



IN THE BREEZE

May/June Issue 2006

Bob and Pam's Excellent Adventure

Co-starring Terry, Rebecca and Andrew

Vacation in Paradise

In March Andrew, Terry, Rebecca, Pam and I went to Cabarette in the Dominican Republic for a week. We booked our trip through Vela and they did a great job, all the arrangements they made came off just as they said they would. There was a taxi waiting for us at the airport that took us to our hotel, the check in for equipment rental at Vela was easy. Our hotel was about a quarter mile down the beach from Vela.

The Vela rental center has Starboard and JP boards, and Neil Pryde Sails. They have a bar and restaurant where you can run a tab for the whole week. It sure is nice not to have to rig gear, just tell the Vela people what equipment you want and they get it for you. The Velero resort

where we stayed has all the modern conveniences including web access, safes in the room, AC, a restaurant and all the employees were very helpful.

Cabarette is in a shallow bay on the north coast of the Dominican Republic with a reef on the outside edge of the bay. Inside the reef the water is relatively flat and for the adventurous, there are waves on the reef. The wind varied while we were there, we had a couple of light days, a couple of good days and one day with mast high waves on the reef. It's a good place to introduce yourself to wave sailing and I got over some fears I had about sailing in the ocean. I rode boards from 180 to 93 ltrs and sails from 5.5 to 8.0 meters.

There are good restaurants on the beach, prices vary a lot

so it pays to look at the menus posted outside the restaurants.

I recommend buying insurance on the gear you rent, it has a \$100.00 deductible if you break your gear, Andrew had the misfortune of breaking a mast the first day. Also, if the wind doesn't cooperate every day you could save some money on gear rental if you rent for 3 or 4 days when you book the trip, and if it's windy, rent by the day for the rest of your visit.

If your thinking of taking a windsurfing vacation, take a good look at Cabarette.

Bob

Editor's Note -
Yes, yes, yes. Been there twice. Definitely want to go back!!

"GET ACTIVE IN YOUR CLUB TODAY" SPRING 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 13th-14th
Texas State Champs
And Festival
McCown Valley Park
Lake Whitney

May 22nd
Club meeting
Mariner Sails - 7:00pm

May 31st
Youth Windsurfing
Every Wednesday
6-8pm Windsurf Bay Park
Lake Ray Hubbard

June 3rd
Intro to Windsurfing
LTWS Location TBA

June 17th
Solstice Dinner Party
LTWS Practice Day and
June Club Meeting

Swap Meet
Sometime at the end of June
or
The beginning of July

Club Website
<http://www.ntwr.org>

Texas State Champs and Windsurfing Festival

May 12,13&14

To reserve a private
campsite call

877-444-6777

or go to

www.reserveusa.com

Camping

Dinner

Racing

Lessons

Kid's Camp

FUN!

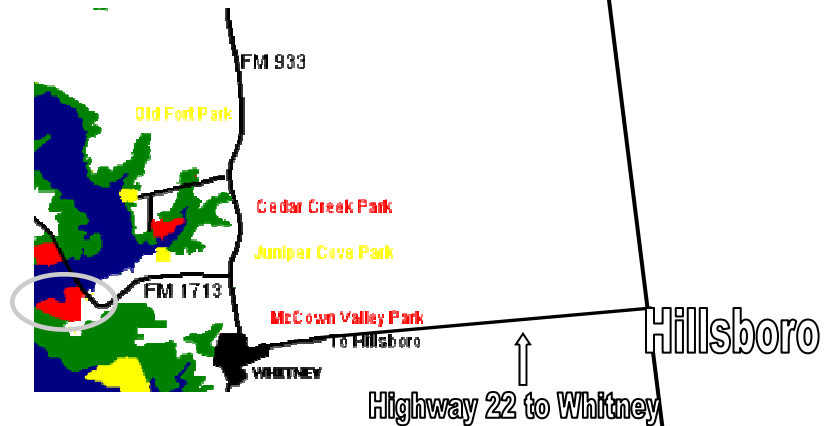
Pre-register
and Save \$\$

Basic Directions to McCown Valley Park Lake Whitney



Dallas

Go South on I-35 to Hillsboro.
Take Highway 22 West to Whitney.
Take a right on FM 933 and follow the
signs as this road takes a few turns as
it goes through town to FM 1713
Take a left on FM 1713 and follow it
to McCown Valley Park.



Go to www.ntwr.org

or Call

972-241-1498

for

Details

Texas State Championships & Windsurfing Festival - May 13th - 14th 2006

Participant has Read the Following and Agrees that

Boardsailing and Boardsailing Racing involves some risk. The participant acknowledges this risk and agrees to hold harmless Mariner Sails, Inc. and it's employees, The North Texas Wind Riders windsurfing club along with it's officers and members, McCown Valley Park of Lake Whitney, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their employees and any volunteer or sponsor from any and all losses, damages, injuries and claims arising from any demonstration, instruction, race or spectator participation, and/or equipment or facility use by the participant. The participant certifies that he/she is a capable swimmer and takes full responsibility for any inconvenience, damages, injury or accident that may result from participation in the Texas State Championships Regatta, Dinner, Camping, Festival activities and Party.

