the new bar. Please consider helping out with the Ocean Springs Garden Club or thanking them as they volunteer their time to help keep our club beautiful. Spring is just around the corner, and along with that the beginning of sailing season. Our first regattas are back-to-back from April 2-7. Come out and support our sailors!

I look forward to seeing you at the Club!

Mike Ramsey,
Vice Commodore

From the Rear Commodore,
Dos Hetrick



I hope that all are enjoying the partial opening of the upstairs. The club keeps getting closer to being in full operation. This is your club! I hope that each member will continue to work to make our club even better.

If you have suggestions for the club concerning facilities, the dining, bar or pool experiences, **I encourage you to contact our General Manager David Danna first at 225-987-8343 and give him an opportunity to deal directly with his staff.** As the OSYC GM, he is directly responsible for member satisfaction. If the issue cannot be resolved at his level, then discuss the issue with either the Commodore, our Vice Commodore, or myself.

One issue that is being addressed in this month's newsletter is the need to be prepared for unplanned events such as named hurricanes and tropical storms; the plan of action for emergency weather events is included on the following page. I hope that the plan of action is never used. However, it is being published to provide guidance. When implemented, we will need volunteers to help us prepare.

[Please note: The Ocean Springs Sailing Squadron will also have their own plan to be implemented.]

Best wishes, be safe, one club,

Dos



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Ocean Springs Yacht Club
Plan of Action
for Named Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
as of March 2024

Purpose: To Provide a Plan of Action to protect OSYC property, records and other assets should an emergency event occur.

Note:

This is a working document that will be updated as needed. Updates will be included from lessons learned from events. Please ensure that the latest date of the plan is used.

Actions:

(1) Prior to Hurricane Season (June 1st) the Commodore and Flag Officers along with the OSYC Staff should review and approve the most current plan.

(2) Prior to Hurricane Season (June 1st) the Emergency Preparedness Committee should meet, organize, and review the most current plan of action. This meeting is to familiarize members with the tasks to be performed.

(3) This plan should be posted so that club members are familiar with the actions needed to protect the club's assets.

96 Hours before the Event

1. Alerts are sent out by Email.

2. Contact Committee Members and Club Volunteers for availability and help.

3. Build a list of Personnel available.

72 Hours before the Event

1. Designated areas of items stored in OSYC interior are prepared to facilitate storage of outside property.

2. Identify and Relocate all storage, pool equipment/furniture, fans and other items upstairs inside the OSYC interior.

3. All boats need to be moved from the OSYC property.

4. Inventory of all food, liquor, equipment conducted.

5. Video Inventory of all equipment stored in interior is made.

48 Hours before the Event

1. All financial records, computers, insurance records, and any records needed for future operations should be removed and stored in a safe area.

2. Club is Closed so that staff and volunteers can evacuate the coast.

3. Club and staff members should ensure personnel property and home is ready for the event.

24 Hours before the Event

1. Ensure all items listed above have been completed.

2. Fine tune storage, videos and safety of records.

12 Hours before the Event

1. Last-minute inspections conducted, and equipment/records removed.

2. Assign storm (volunteers) to remain behind as necessary.



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From the Fleet Captain, Amanda Romano
FleetCaptain@OSYC.com



Dear OSYC Members,

I hope this message finds you all in great spirits as we eagerly anticipate the start of another thrilling sailing season. With the gentle whispers of the

wind beckoning us back to the sea, it's time to dust off our sails, polish our skills, and embark on new adventures together.

I'm excited to announce that this month is the opening of our sailing season. If you plan to take out one of our club boats this season, please ensure that you are certified to do so. Safety is our top priority, and proper certification ensures that all sailors are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the waters safely. If you're unsure about your certification status, please get in touch with me as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements.

In addition to the upcoming regattas, I am ecstatic to announce that registration for our summer sail camps is now open! These camps are a perfect opportunity for young sailors to dive into the world of sailing and discover the joys of the sea. Led by our experienced instructors, campers will learn the basics of sailing in a fun and supportive environment, all while making friends and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Spaces in our summer sail camps are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot early! Go to www.regattanetwork.com and click on junior events and scroll down until you see your desired date to sign up. Adventure Camp dates: 5/28-5/31 and 7/22-7/26. Two week beginner sessions: 6/3-6/14, 6/17-6/28, and 7/1-7/12. Race camp 7/22-7/26. Looking forward to another spectacular summer with some happy campers!

