



The Wayfarer SKIMMER

United States Wayfarer Association
Spring 2016-1

Pughs Shine at Midwinters *By Al Schonborn W3458*

Oakville's David and Anne Pugh of the Mississauga SC topped a fleet of 21 boats in the 2016 U.S. Nationals, hosted Jan. 29-31 by the Lake Eustis SC as part of our annual Florida Midwinters. Even though the winds failed to co-operate on Saturday and Sunday, Friday's magnificent winds and weather enabled our fine RC to give us five races that day. The Pughs left no doubt as they scored four convincing firsts and one 2nd in the 5-race series in which the defending US champs usually had to overcome early deficits in the four-leg windward-leeward races sailed in medium airs.



Ann and David Pugh hold the Ian Proctor trophy awarded to them as winners of the US Nationals held at the Midwinters at Lake Eustis Sailing Club January 31-February 2, 2016.

The seasoned, top-seeded Detroit Bayview YC team of Doug Scheibner and Andrew Lockhart were the only ones to beat the #3-seeded Team Pugh in any race and ended up scoring 3-2-2-1-(4) and 8 points to place a fine series second while Charlotte's Richard Johnson and wife, Michele Parish in *Black Skimmer* seeded 5th -rounded out the top three, scoring 12 points from 4-3-(9)-3-2 finishes.

Sailing in their first US Nationals, the Johnsons' Catawba YC club mates, Jim Cook and Mike Taylor won a close three-way North Carolina battle over series 4th as they placed 2-6-6-(9)-3 for 17 points and beat out a pair of teams from the fast-growing Lake Townsend YC fleet by a mere one point.

That points tie was broken in favour of Jim and Linda Heffernan who placed 5-4-3-(7)-6 for their 18 points and beat out veteran Flying Scot sailors, Uwe Heine and Nancy Collins, in their new Wayfarer who scored (12)-5-4-4-5. Jim thus won the tie-breaker under the "Most firsts > most 2nds > most 3rds etc." provision of the tie-breaker. *Continued on page 2*

Midwinters – Our First Event *Kevin and Denise O'Sullivan, W8215*

Months before the January 2016 Wayfarer Midwinters, we talked about the experience of joining the fun and learning about our 1986 MK III SD GRP from others with a love for the Wayfarer design. We read from prior SKIMMER newsletters the sense of community and friendly competitiveness shared by members, but we had a lingering doubt that we could actually pull it off, from trailering the boat to Florida, sailing close to other boats, and camping for more than our usual couple of nights. In December, we had preventative maintenance done on the trailer and started laying out the things we would need for the 7-day trip. *Continued on page 8*

2016 GWBR
By Pat Kuntz W3814

Lake Eustis Sailing Club hosted its 46th George Washington's Birthday Regatta on February 13th and 14th, 2016. The race, a scheduled event for the Flying Scott fleet, opened its venue to Wayfarers and a Portsmouth race, and provided a smaller course for youth, who sailed Optis, 420s, and Lasers. The dates signaled the closing of the "Wayfarer Fortnight", 17 days of Wayfarers that began with the Midwinters/US Nationals.

Very strong winds during the week prior to the race settled down to 10-12 mph, with frequent gust to 16 mph, on Saturday, and 8-10 mph with occasional gust to 15 mph on Sunday.

Forty-one Flying Scotts, 21 from LESC, populated a 1000 foot starting line, a remarkably beautiful site. Also visible on the lake, on a smaller course to the south and east, were the Lasers, Optis and 420s. Waiting to start after and on the same course as the Flying Scotts provided an almost 360 degree view of sails. Stunning!



Optis, 420s and Lasers prepare for racing on the Sam Chapin Beach at LESC.

Seven Wayfarers raced in the GWBR sharing the course with 1 Hunter 23, 3 San Juan 2'1s, and 3 Mutineers. Three races were held on Saturday, and 2 on Sunday.