Signature _____ Date _____
 (Please - One waiver per clinic participant or racer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sail #: _____

Age _____ Weight _____ Sex _____

Are you a 2006 Member of NTWR:
 YES _____ NO _____

Select the fleet you are going to sail in below:

NOTE: Fleets subject to change depending on number of participants.

Formula Men	
Formula Women/Girls	
Formula Junior Men	
Open Class	
7.5 Limited	
Fun Fleet	

Description	Qty.	Non-NTWR Member	NTWR Member (Less 10%)	Totals
Pre-Registration RACER / CLINIC PKG: postmarked on or before May 1 (includes racing, giveaways, dinner and a t-shirt. Only pre-registered entrants will be guaranteed a t-shirt)		\$40.00	\$36.00	
RACER / CLINIC PKG: postmarked after May 1 (includes racing, giveaways, dinner and a t-shirt. Only pre-registered entrants will be guaranteed a t-shirt)		\$50.00	\$45.00	
2005 NTWR Annual Membership: (\$25 single, \$30 family)		\$25/\$30		
T-SHIRT/DINNER/PARTY:		\$25.00	\$22.50	
DINNER/PARTY ONLY:		\$15.00	\$13.50	
EXTRA T-SHIRT:		\$15.00	\$13.50	
CAMPING: The club has reserved 7 campsites (for Fri. and Sat. night) that accommodate 3 vehicles per site. These campsites will be available on a first come first served basis. \$10.00 per vehicle.		\$10.00	\$9.00	
Total Enclosed (Make checks payable to 'NTWR')				

T-SHIRTS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Please enter the number of t-shirts/size needed -->>					

(Please print and fill out completely)

Send to: NTWR c/o Mariner Sails, 10903 Indian Trail #100 Dallas, TX
 75229 (972) 241-1498

Please make checks payable to "NTWR"
 (must be postmarked by **May 1, 2006** to qualify for pre-registration fee)

Shameless Editor's Note

As most of you know, Mariner Sails is your "local" windsurfing dealer. I have personally been involved in the Windsurfing Industry since 1980. A lot of things have changed over the years and a lot of folks have come and gone from the sport. One thing has remained constant, for some unexplainable reason—windsurfing keeps attracting some of the nicest folks I've been fortunate enough to work and play with.

This past year Mariner sponsored a Youth Windsurfing Program that was successful by all standards of measure. This success can be traced directly to the parents and young windsurfers who participated in the program. The Texas State Championships and Windsurfing Festival has grown to become one of the largest recreational windsurfing events in the nation. Without a doubt this success is a direct result of volunteer participation and the marvelous camaraderie of the participants. Mariner Sails is proud to be a part of the success of our local sailing community.

I am involved in the Windsurfing Industry by choice. To stay in this industry you have to have the ability to defy (or ignore) logic and rational thought. Certainly my lifelong love of sailing weighs heavily in my decision, but as in everything in life, other factors come into play. I won't bore you with the sorted details but will cut to the chase by saying that YOU (and the support of my family) are the reason that I have not succumbed to accepted economic fact and have been able to remind myself that happiness is a state of mind and in itself has more than enough value to make the difference.

Last year, thanks to our Youth Sailing Program, I sailed more than I have in almost 20 years. I'm a little embarrassed to admit this because, as I'm sure the young sailors will tell you, that wasn't a lot. Still, it was a step in the right direction. Every time I have the opportunity to get out on a board or a cat I'm reminded how much I love to sail. Rusty as I may be, there's nothing else like it.

But alas, a living must be made and therefore opportunities to sail are limited. I've finally realized that I get a sort of vicarious "sailing rush" at Mariner Sails. Don't get me wrong, it's not as good as sailing, it's a compromise. But nonetheless, I like to talk to you about sailing and I love the opportunity to earn your business. I realize that I'm not going to get to sell every piece of windsurfing gear that's used in Dallas but I do believe that there is value in doing business with someone vested in your local sailing community.

Mariner Sails stocks windsurfing gear. Touch and feel kind of stock! Buy a sail, we'll show you how to rig it. Try on a Harness? Sure. Sponsor a special event? Sure. Want something shipped to your door? Sure. Want to shop online? SURE! Goto www.mariner-sails.com.

Bottom line.....

Aris Tsamis may WANT to earn your business but Mariner Sails NEEDS to earn your business. As we have worked together to help local windsurfing thrive while other areas suffer, please let me know if I can be of any assistance in getting you on the water more than me!

Shamelessly yours Aris Tsamis

Mariner Sails Youth Windsurfing Program Starts May 31st

Mariner Sails will be hosting and sponsoring their Youth Windsurfing Program again for 2006. Last year's inaugural effort was a huge success mainly due to the efforts of volunteers, parents and of course our youth sailors. Starting shortly after the close of school in summer, Mariner will provide instruction, gear and sailing opportunities for children from our windsurfing community. This is a limited enrollment program. The program is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday evenings from 6pm till 8pm at Windsurf Bay Park. Please notify Aris at Mariner if you have a child who is interested in participating. He'll (oops, I'll) be happy to provide you with more information. This is not a "Drop off" program. A parent for each child must be present during the program ensuring we have a volunteer for every Youth Sailor.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO WIND-SURFING?