I almost forgot to mention, but we will have a guest, Joe Bennet, coming all the way from Greece to our

first regattas in April. If you get a chance, check out his You Tube channel JoyriderTV and you will surely be stoked for the season!

Best,

Amanda Romano
Fleet Captain, OSYC

From Your Social Committee Chair,
Wendie Dana



Dear OSYC Members,

Two months of 2024 are gone, and we have now been about three weeks in upstairs. As we continue to work on phases to complete the rebuild, we are starting to build the social calendar. We had planned to have the Change of Watch this

Saturday at noon; it is a work in progress, and has been postponed. Once the new date and time have been selected, we'll let you know. Please join us when it happens!

We are postponing the Commodores Ball and will keep you posted with new dates soon. We are putting together a Get To Know Your GM night and will have the exact date within the week and will let everyone know. Make sure to come out, there will be drink specials, Bingo for Bar Bucks and more.

And last and I mean actually the last day of March is EASTER ... Mark your calendars for Easter Brunch at the Yacht Club. We will have egg hunts and our favorite Easter Bunny will be visiting.

If you are interested in volunteering and joining the Social Committee, please, email me at social@osyc.com.

Best Regards,

Wendie (Hilliard) Dana
Board Member



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From Your Club Manager, David Danna
Office@osyc.com

Blake and Laura Milam
JoLee Asher
Dale and Meg Long
David and Heather McElroy
Justin and Molly Shorkley
Michele and Neil Harris

Greetings OSYC'ers!

It was an emotional day on February 8th when we had our soft opening. There are so many that deserve to be recognized for their tireless dedication:

- Our incredible, resilient, loyal employees;
- The leadership and guidance of the past and present Board who made the difficult decisions for reconstruction;
- Members Kenny Watson and especially Bruce Small who selflessly donated their time, expertise and efforts to the nuts and bolts of rebuilding.

We would not be where we are today without their collective contributions. When you can, please thank them for making our club better!

As with a brand new house, we know there are still wrinkles to be ironed out and cosmetic changes to be made. Please be patient as we work diligently to get everything in working order and looking the best it can be.

We have also made significant strides in improving the accuracy of our membership rolls and getting a much better grasp on membership payments. As such, we have begun admitting new members that have been patiently waiting on our waitlist!

We are very proud and excited to announce OSYC's newest members. Please welcome them into our family:

Daniel and Caroline Hollowell

This is just the beginning of an on-going process of admitting new members.

Come on out and enjoy your "new" club!!

Please let us know if you need any assistance with accessing your account, setting up your payment method, or scheduling your payment-call us in the office, 228-875-1915 or email us office@osyc.com.

There's a shadow on the road behind. There's sunlight on the road ahead.

David Danna
General Manager
office@osyc.com



KC Arnold won the \$50.00 Bar Bucks
Kristopher Ederer won the \$250.00 Bar Bucks

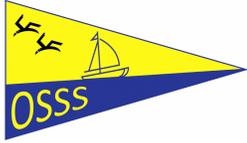




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Ahoy, fellow sailors and spectators!



Mark your calendars and prepare your sails, because April is gearing up to be an unforgettable month of high

stakes racing and exhilarating competition! We're thrilled to announce the upcoming Hobie 14 Nationals Regatta, set to take place from April 2nd to April 4th, followed by the equally exciting Hobie Midwinters Regatta from April 5th through 7th. Get ready to harness the wind, test your skills, and help make memories lasting memories at our club.

Hobie 14 Nationals Regatta: April 2nd - April 4th

The Hobie 14 Nationals Regatta promises three days of heart-pounding action as sailors from far and wide converge on our shores to compete for glory. With a combination of challenging courses, unpredictable winds, and fierce competition, this regatta is not for the faint of heart. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a first-time competitor, the Nationals offer an opportunity to test your skills, push your limits, and join in the camaraderie of the Hobie sailing community.

From exhilarating downwind runs to tactical upwind battles, every race promises to be exciting. But the Nationals are about more than just the racing—it's a celebration of the Hobie way of life. Soak in the vibrant atmosphere, swap stories with fellow sailors, and forge friendships that will last a lifetime. And who knows? You might just find yourself atop the podium when all is said and done. If you just want to watch that's great too, cheer on OSYC sailors competing to be crowned national champion.

