



The Starboard Tack

News from the shores of Clarks Hill

Summer 2026



A double rainbow over the club docks. Photo: Ellen Smalley

The Tack Returns

If this newsletter looks familiar, it should. For decades, the Starboard Tack was how ASC members kept up with each other: race results, oyster roasts, boats for sale, and the occasional reminder to check your bilge pump before winter. It went out in print, then like a lot of good things, it quietly drifted off. Those roots run deeper than we knew. The oldest issue we've turned up so far is from January 1972. It flew the same burgee you see at the top of this page, went out from Post Office Box 3111 in Augusta, opened with a recap of the Hangover Regatta, and closed by welcoming new members aboard. Fifty-four years later, we're picking the thread back up.

At Commodore Booker's request, the Tack is back. The name and the burgee are the same. The format is new: delivered straight to your inbox through the club's ClubExpress system, with past issues archived online. Inside you'll find the things that always made the Tack worth reading: what's coming up on the calendar, who's doing what around the club, and how to lend a hand.

That 1972 issue closed with an invitation worth repeating. Its editors wanted help from anyone: campers, front porchers, powerboaters, juniors. More hands meant more points of view, and the members who pitched in learned their own club along

the way. Still true.

If you'd like to write, shoot photos, or help gather news for the Tack, we'd love to hear from you:

starboardtack@augustasailingclub.org



Commodore's Comments

For years, the Starboard Tack kept our members connected to everything happening at the club, and for years, it's been quiet. Today, we're bringing it back. And the timing feels right: this month marks 73 years to the week since a small group of Augustans incorporated the Augusta Sailing Club on July 24, 1953.

There's a lot to catch up on. Our docks have been fully repaired and re-anchored following the hurricane, closing a chapter that tested this club and showed what our volunteers are made of. Membership is strong and growing, with new faces joining nearly every month. The East Point camper area is coming back to life. And this summer, there's more sailing on the calendar than we've had in years, including a brand-new Thursday evening racing series.

We've also welcomed some new hands to important roles: Dan Staples has taken the helm as Harbor Master, Joe McMullen is our new Yardmaster, and Tim Sparks is our new D Dock Captain. Please thank them when you see them. The Starboard Tack exists for one reason: to keep every member connected to the club, whether you're down at the lake every weekend or haven't rigged a boat since spring. If it's been a while, come see us. The water's fine.

See you at the club,

Pattie Booker, Commodore



Commodore Pattie Booker on a chilly day, moments before an unplanned swim.

A Life Under Sail: Jim Holder Named Honorary Member

In March, the Board voted unanimously to bestow one of the club's rarest honors on one of its most deserving members: Jim Holder is now an Honorary Member of the Augusta Sailing Club.

If you learned to sail at ASC in the last three decades, there's a good chance Jim taught you. For more than twenty years, Jim served as the club's Junior Sailing Director and lead instructor for our Junior Sail Camps and Adult Sailing Lessons. It's been said, with no exaggeration, that Jim brought more new members into this club than anyone else in its history.

Jim's sailing résumé runs deep. Before moving to Georgia in the 1990s, he founded a junior sailing program in Westlake, California. He is a national champion, having won the C-15 Nationals, and for more than a decade he kept ASC's JY-15 fleet active and racing across the Southeast before spending another ten years competing in the club's E Scow fleet. Sailors around the country know his name too: Jim edited Mainsheet, the national magazine of Catalina Yachts owners, for decades.

His fingerprints are all over the club's teaching tradition in another way. In the December 2010 Starboard Tack, under his own byline, Jim wrote about bringing a US Sailing Instructors Training Course to ASC that November: an intensive four-day certification, visiting sailors housed in members' cabins, and two of our own juniors earning accreditation. He closed that piece predicting the course would help make ASC one of the strongest sailing-instructor schools in the Southeast. Sixteen years later, with ten more members certified as US Sailing instructors this spring at the club he helped build into a teaching institution, it reads less like a prediction and more like a promise kept.

