

The Wayfarer SKIMMER

United State Wayfarer Association – www.uswayfarer.org

Winter 2020



Father, daughter team wins Mayor's Cup

Cooks enjoy sailing beloved Black Skimmer

By Jim Cook
W10873

The 43rd Mayor's Cup regatta was hosted by Lake Townsend YC on Sept. 26-27, 2020. Lake Townsend is a small reservoir just outside of Greensboro, N.C. The lake has very little development along the shoreline, with a golf course on one side and trees on the other, which makes it a gorgeous place to sail. It also helps keep the boat traffic down, so sailing in lighter winds is actually possible.

Entries for the regatta were restricted by the rules of the public boat ramp, but we still had three good fleets of boats with seven Wayfarers, nine Flying Scots and a number of youth in 420s.

Over the summer, I purchased a beautiful Mark IV named Black Skimmer (W10873) from Richard Johnson and Michele Parish. I have received so many compliments on the boat, one of them even before I drove away from the parking lot where we did the hand-off. I feel honored to be able to sail such a beloved boat.

My daughter, Nora, also noticed the boat's beauty and magically has a renewed interest in sailing with me, even racing. I've learned that if you want to get your family to sail with you then you should get a nice boat.

Nora was a true pleasure to have on the boat through the Mayor's Cup and kept me entertained the whole weekend. A simple question about import/export laws turned into a giggling discussion about mutant worms the size of dogs, wearing backpacks full of carrots, that tunnel underground to deliver carrots from China to North Korea.

The Mayor's Cup was our second regatta in the new



Jim Cook and his daughter Nora Cook in W10873 followed by Jim and Linda Heffernan in W1066 (above) fly their spinnakers in light winds during the Mayor's Cup on Lake Townsend. Jim and Nora (left) at the mark. The duo went on to win the Sept. 26-27 regatta. This was Jim's second regatta in Black Skimmer, a Mark IV previously owned by North Carolina's Richard Johnson and Michele Parish. *Photos by JC Adler*

boat and the first with other Mark IVs, so I was eager to see how our boat speed compared. The entire regatta was very well organized, and the PRO did an excellent job with the difficult light wind conditions. All the members of LTYC are considerate and helpful. For example, they gave priority at the docks to visitors and helped tow boats out to the race course to get the races started on-time.

Race 1 was started in light winds, but was easily manageable, as it was on a course without boat wakes to contend with. Halfway down the first leeward leg, the wind had shifted 90 degrees and flying spinnakers was no longer possible. We were in the lead at the first mark. The remaining

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AnnMarie Covington (left) with crew Andy Forman in W11134 manage the light winds of the Mayor's Cup on Lake Townsend. The team went on to a fourth-place finish. Frans van Zeeland (above) gives a spirited greeting from W2435 as crew Jeanne Allamby looks on. Photos by JC Adler

Mayor's Cup

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windward and leeward legs were reaches, which didn't leave many opportunities for passing.

The RC moved to a new position and waited for the wind direction to settle in, but the wind died instead. Racing was canceled for the day, which was a good decision. Because of the pandemic, there were no gatherings planned, so everyone split to spend the rest of the day at their leisure.

Sunday started out with very light winds that built slightly up to the first start. The Flying Scots started first. I could see the pin end of the line was heavily favored, but port tack also seemed favored. We had to decide whether to start at the favored end, but risk getting pinned on the unfavored tack, or start at the unfavored end, but be able to tack onto port immediately. I opted to start at the pin end of the line. The pin end of the line remained favored throughout the day. After the first race, I decided to protect the left side of the course, so the committee boat end was no longer an option.

We sailed relatively short courses in light wind. The starts were key to get out of traffic and be able to adjust to the wind shifts. The finishes in all races were the same with a couple exceptions.

- 1 Jim Cook / Nora Cook
- 2 Richard Johnson / Michele Parish
- 3 Uwe Heine / Nancy Collins

- 4 AnnMarie Covington / Andy Forman
- 5 Pete Thorn / Dawn-Michelle Oliver
- 6 Frans van Zeeland / Jeanne Allamby
- 7 Steve Freyaldenhoven / Mitch Krasowski

The second race on Sunday, the third race of the series, was very close. Nora and I were in the lead at the windward mark, followed by Uwe and Nancy, then Richard and Michele. We jibed immediately around the offset mark in search of a puff that never materialized. By the time we jibed back, Uwe and Nancy had taken the lead. We managed to gain an inside overlap. Uwe took advantage of our spinnaker take down to cross behind us and into the inside overlapped position.

Up the windward leg to the finish, we tried to stay with Uwe and Nancy, sailing to windward and slightly behind them. My goal was to stay close enough to keep them from tacking, so that I could hold them out past the layline and be the first to tack to the finish. Meanwhile, Richard and Michele were steadily gaining ground on both of us.

We fell back into Uwe and Nancy's bad air and had to tack away. Luck would have it, we caught a little lift and cleared Uwe and Nancy on the next crossing. But it wasn't enough to clear Richard and Michele who were now speeding to the finish line on starboard tack. We tacked to leeward of Richard and Michelle, and all three of us urged our boats across the finish line. We managed to finish first. The finish



Jim Cook and Nora Cook (W10873) took first place as well as winning the Bryan Cup for most improved.



Michele Parish and Richard Johnson (W560) finished second.

between Uwe and Nancy and Richard and Michelle was too close to tell on the water. Results would later show that Uwe and Nancy finished second, ahead of Richard and Michelle.

I asked Nora for her input on the weekend. She told me it was a good weekend, because she didn't get hit with a golf ball (it's hard to get valuable information out of a 14 year old). Anyway, we want to thank LTYC for giving us the opportunity to have fun racing and for a well run regatta.