

where, in admirably speedy fashion, the hole, deemed too big for stitches or epoxy, was disinfected and bandaged. A delightfully cheery nurse then gave me a tetanus shot and a start to my antibiotics regimen and I was on my way back to supper and drinks at the club by not too much after 6 PM.

With a constant backdrop of Hurricane Irma updates from Florida, we all spent a marvelously convivial evening before heading out to the Bennett-Wierdsma bonfire at the Timberlane cottages next door. After the fine work-out of four exciting races, we all slept well, and were ready to embrace the forecast replica of Saturday's weather by the 10 AM start time next morning.

After a fairly brief postponement as our RC waited for the wind to settle in, race 5 duly got under way in "nurse-your-boat" winds. A glance at the scoreboard revealed the fact that a three-way tie at 7 points would exist at the top if Al, Marc and David finished 1-2-3, and it would all come down to the final race. And that is indeed what happened.

As we started the finale, the wind had picked up to a lovely sailing breeze and Uncle Al and Frank moved out to a comfortable early lead, lost it at least twice before regaining the lead near the end of the second beat. By the second go at the windward and offset marks, David and Anne were only about 30 yards behind Al in 2nd place with Marc and Julie closing in. Adding to the wracked nerves was the flat spot which the leaders sat in as we began the final run to the finish line. In the end, the wind gods smiled on Al and Frank who got the returning wind while David and Anne wallowed on the right side. Indeed, Marc and Julie benefitted from hindsight and gybed to port right at the offset mark and were soon Al's closest pursuers. Luckily for Frank and Al, the light-weight Team *Jamaica Blue* had at least a hundred yards to make up on the heavier Team *SHADES* a.k.a. *Glory Days* who were able to nervously hang on for a narrow victory in the race and the series.

Hans Gottschling

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VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S CUP –WARE RIVER

August 5, 6, 2017

by Michele Parish W10873

When Richard mentioned to me that he wanted to go to an extra regatta, I was like, "I am not so sure I want to go." I was still feeling very car weary after the 15 hour trip to Toronto for the North Americans at TSCC for 2 hours of racing! Saturday's races were never held due to lack of wind and Richard's work forced us to leave early on Sunday. So Richard made plans to sail in the Virginia Governor's Cup with his sister who had expressed an interest in crewing for him. Initially I said sure, that sounds great. Then followed two straight weeks of Richard traveling while I hung out with our dog, Nikki. I mean she is great company, but conversationally a little challenged! After a week of being home bound I reversed my decision and sent in our registration. It was a good thing because later when talking to my sister-in-law she seemed less than enthusiastic about the crewing opportunity.

Two weeks earlier we had driven to Canada and back with no lights. Thus the night prior to our departure we were scrambling to get those pesky trailer lights to work. We set off the next morning at 5:30 am to go to Ware River Yacht Club. After leaving the interstate it was a lovely drive through countryside with a final six miles out Ware Neck to find a beautiful clubhouse amid a grassy field. Jim and Linda Heffernan and Phil and Cathy Leonard had come Friday and they pitched in to help us rig and launch.

About 50 boats sailed on our course and the Race Committee smartly managed 6 starts with little time in between races. Three Wayfarers and two Windmills were in the fourth start so we had an advantage of watching three other classes cross the start line before us.

Our hard work on this day resulted in three firsts and a third, although the Heffernans were always a threat and finally crossed first in race 4. They did have a keg of tasty beer and a dinner social that night. Most competitors camped on the grounds but Richard and I spent the night with his sister and her husband in Lancaster, a short drive through numerous back roads.

Sunday we were back early and wind conditions were less than stellar. We headed out to the course and I typically get grumpy when there is little to no wind. Fortunately Richard did not have to listen to me for too long since the wind quickly filled in. The Race Committee was able to run 3 races and again it was highly competitive match racing among the three

Wayfarers! We would pull ahead of the Heffernans only to be passed by the Leonards and then it would all reverse. The finishes on both days were very close for all three of us. In the end, four firsts, a third and a second secured us first place. At one point in between races Linda did say, tongue-in-cheek, to me, "I thought you were not coming. Where's Richard's sister?" For me, I was happy with my decision to race this regatta especially at the awards ceremony; when beautiful pewter Jefferson cups were given out with Champagne in them. What a lovely touch! It was a great venue all around and in addition they had a large fleet of junior sailors, some only knee high, competing on an Opti course closer to shore. It was so much fun watching these youngsters out racing as well as sporting their fine race gear on the shore.



Michele Parish and Richard Johnson, victorious in 2017 Virginia Governor's Cup and 2017 Blackbeard One Design are currently in the lead for the first ever Fleet 15 Trophy.

WRYC was prepared with great camping sites, food to purchase for breakfast and lunch, and a delicious dinner on Saturday (I heard) all provided with a large dose of warm hospitality. This is a regatta that we should definitely put on our travelling schedule next year.

Fleet 15 Report

Fleet Captain Phil Leonard W864

With three regattas remaining for the first ever Fleet 15 trophy, the race could not be tighter. Only 13 points

separate the top five boats, and 3 separate the top 3. With no clear winner at this point things will be getting most exciting as we near the end of 2017.

The top 5 contenders for the trophy are Richard Johnson and Michelle Parish, Jim and Linda Heffernan, Uwe Heine and Nancy Collins, AnnMarie Covington, and Phil and Cathy Leonard.

On the first weekend of October the Virginia Inland Sailing Association will host the 2017 Centerboard Invitational Regatta at Smith Mountain Lake certainly one of the most beautiful sailing venues in this area.

Fleet 15 will again be sponsoring the Lake Townsend Yacht Club HOT VI (Halloween on the Townsend) on October 28-29th. This charity regatta is a fund raiser for Earlier.Org, a local company that is working to develop early detection system for breast cancer. If you need housing contact me. If you cannot attend but want to donate to Earlier.org visit their website and find the link to the regatta.

On November 3-5th the Catawba Sailing Club will host The Old Brown Dog on Lake Wyle, Charlotte, NC, always a fine close out to the autumn season.

Over 12 Wayfarers expect to attend the HOT and OBD regattas so the potential for earning points is high.

Eights boats from Fleet 15 attended the International Cruise at Wellesley Island NY in July. This was the first time Cathy and I visited this venue and we had a spectacular time.

We just need to find a way to attend all the regattas and cruises. Maybe in a few years when we retire!!!

Kindness & Generosity Unlimited *Monica Schaefer W1152 Lakka*

Skimmer editor in chief Linda Heffernan twisted my arm and squeezed a promise out of me to write a piece about the **2017 International Rally** which Miriam McCarthy and I had the great pleasure of participating in. Now home, the rally is almost a distant memory and I really don't know where to start. I suppose I could write about the fabulous location, starting with the campsite at Wellesley Island State Park in which Alan Asselstine the chief rally organiser had somehow managed to bag us all the most wonderful pitches running along the water from the little marina where our Wayfarers sat peacefully every night. We shared Kit & Patsy Wallace's pitch and wonderful hospitality with Kit's lovely daughter Rachel and our very nice neighbours were Sean & Quinn Ring. Because we had such a good swimming spot we also had the pleasure