His son Jeffrey shares a favorite memory: "My dad and I have sailed together since I

was a kid growing up at the Westlake Yacht Club in California. We raced Coronado-15s all across the country, which is how we met Jim Claffey and Jeff Annis at Ft. Walton Beach for the C-15 Nationals. We switched to the JY15 after sailing in the Championship of Champions regatta hosted by ASC. His last boat was an E-Scow, which is a lot for a man in his 80s. If I had to pick a favorite time, it would be when we sailed from Tampa to Havana, Cuba on a Catalina 450, part of a six-man team on our friend's boat."

Now in his mid-90s, Jim no longer makes it to the lake on his own, but his son Jeffrey can bring him out as his guest, and we hope he does, often.

Honorary Membership is reserved for members who have given significant service to the club over at least ten years, and requires a unanimous vote of the Board. Few have ever earned it more thoroughly.

It seems fitting that as we revive the Starboard Tack, we honor a man who spent decades showing us how a club publication should be done. Thank you, Jim.



Jim Holder, East Point Beach. Photo by Jeffrey Holder

FROM THE RACE DECK

Putnams Take the Castleberry/Robertson

The Castleberry/Robertson Regatta ran May 23-24, doubling as the Spring Series finale, with four races completed in light and variable air. When the points were tallied, Past Commodore **Eli Putnam** stood atop the fleet. And in a moment that made the weekend, **Sue Putnam and family** were awarded the **Commodore's Cup** in recognition of their multi-generational support, representation, and competition at ASC. Well deserved, Putnams!

Three generations of Putnams are having quite a year on Clarks Hill, in fact: Eli's win comes as his son Oliver races with the ACS high school team and his mother Sue helps lead Spirit of America instruction.

The racing was followed by the Havana Nights dinner, chaired by **Dan and Kim Bagnoni**, who transformed the pavilion with rum barrels, palms, pineapples, and hand-stenciled Havana signage: by all accounts one of the best parties of the year.

Who was Robertson?

The regatta's namesake, Commander James L. "Jim" Robertson, USN (Ret.), was instrumental in founding this club and served as its Commodore in 1958 and 1959. An Augusta native and Annapolis Class of 1922, he became one of the youngest officers in Navy history to command his own submarine, and he talked his Academy bunkmate Hyman Rickover, later the father of the nuclear Navy, into submarine school. Home in Augusta, he and his friend Clem Castleberry sponsored the intra-club series that still bears their names, Robertson organizing each regatta "with the efficiency and precision of a submarine commander" and Castleberry making sure the post-race party was the best of the year. The trophy itself carries the story: The sterling silver bowl raced for today was presented in 1969 by the Castleberry Company in honor of Jim's retirement, and the regatta has carried both names since. *(Biography provided by his godson, James Lawrence "Larry" Moody. The full history is on the club website's Castleberry-Robertson History page.)*

Clem Castleberry's own story is less well recorded. If you know it, we'd like to hear from you.



*L-R: Castleberry, Club Commodore Ray Worthey, Robertson With Trophy
Augusta Chronicle, 1969; photo by Steve Deal.*

Putnam and Bost a Whisker from a National Title

Our own **Josh Putnam** and **Stanton Bost** sailed to the top of the fleet at the 2026 Y-Flyer National Championship at the Louisville Sailing Club in Louisville, Kentucky, racing in light and variable winds. Going into the final race, the title came down to ASC's boat and Carlin and Amanda Hodges; the Hodges outraced Josh and Stanton in race #3 to win the race, tie the series, and take the championship on the tiebreaker. "They got us by about a foot in the last race, which was a drifter," Josh reports. By class tradition, the champions get thrown in the lake; Josh and Stanton escaped the plunge by a whisker, and brought home a national runner-up finish after a hard-fought series. Congratulations, gentlemen.



Josh Putnam and Stanton Bost with their 2nd place trophies at the 2026 Y-Flyer National Championship, Louisville Sailing Club. Photo courtesy of the American Y-Flyer Sailing Association.

Spring Series Final Results

The Spring Series season's points have been tallied: congratulations to series champion **Jackson McMullen**, with **Sue Putnam** second and **Donna Norman** third. And congratulations to nine-year-old **Holden Hart**, first in Junior Skiff for the series, racing his O'pen Skiff against the fleet all season. Asked about the win, Holden put it in a way plenty of adult racers could stand to



hear: "Winning the spring series wasn't the big thing. The big thing is I will always remember the people who got me there."

