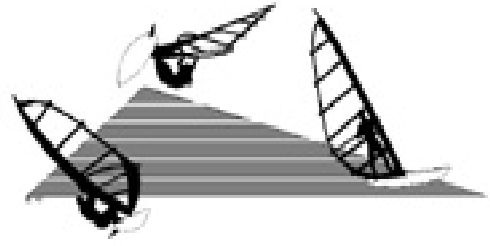


# MindJibe



Newsletter of the Triangle Boardsailing Club, Vol. 25, No. 4 July 2007

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Movie Night!

Satisfaction, Brightleaf Square, Durham: Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 6.30 p.m.

The private dining room has a 42" TV in there and a VHD player. Need to bring our own DVD player (thanks Randy!). Bring any DVDs that you would like to show or watch. <http://www.historicbrightleaf.com/dine/satisfaction/index.html>

**Swap 'n Sell.** August 17<sup>th</sup>. TBC swap meet 5-8 p.m. in Cary at the home of Howard Adriance (a.k.a. senior\_surfer).

Directions to 204 Tattenhall Drive. From North: Killdare Farm Rd., Cary south to Penny Rd., turn right. About 1 mile to Danbury development entrance (third left from Killdare) and Tattenhall Dr. on left. 204 Tattenhall Dr. is 4th house on right. From South: Killdare Farm Rd. north to Penny Rd., turn left, follow above directions. From East: Penny Rd. to across Killdare Farm Rd. as above. From West: TenTen Rd. from Apex to left on Penny Rd. (new, tricky intersection) to first right; Tattenhall Dr. as above.

**Fall Club Trip.** If you are interested in going on the club trip in late October, contact John Rutledge, 489-7863 or by email. It probably will be in Avon. I'll be looking for a house right on the water, not far from the shops and the grocery store. I would also consider Buxton or Frisco, if anyone has interest in those areas. As soon as several people have expressed interest and 67% commitment, I'll book a cottage.

### Informal Program for Teaching Beginners, by Randy Dunn

We've started a program for beginners where we try to get club members to take beginners out to local lakes whenever it's convenient for both the beginners and the experienced club members. The goal is to get people to the point where they feel comfortable taking out the club gear by themselves. So we try to cover the basics of windsurfing, how to rig the gear, and how to transport it. It usually takes a couple of sessions before an absolute beginner reaches this point.

So far, we've taught Margaret Seaman, Trevor Orend, Barbara Wedel, Tugrul and Kagan Sanli. The teachers have been Paul Scrutton and I; Erik Staub and Bill Bradstreet have just offered to help out. We could use some more teachers, as I've had several more people contact me about learning.

I've been taking beginners out to Rolling View on Falls Lake. There seems to be much less boat traffic on the weekends there than at Jordan. Also, if the wind is from the East or Northeast, the beach at the tip of the peninsula works great for beginners - you can stand a long way out, if they get into trouble, they just

get blown a little down the shore and can walk back. Our last lesson we had 4 students sharing 2 boards. I just walked around in the water helping them when they were near shore, while Paul in his kayak helped them when they were further out. Lake Crabtree would also be a good place for beginners - no motor boats there. And Jordan Lake would be a good place for after-work lessons.

We've been using the club's beginner gear, and I sometimes rig up some of my own smaller sails for them to use. A Formula board and a small to mid-sized sail would also work for beginners. Matthew Prior, who lives very close to Rolling View, has most of the club gear including the Hi-Fly beginner board and the rigs. Dana Thalheimer has the club Start, which is now semi-retired - due to issues with repairs. We're only letting experienced club members take it out when teaching beginners, and they need at least 2 people to carry the board.

If you want to help out contact me ([randy@triangleboardsailing.com](mailto:randy@triangleboardsailing.com) phone 522-3895) All you will need to do is decide with your student on a time and place, then pick up the club gear (or use your own) and go out to a local lake for a few hours. Then teach them the basics - how to uphaul, sail in a straight line, tack, steer the board using the sail. And how to rig the gear.

If you're a beginner who wants to learn you can also contact me.

### **Sailing the Hudson: Launching Elsewhere**

By Howard Adriance (a.k.a. senior\_surfer)

“You know, I never saw that muthah.” “What, something that big and you didn’t see it?”

This conversation followed a near miss between a windsurfer and a container ship plying the commercial channel of New York’s Hudson River.

