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# Four *winds*

WINDJAMMERS SAILING CLUB  
CEDAR CREEK SAILING CENTER  
BAYVILLE, NJ

## Commodore's Letter

Elizabeth Schaffer

Winter is just around the bend, and summer sailing feels far away. It is a time for reflection on days gone by, and for hope of the days to come. We wish Nancy, Cliff, and Nicole Simpson all the best as they say goodbye to their boat, April Star. Cliff and Nancy both served the Windjammers well over the years, and we are going to miss seeing them on the water and at the docks. Retirement may move them out of New Jersey, but they will always have a home with the Windjammers, and lots of friends to sail with when they come back to visit.

I want to thank the club for allowing me to serve as Commodore. I really had fun planning the calendar for the season, and spending my days with all of you over the summer either at the docks, or on the water. I am excited to hand over the reins to Dawn. I know she will bring fresh ideas to the members. She is both a capable sailor and fun-loving, caring person. I have had the pleasure of watching her grow up at the marina with my children, and it feels perfect to have the torch passed on to another generation.

I would like to take this time to say goodbye to our good friend and fellow sailor, Randy Laks, who passed away on November 24th. Randy was our Commodore in 2001, and he was an active member of the club since joining in 1992. He and his wife Linda raised their family on their boat Callisto over many summers of cruises and other Windjammers events. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.



*Commodore's Letter, continued*

I found this poem beautiful, and a nice tribute to Randy's memory:

CRUISING THE SUPERNOVA

Michael Ashby

The **sailor** cast off the mortal coil  
As the voyage of a lifetime was hatched  
And the astral yacht blew off the Beaufort scale  
At a speed no lifeboat could match  
With star boards current in every direction  
And solar winds blowing sternly on the face  
The sailor waved and bowed to mother earth  
Before joining a round the universe race

Fair Winds, Randolph S. Laks, "Randy" December 22, 1949 – November 24, 2015

I hope to see everyone at our Winter Dinner at Latitudes on January 23, 2015.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and health and prosperity in 2016! Peace.

Elizabeth Schaffer, Commodore 2015





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WINDJAMMERS SAILING CLUB

<http://windjammersailing.com>

## 2015 Windjammers Committee Members

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Elizabeth Schaffer  
Commodore



Dawn Almada  
Vice Commodore



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Bob Fahey  
Cruising



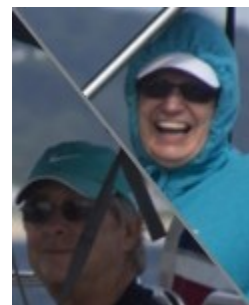
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## Memories of Randy Laks

Past Commodore, Windjammers Sailing Club, 2001

Ron Minchin

The first time I met Randy was around 1991 when he and Linda were thinking of buying a sailboat for something to do as a family. They had come to Cedar Creek Sailing Center to look at boats, and their 3 children, Jennifer, Emily, and Brandon, immediately started playing with our two, Dawn and Scott. I heard later that on the ride home their kids asked that if they bought a boat, "Could we keep it where Dawn and Scott are?" Soon after that Randy showed up with the first Callisto, a Cal 27. He put the family of 5 onboard and began learning to sail and race on Barnegat Bay.

The family survived a micro burst at anchor in Tices as well as navigating in the fog off Barnegat Inlet, but the time I remember most was during a race. In the early 90s, the racing program was much more competitive, and on one race we had done a headsail change after rounding the windward mark and we managed to lose the sail overboard and bend the whisker pole at 90 degrees at the shrouds. That race was just one week before the Cal 27 was to be sold to make way for the current Callisto, a Pearson 33. With Randy's engineering background he was always analyzing the results of the races, looking at polar diagrams, and learning the finer points of sail trim.

With the upgrade to the 33 footer it was time to expand his horizons with summer cruises south to the Chesapeake Bay and north to Block Island and Long Island Sound. Randy was always looking for the next gadget he could add to make life aboard safer and more enjoyable. He was the first person I knew who had a laptop interfaced to a GPS for electronic navigation. But most of the memories happened right at home on Barnegat Bay. Many days were spent with Stormy Petrel at anchor while Callisto rafted on one side and either Sunset or Sashay was on the other side enjoying the beach at Tices or watching the sunset from Berkley Island Cove, wishing it wasn't time for the weekend to end. Many Sundays Randy and Linda were the last to leave even with their long drive home.

Randy has touched the lives of many Windjammers and will be missed.