Holden Hart, age 9, with Dan Bagnoni. Photo courtesy of Hollie Hart.

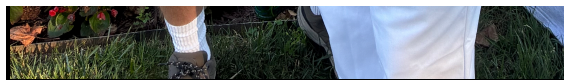
ASC and Annapolis

A century after club co-founder Jim Robertson graduated from the Naval Academy, the club's Annapolis connection is alive and well. In June, two ASC members, **Henry Sparks** and **Robby Sabala**, were sworn in with the Naval Academy's Class of 2030. Congratulations to both, and best of luck on your Plebe Summers. Henry wasted no time getting back on the water: he has already earned a spot on the Navy Offshore Sailing Team as a Plebe.

And two of our juniors got a taste of the Yard themselves: **Oliver Putnam**, president of the ACS Youth Advisory Board, and junior sailor **Elliana**



Willens spent June 21 to 24 at the Naval Academy's Summer Sail Camp, staying on campus and sailing 420s and FJs on the Severn. The story of their week is in the upcoming ACS newsletter.



The connection runs through the membership, too: **Tim Sparks** is Annapolis Class of 1991.

Tim and Henry Sparks on Induction Day at the Naval Academy. Photo: Tim Sparks.

A Safer, Better-Equipped Race Deck

The club now has **ten new US Sailing Level 1 certified instructors**, thanks to this spring's certification course hosted in partnership with ACS: ten members ages 15 and up earned their certificates, the next generation of sail camp and adult sailing instructors for our community.

Thanks to **Kim Bagnoni** for coordinating with US Sailing and to **Tim Sparks** for leading the powerboat safety portion. Meanwhile, support boat #3 has been repowered with a new 90hp Mercury outboard, our newly acquired skiff is up and running as a mark boat, and Race Committee seminars earlier this year added trained hands. There's room for more (see Lend a Hand, below).

YOUTH SAILING

Sail Camp Wraps Another Summer: 85 Kids on the Water

In 1953, the club's founding charter set out its purpose: to conduct "a club for the purpose of promoting sailing and boating" and "to hold and conduct regattas and races of boats of all kinds and classes." Seventy-three years later, there may be no better picture of that charter at work than the beach on a sail camp morning: Sunfish rigged on the sand, juniors in life jackets, and instructors walking the shallows.

This summer, **85 campers** came through the club's youth sail camps: five weeks of Adventure Camp running through July 10, plus a 420 camp and an O'pen Skiff camp, taught by **14 US Sailing-trained instructors**, many of them the club's own junior sailors and high school racers. Behind the scenes it took roughly **734 volunteer**

hours to make it all run, from boat cleanup in May to Friday lunches to Sunfish repairs between sessions.

"This year's Sail Camp was filled with overwhelming and unconditional support," says sail camp coordinator **Jaclyn Braun**, "and I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who stepped up to help out."

The thanks go wide. Camp leads and instructors: Josh Putnam, Daniel Fodera, Jaclyn Braun, Tim Sparks, Gibby Schultz, and Kim Bagnoni, with assistants Grant Dietert, Alan Wimmer, Graeme Slater, Oliver Putnam, Henry Sparks, Jackson McMullen, Joe McMullen, and Hailey Bagnoni. Camp volunteers: Justin Richards, Beau Samuelson, Millie Smalley, Addie Slater, Caroline Henry, Justin Annis, Pedro Iglesias, Lainey Putnam, Reagan Wyatt, and Chris Norman. Big Boat Fridays: Elise Annis, Doug Sides, Doug Reiman, Bryan Edwards, Karl Bauer, John Corbin, Jim Claffey, Emma Slater, and Jeff Hart. Boat repairs and launching: Jack Gimble, Daryl Shade, Jim Flynn, and Grant Dietert. Friday lunches: Hollie Hart, David and Sharon Beltran, and Ellen Smalley. Administrative support: Pattie Booker, Chris Norman, Diane Gaines, Don Brigdon, Beth Brigdon, Kim Bagnoni, and Daniel Fodera.