The 2024 Midwinters East: An April Fools Regatta: April 5th - April 7th

Hot on the heels of the Nationals, the Midwinters Regatta kicks off with three days of exciting competition. Drawing six classes of sailors from across the region, the Midwinters Regatta offers a chance to continue the excitement and camaraderie of the Nationals while tackling a new set of challenges on the water.

With its mix of catamarans styles, the Midwinters Regatta promises something for everyone. Whether you're honing your racing skills or viewing the competition from the deck, these races are always

exciting. These are the first of the year regattas for Ocean Springs Yacht Club so please come out and support our sailors and say hello to our out-of-town competitors, we really have one of the premiere locations for catamaran racing in the United States.

GYA Formula Wave Championship Regatta

The inaugural GYA Formula Wave Regatta, set to take place on April 27th and 28th, marks a significant milestone in the sailing history of our club, as it launches the prestigious GYA Lancaster-Rashka Trophy Regatta to be held at OSYC. This eagerly anticipated event promises a thrilling showcase of skill and strategy as sailors from all over the Gulf Yachting Association. As the sails billow and competitors harness the power of the elements, the first annual GYA Formula Wave Regatta is poised to deliver an unforgettable display of seamanship and sportsmanship against the backdrop of your Ocean Springs Yacht Club. We are also proud to announce that Mark Ederer will be captain of our team for this inaugural regatta.

Get Involved

Whether you're a competitor, a spectator, or simply a fan of the sport, there are plenty of ways to get involved in these exciting events. Volunteer opportunities abound, from race committee duties to shore support, so don't hesitate to lend a hand and be part of the action. And for those looking to cheer on the competitors from the sidelines, the shore side festivities promise entertainment, refreshments, and plenty of Hobie spirit.

So, mark your calendars, prepare your boats, and get ready for an April to remember with the Hobie 14 Nationals Regatta, April Fools: Midwinters East



Regatta, and the first ever GYA Formula Wave Championship. Whether you're chasing glory on the water or soaking in the atmosphere onshore, these regattas are sure to deliver thrills, spills, and unforgettable memories.

Ronald Bond
President, Ocean Springs Sailing Squadron



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Ocean Springs Sailing Squadron Participates in Oyster Program

"Doing our part at the OSYC to help Mississippi oyster populations."

Oyster gardening is a volunteer oyster restoration program in both Mississippi and Alabama run through the Auburn University's Marine Extension and Research Center (AUMERC). Volunteers within the program, known as oyster gardeners, have been helping to facilitate oyster growth by suspending oysters in cages, or gardens, from their piers since 2016. The extension professionals from Auburn University work with stakeholders to introduce, train and establish oyster gardening sites across the coastal region to produce restoration-quality oysters for local restocking efforts.

While some of our friends and neighbors have been growing oysters as a part of a collaborative oyster reef restoration effort for years, the Ocean Springs Yacht Club was not yet a part of the effort! This past year I reached out to my colleagues at AUMERC to ask whether OSYC could join in the program, and they were more than happy to oblige. We received four cages filled with "spat on shell" (baby oysters pre-set on recycled shell) in mid-September and they've been happily growing off our pier—with help from our very own Fleet Captain Amanada Romano—since then. However, unlike previous oyster gardening seasons, the gardens this year were part of a research experiment to help improve survival. Two of our cages contain [oysters exposed to cues from a predator](#), while the other two contain oysters not exposed to those cues. Oysters exposed to predators during their juvenile stage are believed to produce stronger shells, and data collected from this season will help to examine this relationship.

The oysters growing at the end of our pier have gotten pretty big since they were first hung there, averaging ~2 inches a piece and huddled together in tight clusters called florets. When these florets are harvested toward the end of March they'll be placed in strategic places in the Sound where restoration efforts are currently underway. And in case you were wondering ... the shells used to set the spat are recycled shell out of the [Alabama Oyster Shell](#)

[Recycling Program](#), managed by the Alabama Coastal Foundation. They get those shells from local restaurants that participate in shell recycling programs. So, when you go to enjoy your favorite oysters, whether cooked or raw, consider asking what happens to the shells ... they might just end up on our pier next year!

Missy Partyka
OSSS Board Member and
AUMERC Extension Faculty



Typical oyster floret grown in a Mississippi oyster garden
(Photo credit: AUMERC)