Ron Minchin

Past Commodore, 2000

S/V Stormy Petrel





## Late Season Racing on Fortuitous

Chip Hitchens

### Tall Oaks Challenge

In September, *Fortuitous* participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> annual running of the Tall Oaks-Windjammers Challenge Cup. In their weather report for that morning, the National Weather Service made a point of saying that the wind was expected to remain below gale force. That's a pretty safe forecast to make the vast majority of the time, but the connotation was that it would be "pretty much gale force."

Dark low-slung clouds rested on a layer somewhere between the high-altitude overcast and the endlessly churning waves. I don't know the meteorological significance of that, but hopefully I'll remember it for the future, because it was nasty out there. The wind shrieked through the rigging and we were taking spray over the bow while still motoring out of the creek. As I was strapping into my life jacket (which in itself was an indication of the weather) I thought that I'd give the crew one of my classic upbeat pep talks, which went something like, "Look, we're not going to win this. We're the smallest, lightest boat out there and are at a great disadvantage in these conditions. We're going to sail conservatively. We're going to stay on the boat and not break anything. We're going to finish, and hope that by dumb luck we correct up past last."

We put up the main anyway.

I should mention that this is more of a personal anecdote than anything akin to journalism, because I have no idea what happened after that. For example, I'm not sure where all of the other boats went, other than to say that they sailed away while we bobbed helplessly under a cocktail napkin of a furled jib. Even if we'd been near the pack, I'm not sure that I would have been able to report on much since I quickly grew tired of cleaning the spray off of my glasses and resigned myself to a sort of weather-induced astigmatism. Between that and the sea state, the miniature

course markers were absolutely invisible and our navigation relied heavily on intuition and a sketchy knowledge of how to conduct a grid search.

We were reasonably fast off the wind, but working upwind was brutal. We'd run into a larger set of waves and get pounded to a halt, at which point we'd have to fall off, ease the sails, power up, and then come close hauled again—only to run into more waves. It was relentless. Everything was wet. Everything was difficult. Jen was not happy.

*Fortuitous* came in decisively last, even with our ample PHRF rating. We did finish though, or at least got close enough to get a sympathy horn, and made it through unscathed. Fortunately, the Windjammers fielded enough boats that our last place finish could be mercifully discarded, allowing our club's more competent racers to reclaim the Cup from Tall Oaks. *Daylight* and *Sunset* took 1st and 2nd place, and we did well enough up and down the scorecard to squeeze out a narrow victory.

### Frostbite Race

It is said that humans only use 10% of their brains. That is empirically incorrect, but between the Tall Oaks Challenge and the Frostbite Race, I was definitely devoting the balance of my otherwise quiescent brain power to figuring out why we had such a hard time sailing upwind. I kept coming back to an offhand comment during the post-race chit-chat that we didn't have enough jib out. While this should have been an affront to whatever latent sense of machismo I'm supposed to have, it did make sense, and for the Frostbite Race, I was determined to fly enough jib to be able to claw our way to windward.

Not that the conditions were anywhere near as bad—it was cool and blustery, but not oppressive. Someone saw a peak of 32kts on their wind instrument, although according to



## *Late Season Racing, continued*

the weather station at Good Luck Point, it was generally more like 20kts with occasional strong gusts, and it was westerly enough that there wasn't much chop. Due to a misleading lull before the start, we only had one reef in the main and a couple wraps on the jib.

We had an excellent start. We were the third boat over the line, grouped tightly with the boats who'd timed it slightly better—and then we caught one of those gusts and promptly rounded up, causing us to do a panicked 360. We recovered as best we could, but were in an early hole. Jen and I were training a new crew member, and they struggled to work into a rhythm with heavy sheet loads and the boat on her ear.

As we approached the windward mark, *Lorelei* was just ahead of us off our port bow. A huge gust of wind rumbled over the waves and pushed us both over. I had been riding the traveler to try to keep us on our feet in the puffs and let that go to relieve pressure, but *Lorelei* rounded up right in

front of us and veered into our path. Having just been through that ourselves, I recognized the symptoms and crash-tacked to avoid hitting her. We backwinded the jib, spun around, and continued on to the mark.

We eventually got into the swing and powered through the rest of the race without drama, falling slowly behind the other boats but not at an unexpected pace given that we were the inherently slowest boat. It was a bit of a wild ride, but when I ran out of traveler, I just uncleated the sheet and we kept going.

We finished last again in real time, but at least we were in visual range of the other boats. After the handicaps were applied, *Tiki* came in first, followed by *Providence II*, and *Fortuitous* corrected up to third.

It can be rough out there, but sailing isn't always sunsets and umbrella drinks, so I appreciate a chance to occasionally trim for speed in the rough stuff.