Morning briefing on the beach: campers gather at East Point before heading out. Photo: Ellen Smalley



The fleet spreads out across Clarks Hill on a camp afternoon, 85 campers came through the club's youth sail camps this summer. Photo: Ellen Smalley

Spirit of America: A Week on the Water

In July, Augusta Community Sailing again teamed up with the Spirit of America Foundation and the Augusta Sailing Club to host a youth boating education program for kids ages 11 to 15. Over four days on Clarks Hill (July 14 to 17), **fifteen students** split their time between classroom sessions and hands-on instruction on the water: handling sailboats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, power boats, and a jet ski, practicing capsize recovery and drowning prevention, and working through the Georgia DNR Safe Boating Course, with Friday's big-boat morning, members taking

kids out on their own boats, rounding out the week as it does all camp season.

By week's end, all fifteen students had earned their Georgia Safe Boating Certificates, a credential that stays with them well beyond one summer. Just as valuable were the things no certificate records: confidence, teamwork, and a real respect for the water.

None of it happens without the people who make each day run: **Kim Bagnoni** with ten volunteer instructors, five teen volunteers, eight more prepping equipment and gathering lunches, and four big-boat sailing volunteers, more than **300 volunteer hours** in a single week. To everyone who gave their time on and off the water, thank you.

Spirit of America is a program of Augusta Community Sailing, the club's community outreach arm. To learn more or support it, follow the ACS Facebook page or visit augustacommunitysailing.org.



Students take to Clarks Hill by canoe and paddleboard during Spirit of America week. Photo courtesy Kim Bagnoni.



Spirit of America volunteers (L-R): Jaime Putnam, Dan Bagnoni, Kim Bagnoni, Jeff Hart, Eli Putnam, and Daniel Fodera. Photo courtesy Kim Bagnoni.

Youth Fun Sail

On July 1, the **ACS Youth Advisory Board** and ASC co-hosted a Youth Fun Sail, and **18 kids** came out for an evening on the water, many of them friends of members who had never sailed before. The juniors did the teaching and leading themselves, getting new sailors rigged, out, and back safely, with dinner to follow. If you saw colorful sails off the beach that Wednesday, that was the next generation running the

show.



Young sailors pose with friends for the July 1 Youth Fun Sail, hosted by the ACS Youth Advisory Board and ASC. Eighteen kids came out, many sailing for the first time. Photo: Ellen Smalley.

AROUND THE CLUB

New Clubhouse Windows

If the clubhouse looks brighter, it is: new windows have been installed, the latest in a season of facility improvements.

Alligator Spotted Near A Dock

On June 14, an alligator was spotted cruising the cove next to A Dock. Swimmers, use caution and keep an eye out, especially near the coves, and give any wildlife a wide berth.

Fourth of July: The Moultrie Memorial Cookout

Members gathered at the clubhouse on July 4 for the Bennie and Marie Moultrie Memorial Cookout, with BBQ lunch and desserts and sides from around the club: an exceptional day marking America's 250th birthday. Thank you to event chair **Darrell Bragg** and the volunteers who made it happen.

Wednesday Night FUN Sailing

Wednesday nights are dedicated to FUN sailing: no scores, no protests, just boats on the water, with dinner afterwards. Scheduled weekly through July, and possibly beyond if interest and volunteers hold. Watch the club calendar.



Donna Norman out for a Wednesday evening sail. Photo: Chris Norman.

Thursday Evening Racing

For the first time, ASC is running a Thursday Evening Racing Series, which kicked off June 11 and runs three to five races per evening on a three-minute start sequence.

Next race: July 30, with the series possibly extending if interest and volunteers hold.

Questions, or want to get on the water? Contact Chris Norman.

From the Harbormaster: RigReport

One of the biggest changes around the club this year is quietly digital. Before heading out on a club boat, members can now look up its condition and report a problem on the spot with a photo, all through a system called RigReport, which

*tracks more than 70 boats across ASC, ACS, and Spirit of America. This year it also became the tool the harbor and yard run on. Harbormaster **Dan Staples** explains.*

As the new Harbormaster, I took on a long list of responsibilities, and it was clear early on that good software would be essential to managing them well. I researched a number of marina software solutions, and most offered far more than a club our size needs, at prices to match.