My windsurfing experience on the Hudson River takes me back to circa 1981 when ten local ski club members decided, as a group, to buy into windsurfing. Seems an itinerant salesman appeared on the scene with a discount deal on Bic DuFour boards if they all bought. Personally, I think he saw a chance to unload. Anyway, this was the beginning. The ski club met every Thursday; that that evolved into meeting at the launch site before the meeting, sailing, and then having the meeting.

So, this article is simply an attempt to acquaint you with the nuances of sailing a scene that may be different from your past experiences and may point up what we all call local conditions.

The Hudson is technically not a river but a tidal estuary. Four times a day, tides ebb and flow 135 miles inland to the first dam! The tide levels and flow rate diminish as a function of miles inland from New York City; but even 90 miles inland, where a lot of windsurfing is done, the tide change is almost 4 feet. There are three main conditions that a windsurfer must be aware of when launching onto the river. They are tide, wind direction, current. Others are rocks, fish nets, etc. More later. You are launching on to a dynamic, ever changing body of water and the Hudson River is BIG! Condition number one is that when you launch, you sail as a function of tide direction. You want to sail a direction opposite of tide flow or into the tide. This way, you will get home if the wind dies. How? Because if the wind dies, the tide takes over and you will literally “go with the flow”, north or south depending on incoming or outgoing tide. Condition two is wind direction. Ideal is these first two conditions to be in opposition, north going tide and north wind. Doesn’t sound like opposite, does it? But it is. With these conditions, the theory is that these two cancel each other out. Now you can beam reach east and west across the 1-2 mile river width. But hey, this is only one wind direction and these textbook conditions rarely occur.

Principle three is river current. Does the river simply flow to the ocean (south)? Not always. It can flow north too! The hydrology is very complicated but suffice it to say, current is a function of depth, bottom geology, shore line (bays, peninsulas etc.), water temperature (thermoclines), and tide.

Now things are getting complicated. When you launch, to be reasonably comfortable out there, you need to know 1) tide change times and direction, 2) wind direction and strength, and 3) the forecast. The current is hard to read because of tide action overwhelming it. But when tide and current are going in the same direction, they are in the 2-4 miles per hour range. Now you can see, with no wind, you get a free ride and hopefully, it is back to the launch site.

All of the above create a variety of wave conditions: huge rollers, cresting waves, reflective waves, confused chop, non-confused chop, flat water, mega boat wakes or more than one of these at the same time.

Ok, so now we have all our ducks lined up and time to get out there. After we get out there, we need to be aware of the commercial channel. That is, its location, because it is by no means in the middle of the river, and what traffic is in it... This channel is used by 95% of river traffic and goes the whole 135 miles previously mentioned. It is deep enough (courtesy of Army Corps of Engineers) for ocean going freighters, container ships, tugs and barges (like at the OR gorge, but s.....l....o....w.) It is also heavily used by recreational boaters. Think machismo, drunks, show offs, nautical morons, etc., etc. Be alert when crossing the channel whose width varies. In time, most windsurfers become channel experts and most simply beam reach across it and play elsewhere. However, there are those who play in it (big rollers). See opening sentence. Thankfully, no one has yet had a serious accident. But it is amazing how fast these larger ships appear. Loaded barges are low in the water, dark colored, and can be difficult to see in wave conditions.

Sailing season is March to early December for the hardiest. The rest of us can reduce that time span. The Hudson watershed is huge and springtime brings all kinds of debris into it. Big stuff like whole trees, chicken coop parts, car cushions, you name it. That's when the wind blows too. Large, slow moving, surface feeding fish like carp are a menace in springtime also. Kind of like hitting a piece of foam.

So, what is the draw, given all these conditions? It is, by far, the largest body of water in the area, there being nothing else but small lakes. There are many excellent fetches and you can sail any wind direction as a function of where you launch. There are multiple launch sites, some excellent, some good, some fair. A poor launch site can be mitigated by an excellent fetch.

And today, due to much work by local windsurfers, iWindsurf has included three Hudson River weather buoys in its data. The locals had to coordinate with multiple governmental agencies to get this done and they deserve much credit. You subscribers can bring them up and take a look. Go to NY-Hudson. As I sit here writing this in windless, central North Carolina, I see the wind is blowing 10-20 S at the Kingston Point buoy.

