



Breezes AND Blows



Ocean Springs Yacht Club

August 2025

**100 Front Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564**

Commodore's Report



Ahoy!

As we approach Fall, it means that kids are heading back to school, football season is approaching, and the Ocean Springs Yacht Club Annual General Membership Meeting is just around the corner.

This year has been a busy year for the Club but it has also been a difficult year for the Club in many aspects. As I stated in my last newsletter, the building is showing signs of wear due to the age of our infrastructure and the salty and humid environment where we live. Recently, our fire alarm system has triggered a number of false alarms due to faulty sensors. Unfortunately, the system itself is outdated it is necessary to replace the entire system as newer sensors are not compatible with our old panel.

I love our Club. One of the things that I love most about our Club is that we have always come together to overcome adversity. Our members are passionate about this place. Many of us grew up in the Club or we raised our children in this Club and we are committed to seeing future generations of sailors and people passionate about the Gulf Coast enjoy the Club long after we are gone. Today, I am telling you what we need to do to make that happen. We need to increase our dues.

When we presented the dues increase for a vote last November, the concern that was stated was a lack of clarity about our financial position. When we scheduled a financially centered meeting in February, we presented a thorough financial review from a CPA. The focus of that meeting, however, shifted to the Club's dissatisfaction of our General Manager and little focus or attention was given to the financial review being presented.

The Board has listened to the members. We terminated our General Manager and have been trying to conserve costs and make adjustments to our budget to satisfy our members. At the same time, we have tried to meet members' expectations regarding the quality of food and the availability of the Clubhouse. It has been a difficult balancing act and with our recent infrastructure concerns, it has become impossible. Adjusting our staff has reduced payroll but has resulted in complaints about long wait times and a lower quality of service. Cutting club hours has saved time on payroll costs but has also resulted in complaints about the Clubhouse and food service being unavailable to members during the early part of the week. The answer here has always been that if we want to meet members' expectations regarding service and availability, we need to increase our dues.

The last time dues were increased was prior to my membership in the Club. Since that time, wages have risen, insurance costs have risen, food and alcohol costs have risen, and the costs of repairs have risen. Our dues have not. \$100 in 2016 is equivalent to \$133 today, but our dues have not adjusted for inflation. This information has been presented time and time again, but at this point, the



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decision to increase dues is becoming more of an existential crisis for the Club. The hiring of a permanent General Manager of the caliber appropriate for this Club will require additional funds to meet payroll costs. If we want to acquire the beach for the preservation of our sailing atmosphere, we need to plan to save and spend money to do so. If we want to preserve our clubhouse and making lasting renovations to our facilities, we will need to increase our funds and build our reserve.

This Club has so much potential. But we need to commit to investing in that future. Not only financially, but also with our time and efforts. We have tons of dedicated members and many of them have great ideas for the Club, but we need to put those ideas to action. We need members that are willing to organize fundraisers and events for the Club instead of just talking about it. We also need members that are willing to serve on the Board and listen to other members to bring these ideas together. It is difficult work, but it is rewarding. Please reach out to Carroll or anyone on the nominating committee if you want to get more involved. Do not ask what OSYC can do for you; ask yourself what you can do for OSYC!

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you at the Club!

Michael T. Ramsey
2025 Commodore

**From the Past Commodore,
Carroll Kovacevich**



The Nominating Committee continues to assemble and consider the list of current members who are interested in being on the 2026 Board of Governors. If you are interested and would like to be considered for a first year board position, please leave your name and phone number in the club office with Gina or Ryleigh.

**From the Vice Commodore,
Sandra Carter**



Well, fellow members,

Are you ready for late October yet? This withering heat is taking quite the toll on our yards, gardens, and even our outdoor activities. "If" you can find a breeze, why not rent a Club sailboat for a pleasant break from the oppressive heat? Or stop in for the New Member Party this Friday evening; the Wine Tasting on August 12th, or the "K-storm" Memorial/OSYC Wave Championship on the 23rd.

Our Club staff is primed to make your visit a welcome relief, from an ice-cold tea to a beer or cool glass of wine. Hopefully, the afternoon sea-breeze will join us downstairs or on the upper deck. And there's always the Club pool, which is always in pristine condition for you to cool down quickly (thank you, Cyndi!)

Built up an appetite? Order the cure from our kitchen staff, led by our master chef Kiki; she never disappoints, whether a la carte from the new menu or a chalkboard special.

As the last of "Those Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer" wane after Labor Day, please keep safety at the forefront of your activities.

Sea you at the Club -

Sandra Carter
Vice Commodore 2025





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From the Fleet Captain, Cyndi Moncreiff
FleetCaptain@OSYC.com



This year's Island Hop Regatta was supposed to have two first day races, one from OSYC to the west end of Horn Island for lunch, and then a return race along the same

course from the island back to the Club. A lack of wind led to a change in plans, with only one race to the end of the Ocean Springs channel, where the race was called and finished and the sailors sent back to the Club. Day Two's racing got off to a better start, with winds, for a clockwise race around Deer Island with both the start and finish on the waters just off the Club's beach. The overall and 'Round Deer race winners were the OSYC team of skipper Ken Altman with Duly Chaltain as his crew. Congratulations, guys!