## A Note from the Simpsons

Cliff and Nancy Simpson

To Our Fellow Windjammers,

As we make our move to North Carolina in the spring we wish to say farewell to all of you. We have been sailing since 1983 and joined the club the following year. These years have been some of the best times of our lives. The friendships we have made and the memories we have will be cherished and not forgotten. We can truly say we have been blessed to have known each and every one of you. We wish you all the best!

### New Boat News

The DiGaetano family has said goodbye to their Catalina 350, Footloose, and will be welcoming their new Benteau 361 centerboard any day now. She has a 3' 7" draft, and they are eagerly awaiting sailing this Spring. Congratulations!

## Classifieds

### Grill For Sale

Magma Stainless Steel Propane Grill with Bracket, \$100

If interested, please email Cliff Simpson at [nassail59@gmail.com](mailto:nassail59@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Submissions

Jen Hitchens, Newsletter Chair

Please share your cruising stories, maintenance tips, general sailing news, great boat recipes, boat related classifieds, Barnegat Bay news, etc. I'm also looking for people who are interested in writing regular features – I'd love to hear your ideas! Please send your suggestions and original submissions to [newsletter@windjammersailing.com](mailto:newsletter@windjammersailing.com)



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WINDJAMMERS SAILING CLUB

<http://windjammersailing.com>

*Let's come together to celebrate  
the 2015 sailing season and to kick off the next season!*

# WINDJAMMERS WINTER DINNER

LATITUDES ON THE RIVER

361 E LACEY RD FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016  
6:00 P.M.**

First Course

Penne Vodka

Second Course

Spinach Salad

Served with walnuts, feta cheese,  
tomato, & raspberry vinaigrette

Entree Course (Choice of 1)

Crab Stuffed Flounder

finished in a lemon beurre blanc

Chicken Balsamico

topped with spinach, roasted red peppers &  
fresh mozzarella drizzled with balsamic reduction

Sliced Sirloin

topped with roasted mushrooms &  
blackberry cabernet sauce

Dessert

Cash Bar

RSVP by January 9, 2016 with payment  
of \$50 per person made out to Windjammers  
and include your choice of entrée







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## Barnegat Bay Sailing School and Sailboat Charters



### Course Offerings

#### **ASA 101 – Basic Keelboat Sailing Certification**

This 2 day, on the water introduction to sailing course is designed to give the beginner the skills and confidence needed to sail a 22-24 foot sailboat on your own.

Instruction includes nomenclature, rules of the road, points of sail, rigging, sail trim, and docking.

#### **ASA 101 – Ladies Sailing Certification**

This 2-day, For women/By women sailing certification course is designed for any woman who prefers to learn to sail under the guidance of an ASA certified female instructor and all women crew. Build up your confidence and knowledge to be able to take the helm and crew on a 22-24 foot sailboat. This ladies sailing course covers the same material and achieves the same level of certification as the ASA 101 Basic Keelboat Course.

#### **ASA 103 – Basic Coastal Cruising Sailing Certification**

This more advanced course is designed to take the confident basic keelboat sailor and make them a competent skipper able to handle a 30 foot sailboat in coastal waters.

Instruction includes sail boat handling, seamanship, reefing, navigation, and anchoring.



Daily Cruises

Sunset Cruises

ASA Sailing School

Sailboat Rentals

### **Barnegat Bay Sailing School and Sailboat Charters**

**Located at Cedar Creek Sailing Center  
100 Harbor Inn Rd., Bayville, NJ 08721**

**732-269-1351**

**<http://www.sailingnj.com>**

### Sailboat Rentals

#### **Bareboat Rental**

At Barnegat Bay Sailing School we feel the best way to become a confident and competent sailor is through practice. After the lessons end, the learning continues thru sailing experiences and BBSS will be by your side the entire process. Our NJ sailboat rentals are professionally maintained and coast guard approved for a safe and stable sailing experience.

With two styles of rental sailboats to choose from (racing and cruising), rental packages, and a sailing buddy club, sailboat rentals with Barnegat Bay Sailing School are both affordable and enjoyable.

#### **Island Time**

A stable 23 foot O'Day sailboat. This sloop rigged cruiser with her shoal draft keel, 8 foot beam, tiller steering, roller furling jib, mercury 8 HP outboard, and a generous cabin is a great choice for a day sail on Barnegat Bay.

#### **Retro**

A classic 1964 Pearson Ensign. This fractional rig racer with her full keel, 7 foot beam, tiller steering, roller furling jib, 8 HP Johnson outboard, and spacious cockpit is a great family day sailor as well as a one design racing machine.

#### **Requirements**

- A NJ Safe Boating Certificate or equivalent
- An ASA 101 Certification of equiv.
- Drivers License and Credit Card
- Boat, Engine, Area Orientation