Two Wayfarers from Lake Townsend Sailing Club in Greensboro, North Carolina, placed in the top 3. Jim Heffernan achieved a first place win and Ken Butler took 3rd place. Jim Lingeman from the Lake Eustis Sailing Club took 2nd place. The other results were Dave Hepting in 4th, Pat Kuntz 5th, Jim Burns 6th and Peter Krueger in 7th.

All racers and the exceptional hosts from LESC shared a delicious dinner of barbecue Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.

Our First Event, continued from page 1



Kevin and Denise O'Sullivan are all smiles as they meet and sail with Wayfarer sailors during the 2016 Midwinters at Lake Eustis.

As we shoveled the 30 inches of snow that fell a few days before our Wednesday afternoon departure, our minds were signaling We Are A Go for Florida and Ahoy New Friends! As it turns out, the drive was uneventful and we had a great time playing loudly the song "Riding with the King" by BB King and E Clapton as we crossed the GA-FL border. We didn't know it then but that was an omen of things to come.

With a heavy rain falling we opened the doors of Lake Eustis Sailing Club (LESC) on Thursday afternoon and saw a group of smiling faces sitting in chairs around tables with muffled sounds of conversation. To our left, the registration desk was open so we started the process with help from Jane Hepting, Mary Seraphinoff, and Linda Heffernan. Commodore Jim Heffernan greeted us and made us feel part of the group. Dave Hepting, the race Commodore, helped us unhook the trailer from our van, in the rain, and park it for raising the mast the next morning. We stayed at a local hotel this first night not wanting to set up camp in the rain, and prepared to get back around 8 am the next morning to get the boat ready for launch and watch the experience of the first races before getting into the fray. That was the plan. Go slow. Be careful. Be cool.

About 14 months earlier, we purchased our Wayfarer and trailer from a wonderful person in Chicago. All of May and most of June were spent on the driveway trying to "put it together" with help from neighbors passing by walking their dogs. We were able to use a nearby ramp to get the boat into the water and paddled to a mooring ball near our community dock. We "sailed" it as newcomers about ten times in 2015 in local creek, small river and small bay conditions in the

Annapolis area. Our preferred wind conditions were 3-6 knots with no gusts. The Wayfarer seemed to be the perfect boat for us and our cruising interests, but we needed experience and knowledge. The Midwinters seemed to provide that venue.

In a matter of minutes that first morning in Eustis, regatta members were offering assistance, showing us better ways to set the rigging, and encouraging us to get into the first race. We were the last Wayfarer in the water that morning. The 12 knot wind was stronger than what we were used to. We didn't make the start in time for this first race, and were Did Not Start (DNS) for all five races held that day. We approached the races staying along the edges, out of the way, and learned a little as we saw the starts, races and finishes

We came in with the other boats and were able to participate in the Wayfarer memorial service for Mike Murto with about 20 Wayfarers slowly circling the pontoon that Mike's wife Dotty and others were on, with Dotty releasing Mike's ashes and Wayfarers strewing flowers into Lake Eustis.



After Friday's races the RC boat fetched Dotty Murto from shore for the ceremony in which she placed Mike's ashes into the lake that he loved.

Friday night was pizza and refreshments, including a Dark and Stormy compliments of Uncle Al and others. We had read of Al and were floored that evening when he offered to sail with us on the cruise Monday to Sinbad's across the lake. Are you kidding me? We would be Riding with the King?

Saturday morning the RC hoisted delay flags hourly due to calm conditions. With people milling about, this presented a great opportunity for us to get some advice so we rode with Pirate Dave out to our moored Wayfarer and we paddled it 50 yards to the beach, and started to fool around with our rigging holding like a dead fish an unconnected boom-vang. Oh so quickly Richard Johnson, David Pugh, and Uncle Al took command of this effort, performed major surgery on



PRO Ray Laguna hoists the postponement flag Saturday morning as sailors waited for wind that never came.

the vang by cutting, tying, shackeling, and cleating, while verbalizing instructions for use of the sheets to adjust the height of the boom to de-power the boat. That beats our previous strategy of When In Doubt Let it Out, which we will still continue to use as needed! Others stopped by and gave all kinds of helpful suggestions and lessons.