Sail camps are officially over. Our sailing instructor Dani Zwerg and her camp counselors taught a total of 135 junior sailors during three two-week courses, two week-long Adventure Camps, and Race Week. The 2025 Sail Camp Regatta to celebrate the end of junior sailing allowed 27 junior sailors to show off their sailing knowledge and newly learned skills, with parents watching the races from the Club deck.

Friday Night Races have been plagued by less than ideal weather, with a combination of storms or no wind preventing sailing most evenings. School is now back in session, but there are still a few more Friday evenings that may have better weather after this weekend so that the bragging rights from the first few races can continue to be cemented.

Club member use of personal kayaks continues to be an issue for both our members and our staff. If you or your children use your kayaks, please do not leave them on the beach. They may not be there to use again if they are washed away by the tides. When you do use your kayaks, please return them to their places in the kayak rack. Do not leave them on the grass around the rack area. Thank you!

As always, if you want to be involved with helping to host any of these sailing events at the Club, please reach out to any of our sailors, members of the Sailing Squadron, or any of our flag officers or OSYC Board members. We are the yacht club for beach-based catamaran sailing on the northern Gulf, and our members are the reason we're known for being one of the most welcoming, friendly and fun venues for it.

In Sailing,

Cyndi Moncreiff
OSYC Fleet Captain
FleetCaptain@OSYC.com

WLOX TV covered the 2025 Island Hop Regatta. You can view the story at

<https://www.wlox.com/2025/07/14/annual-horn-island-hop-regatta-sets-sail-ocean-springs/>



Offshore weather before start of Island Hop Regatta that led to not much wind on Day 1
(photo credit: Gina Welch)



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July Club Event Photos

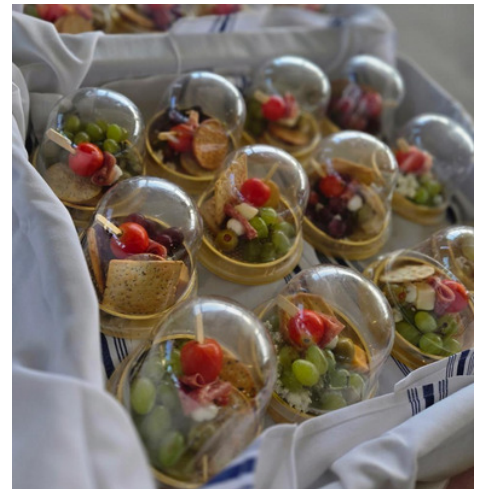


Photo credits: R. smith and G. Welch





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From Your Interim Club Manager,
Gina Welch
office@osyc.com

August 2025 Events at the OSYC

Hello, OSYC'ers -

The summer has flown by at the OSYC! From the Regattas & Sailing Camp to our Rockin' 4th of July party, complete with a band, buffet, games for kids and a HUGE firework show courtesy of Bobby Stewart with some help from Micah Pierce and Gehrig Herring. We had two amazing wine/food pairing nights for the members to enjoy, and our Cardboard Regatta was so much fun for everyone.

We continue to plan fun events for you all to enjoy and we encourage you to come as often as possible so we can continue to offer these member events. We will have lifeguards scheduled on the weekends through Labor Day weekend so please keep wearing your arm bands .

We want to emphasize that since we are a members based club we need everyone to help us keep the club neat and tidy. Please be mindful to clean up after yourself especially around the pool area and downstairs area so we don't get any unwanted pests taking up residence. We do have a club mascot named Rocky the raccoon. He has been seen on camera breaking into our outside storage and stealing food! Despite our efforts to trap him, he has outsmarted our pest control many times. We have taken measures to secure our stored items and we hope Rocky will find another place to eat, but we appreciate you all helping us to maintain a clean environment.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Gina Welch
Interim General Manager
228-875-1915
office@osyc.com

August 1st – New Members event at 6 pm

August 7th – Paint and Sip at 6pm

August 12th – Social Committee's Wine Event at 6pm

August 21st – Board Meeting at 6pm

August 23rd-24th – Katrina Memorial / OSYC Wave Club Championship Regatta

August 30th – Grill Your Own Steak Night at 6 pm



2025 Flag/Corporate Officers

Commodore - Michael Ramsey
Vice Commodore - Sandra Carter
Rear Commodore - Wendie Dana
Fleet Captain - Cyndi Moncreiff
Treasurer - Meade Tyler
Secretary - Vince Smith



Board of Governors



2nd Year Board Member - Nancy Duckett Allen
2nd Year Board Member - Bruce Small
1st Year Board Member - Robert Dalgo
1st Year Board Member - Drew Demboski
Past Commodore - Carroll Kovacevich