Then, at a board meeting, **Millie Smalley** introduced RigReport, and it caught our attention. It started as a sailing club "rig" tracking tool, but it has grown into a full marina and vessel management system. I've talked with the Smalleys about where it's headed, and they're excited about what's coming, including accounting and billing down the road.

For now, RigReport gives the Harbormaster and Yardmaster one place to manage slips, moorings, and dry storage: tracking assignments, members' insurance certificates, waitlists, and more, and generating reports or emailing members directly through the system when needed. Looking ahead, it will save time, sharpen our record-keeping, and improve how we communicate around the harbor.

The Smalleys, as members of this club, have generously made RigReport available to us at no cost.

To request a slip or dry storage space, submit a request on the club website under Directories (Dry Storage / Slips / Moorings). To learn more about RigReport, ask Dan, Joe, or Daniel Fodera, or visit RigReportASC.com.

Alibi Alley Jam Session and Potluck

Tune up! The clubhouse jam sessions continue, Sundays from 4 to 8 pm, with a true bring-your-own meal at 6. The group plays a wide variety of music using an electronic cueing system that makes it easy to play or sing along, whatever your level. Next sessions: August 9 and August 23. Questions: Johnnie Poole.

REMEMBERING FRIENDS

Dick Dermody

Our club lost a cherished member this winter. **Richard "Dick" Dermody's** passion for sailing, adventurous spirit, and generous heart touched everyone who knew him.

Whether racing on the water, lending a hand around the club, mentoring fellow sailors, or sharing stories with friends, Dick embodied the camaraderie and sportsmanship that define our sailing community.

Dick grew up in Newport, Rhode Island, racing sailboats and winning trophies from the time he was a boy. Sailing taught him discipline, fairness, resilience, and adventure, and he carried all four for the rest of his life. And what a life: he and his wife Candice taught English in Afghanistan with the Peace Corps, hiked to Everest Base Camp, and were evacuated from Iran during the 1979 revolution, then kept traveling for five more months before coming home. They settled in Augusta 36 years ago, and Dick found this club, his second home for the next 35 years. Especially after retiring in 2017, he spent nearly every day here: working on boats, helping people, racing, and telling stories. He knew every rule and respected them completely. Competitive, yes. But fair.

The club gathered on June 13 for a memorial honoring Dick. Candice has generously donated a memorial bench in his honor, to be placed near the top of the F dock ramp behind the clubhouse. When you pass it, take a seat and enjoy the view. That's what it's there for.

With thanks to Dick's daughter Lauren, whose eulogy for her father we've drawn from.

Jim Morris

The club also lost a familiar face this June. **Dewey James "Jim" Morris**, 75, of Martinez, passed away on June 10. For years Jim ran Jim's Paint Service, painting and restoring sailboats at the Augusta Sailing Club, and generations of hulls on this lake looked better for his hands. Sailing led the long list of things he loved, and members will remember him in the boat yard, where he was always ready to talk with a friend. He was known for his winning smile, his love for his boys, and his steadfast faith. Our condolences to his family and to all who knew him around the yard.

Joe Waters

The wider sailing community lost a giant this spring. **Joe Waters** of WatersSails, the Lexington, South Carolina sailmaker whose sails have flown on ASC boats for decades, passed away May 15 at 71. Joe sailed from age seven, raced for the Citadel, coached the 1996 Russian Olympic team to a silver medal, and shared his knowledge of sailing as freely as anyone in the sport. If you race on this lake, there's a good chance some of his work has pulled you around a mark. A celebration of his life is being planned for later this summer or early fall, with details to come via Facebook

and email.

WELCOME ABOARD

The club keeps growing. Please introduce yourself to our newest members when you see them at the lake.

New Active Members

(completed their two-year review; congratulations!)

Lawson Bost · Jamie Koelker

Jack Dugan · Mike Sexton

Emily Kelm · Craig Claffey

Laurent Beckers · Luke & Makenzi Josey

Joe & Stephanie House

James Penland · Tim & Christie Schmitt

New Associate Members

Bryan & Tammy Edwards

David & Mary Young

Ken & Kelly Kight

Aaron & Brenda Ramsey

Samuel & Lorianne Johnson

Welcome Back

Earle & Jeannie Robinson, returning members from 2011 to 2022, rejoined as Active Members in March. Glad to have you back on the water.