Saturday night dinner was shared with the MC Scow sailors. What a lively group of people we were. We listened to conversations at our table about the Nationals competition, a reported foul during one of the races that afternoon, and the pros and cons of different dinghy designs. In our tent that night, we planned our strategy to start the race and to finish.

Around 10 am Sunday morning we were out there near the starting line in our oblong path keeping away from trouble but also ready to go on the posted W-3 course. The blasts from the starting horn sounded. We were excited as it looked like we were actually going to be in the race! We discussed a start strategy and did pretty well, getting to the leeward orange buoy at around the start time. Winds were calm and we were comfortable, attentive, and confident that we might finish with good form. Oh well, it was not in the cards this time as the race was cancelled due to a 90 degree shift in wind direction. OK, fine, we'll wait for our next regatta to get a finish number.

Sunday lunch of lasagna followed by the award ceremonies was also entertaining and educational for us. Everyone showed great sportsmanship, provided hearty applause and support for the winners and participants. Sunday night was a frolicking time for

the remaining Wayfarer sailors at Mary and Nick Seraphinoff's home in Eustis.

We had a most enjoyable and memorable time with Uncle Al on our sail across the lake to Sinbad's, arriving within minutes of the other 6 Wayfarers. Dennis from the LESG came over in a power boat and towed all but one of the Wayfarers from about the middle of the lake back to the Club due to slack wind. One boat made it all the way, skippered by Anne Marie Covington and crewed by Tom Goldsmith, with spectacular timing back to the Club at sunset. We looked at each other and wondered *How Did They Do That?*



Dave Hepting and Ali Kishbaugh hold their trophies for first place in Non spinnaker fleet. Trophies presented by Nick Seraphinoff (left), Regatta Chair, and Jim Heffernan, USWA Commodore.

At the Midwinters we made new friends, learned a ton about our boat and proper sailing technique, and had a great time each of the days on the trip. We are making incremental progress and have homework assignments to complete. We bought Al's book "Kiss Your Dinghy" and followed Mike Sigmund's suggestion to use the app on <http://game.finckh.net/quiz/aq1e.htm> to improve our understanding of the rules. Phil and Cathy Leonard, one of 7 teams from North Carolina, were very helpful to us. We appreciate that learning sailing fundamentals can come quickly on a Wayfarer since it functions and responds so well with the immediate environment. We like the idea of feeling the wind, watching for nature signs in the water and looking at the clouds and the land for other indicators. Safety First was mentioned to us several times by many of the people at the event. We now know that if we are confident in our training and experience, and have done adequate preparation prior to going out, that we can experience nature and aspects of our own heretofore hidden personal characteristics on the water with our Wayfarer. That MK III SD GRP is a family member now, as are the friends we met in Eustis. Fair winds!!!

**ROCK HALL ONE DESIGN REGATTA
And DOWNRIVER RACE**

On June 17-19, Rock Hall and the Chester River on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay again beckon Wayfarer sailors from near and far for the unique Downriver Race/Cruise from Chestertown, MD to the Rock Hall YC followed by a weekend of around the buoys racing. These are good events for new racers being held in protected waters with experienced support boats nearby.

See www.rockhallyachtclub.org for regatta info, NOR and Registration

MOB continued from page 3

so important that the Cruising Club of America runs a training program called Suddenly Alone aimed at sailing couples. But returning to the victim is just half of the exercise. As the instructor at the Safety at Sea Seminar said failure to retrieve your crewmember is not an option and can be deadly. The side benefit of MOB drills is that you'll develop better boat handling skills and will reduce your chance of hitting the dock.

You need to practice recovering your crew. Do this on a warm summer day when you practice both the return and recovery of your victim. Do it over and over until both you and your crew feel comfortable in all aspects of the man overboard drill. Make sure that you have an extra PFD that you can throw and one last thing, make sure that all your PFDs have a whistle attached to it. "You can't scream if you have swallowed a lot of water but you can blow the whistle," Loory said. In racing practice wins races. With MOB drills practice could save your life.

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