Ken Merten

Since its peak in the late 80's, windsurfing has been on a steady decline, at least in the US and Texas. There are many contributing factors, and a lot of theories. There are plenty of indicators that suggest that the number of windsurfers, as well as the interest level in the sport are declining. Some of them include:

1. A significant decline in the number of retail shops.
2. A significant decline in the number of windsurfers at the various Dallas and Texas sailing sites on a windy weekend.
3. The increase in the number of kites, although pretty small locally.
4. The drop in the number of area regattas.
5. The significant decline in the number of Texas racers (In the early days of the US Open in Corpus Christi, they had to cut off the entries at 200, last year there were 27, and there was only one sailor entered from Corpus).

It's sad to see the decline for such a wonderful life sport. I believe that one of the contributing elements in the decline is the demise of the local retail shop. Of course, if there were plenty of windsurfers buying equipment, we would see several shops still in operation. It's the "chicken or the egg first" dilemma. At the beginning of the decline, mail order companies began to surface and the distributors provided them with deep discounts because of their volume sales potential, which undercut the retail shops. Now with mail order plus Internet sales, it's possible to find what appear to be some pretty good deals. While you may be able to save a little money by mail order, the real cost may be the ultimate demise of

the retail windsurfing shops.

The problem is, that you may never again be able to feel and touch a new board, boom or sail before you buy. And if something is shipped damaged, or if you need warranty service, you will probably not like your options with mail order. If you have any questions about windsurfing equipment or about the sport in general, who do you ask?

This isn't necessarily a hindrance for many of us that are pretty familiar with the sport and the equipment that is available, but it is a huge problem for the beginner or for those checking out the possibility of becoming involved in the sport.

If all the shops are gone, and a friend wants to learn to windsurf, then lessons, instructional equipment and demo gear will no longer be available. Of course, an entrepreneur may get into the lesson business and buy a trailer load of gear, but that is not likely given the existing market.

Today, it looks like there are three retail shops left in Texas - Mariner, Cline Street in Corpus and Windsurf / Kiteboard Inc. in South Padre. Windsurfing Sports in Houston just closed. At one time, there were 4 or 5 shops in the Dallas area. Imagine shopping for furniture, electronics, cars, boats, bikes, etc., and not having a retail shop to visit. While we all buy on the Internet, I usually check out the item in shop before ordering. Yes, I, too look for good deals, but retail windsurfing is on shaky ground, while the retailers for furniture, electronics, etc. are doing pretty well.

Some of you may say that because of my relationship with Mariner, I am biased. OK, fair enough, but I would be the first to support another retail windsurfing outlet in Dallas if it would help promote and

grow the sport. I was really sorry to see Windsurfing Sports in Houston (Seabrook) close, and I know that the windsurfing and kiting community in Houston are equally unhappy.

Trust me, it will be really difficult to grow the sport without a shop in town. Houston is a little bit luckier because they have Cliff Tudor, who works part time for Bic Sport and has a trailer load of demo gear which a few lucky folks get to try. He along with a few others in Houston, are certified instructors, so our friends to the south aren't completely without hope. However, Cliff isn't selling, he is just promoting. People in Houston that want to buy, must now go to the Internet or mail order.

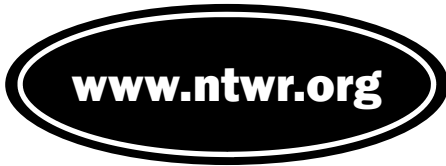
The good news is the with the new "wide style" boards and the much improved rigs, beginners can learn much easier than we did years ago. It is simply a matter of enticing people to try the sport and to help them discover how exciting it can be. We all benefit when the sport grows. More manufacturers, better designs, better equipment, better selection, competitive pricing and so on.

What can you do? It's clear - support your local shop. If you find a better deal on line, measure its benefits or lack there of, before you buy. If you run into anyone new or interested in the sport, be helpful and offer a hand whenever possible. Demonstrate to the newcomers, that windsurfers are some of the friendliest, most helpful and honest people around.

Editor's Note—

There is a 4th Windsurfing Shop in Texas. Worldwinds at Bird Island in Corpus.

NORTH TEXAS WINDRIDERS
c/o Mariner Sails
10903 INDIAN TRAIL NO 100
DALLAS, TX 75229



Last Chance for Texas State Pre- Reg
MAY 1ST

YES I AM INTERESTED!!

in joining the North Texas Wind Riders

\$25.00 Individual Membership Enclosed \$30.00 Family Membership Enclosed

Racing is important

Social Events are important

Clinics are important

Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please Send replies to:

North Texas Wind Riders
c/o Mariner Sails
10903 Indian Trail
Suite 100
Dallas, TX 75229
for more info call
(972) 241-1498

How would you like to be reminded about upcoming events?

work phone home phone e-mail

Please e-mail my newsletter Please mail my newsletter

Please include my Information in the Club Roster

Thanks!