A Special Welcome

Michael & Amie Bourgeois joined in July as Active Duty Temporary Members. Thank you for your service, and welcome to the club.

LEND A HAND

This club runs on volunteers, and right now we have more sailing than we have hands. Visit the Volunteer tab on the [club website](#) to see current opportunities, or reach out to the contacts below.

Race Committee. Training sessions run July 25-26, August 22-23, and September 19-20, 1-4 pm at the clubhouse: classroom and hands-on on-the-water instruction, geared toward Halloween Regatta volunteers but open to anyone interested. New members are especially encouraged. Register on the club website's Volunteer tab, or call or text Vice Commodore Chris Norman at 973-975-7476 with questions.

Fall PHRF Series Chair. The Fall PHRF Series (beginning October 24) needs a volunteer chair or co-chairs. If you've been looking for a way to get more involved in club racing, this is a great one. Call or text Vice Commodore Chris Norman at 973-975-7476 for details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

July 25-26 — Race Committee Training, 1-4 pm, Clubhouse (contact: Chris Norman)

AUGUST

Aug 1-2 — Jr SAYRA #6, CYC1853 SAYRA Invitational (Junior Grand Prix Series; salt water regatta)

Aug 1-2 — Adult Sailing Class

Aug 2 — **2nd Quarter Financial Town Hall Meeting**, 1 pm, clubhouse — all members encouraged to attend

Aug 9 — Alibi Alley Jam Session and Potluck Dinner, 4-8 pm, clubhouse (contact: Johnnie Poole)

Aug 10 — **ASC Board Meeting**

Aug 22-23 — Race Committee Training, 1-4 pm, Clubhouse (contact: Chris Norman)

Aug 23 — Alibi Alley Jam Session and Potluck Dinner

SEPTEMBER

Sept 5-6 — Labor Day Regatta and Pig Roast (chairs: Mike Konesky and Jim Claffey)

Sept 19-20 — Race Committee Training, 1-4 pm, Clubhouse.

OCTOBER

Oct 9-10 — Halloween Regatta (chair: Chris Norman)

Oct 19 — Fall PHRF Regatta (chair: Chris Norman)

Oct 24 — Fall PHRF Series begins (chair: Doug Sides)

Oct 24 — Oktoberfest (chairs: Dan Bagnoni, Joe McMullen, and Steve "Stitch" Perun)

Oct 25 — Pursuit Race

Club calendar & sign-ups: www.augustasailingclub.org

\$WAP AND \$ELL (Recently Listed!)

A Tack tradition returns. In its heyday this section ran two full pages of boats and gear, each with a price and a member to call. Have a boat, trailer, or gear looking for a new home? Send your listing to the editor for next issue.

1981 Catalina 22, swing keel — **\$6,500.** 5hp two-stroke outboard, trailer with mast step. Slip lease available with the boat (transfer subject to club approval). Contact Brandon Rose, 404-538-7418 or brandonrose@bellsouth.net.



1985 Catalina Capri 22, fin keel — **\$3,500.** Trailer included. Brand new Waters Sails racing main, two-year-old 150 genoa, all interior and exterior cushions, complete bottom paint three years ago, mast re-wired for anchor and running lights. Currently at F Dock 15. Slip lease (large) available with the boat, transfer subject to club approval. Contact Jim Richey, 706-825-2487.



Your Flag Officers:

Commodore Pattie Booker · Vice Commodore Chris Norman · Rear Commodore Mark Yarbrough · Treasurer Don Brigdon · Secretary Doug Reiman · Past Commodore Bob Damen

The full list of officers, committee chairs, and event chairs is in the Members section of the club website.

The Starboard Tack is the newsletter of the Augusta Sailing Club, published since the club's early decades and revived in 2026. Each issue is delivered by email through ClubExpress and archived on the club website in the Starboard Tack forum. Story ideas, photos, corrections, and \$wap and \$ell listings: starboardtack@augustasailingclub.org



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