## **WINDSURFING GURU:**

**Kiter:** Say, old Guru, do you believe that windsurfing is an "extreme" sport?

**Guru:** "Old?" Surely you cannot be addressing me, sir? But as no one else is standing here, I may as well answer your question. Some forms of it are, as is true in many sports.

**Kiter:** I don't see anything that looks extreme to me, just you guys BAFing out here, and never getting any air time.

**Guru:** Well, you'd have to find the right conditions, wouldn't you?

**Kiter:** But even at its best, it's not extreme like airplane wing walking or skydiving now is it?

**Guru:** Some forms of it can be extreme. Watch the guys sailing Jaws or Hookipa. Challenging a 40-foot wave looks "extreme" to me. But it all hangs on how you define extreme. Extreme doesn't necessary have to be life-threatening. To me, extreme in windsurfing manifests itself in the fluid interaction of body, kit, and conditions. Watch some young kid in his 20s do loops in heavy wind and tell me that's not extreme! Maybe **corpus**, kit, and conditions for the sake of alliteration? But I digress.

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**Real Guru:** You old phony, if you ever had any spiritual training, you have forgotten or rejected it all. You and your ilk are enmeshed in a culture of material acquisition. Yet you should know that desire is infinite, desiring never stops. If your sport were sublime as you arrogantly claim, you would cease to desire and be content with old equipment, for example. But, no. I've overheard your students. They define themselves and their windsurfing career by what equipment they have owned or possessed. They'll say, "First I sailed a Ten Cate, then I had a Venta, then I bought Mistral." It was not they that possessed the equipment but the equipment that possessed them.

**Windsurfing Guru:** You're only looking at only one side of the apple. The person you consider a "gearhead" knows enough to help his buddies with technical questions. Hard-core windsurfers don't really care what gear you possess or whether it's the latest thing. It's your attitude that counts.

**Real Guru:** "Attitude?" Now there's a category that covers everything and defines nothing.

**W/s Guru:** You'll find, if you hang around windsurfers long enough, that they often possess all the spiritual values that you admire. They wouldn't still be in the sport if they didn't have them. You will find that windsurfers are not the consummate consumers you claim them to be; rather they share a "culture of commitment" and are dedicated to the sport. Sure, there are few novices who think that having the latest gear makes them cool, but dedicated windsurfers don't seek to be rewarded for how much money they spend on the sport.

## CLASSIC BOARDS, THOSE THAT SHALL NEVER BE FORGOT

By the TBC Chatboard

Which boards deserve to be considered classics of the genre? And what is a "classic" anyway? One definition that most could agree on was is that a classic board is 1) ahead of its time; 2) it was produced, and remained popular, for several years; and thirdly, it has stood the test of time and is still remembered fondly as a good board. Chatboarders nominated the following as classics:

### Longboards

**Windsurfer One Design:** Any "one design" board is almost classic by definition. Only its weight kept it from being faster than the Equipe I.

**Mistral Superlight:** You've seen it yourselves. When there's hardly a puff, there goes Livaudais on his Superlight around the furthest mark ahead of the pack.

**Fanatic Megacat:** Manufactured from 1989 until 1998. Designed specifically to beat the Equipe I and Equipe II downwind and in higher winds, the Ultra and later Mega Cats were the most successful boards of their era in the International Raceboard class. The jungle-themed graphics were visible from a long distance as they "stalked" their opponents after rounding the upwind mark.

**Dufour Wing:** Questions were raised about its stability, however, so do design flaws rule it out? This board seems to be a sentimental favorite. Editor is not sure it commands a spot in the pantheon of boards.

**Mistral Equipe I:** Manufactured from 1986 through 1993. It was the board to beat in the International Raceboard class. One of the earliest planing boards ever produced, designed around the sails of that era.

Observed planing in 8 mph wind with sails as small as 6.0. It still wins races today.

**F2 Sunset Slalom:** Manufactured from 1986 through 1996. The original design/outline was brought back into production with modern materials by F2 in 2006 as the F2 Sunset Limited. The first truly great slalom board, the Sunset Slalom was very popular on the NC coastal sounds in its era.

**Wayler One Design:** Not enough people were sailing then for this one to get any votes.

**Ten Cate Leaper:** Not enough people were sailing then for this one to get any votes.

### Shortboards

Bic Show

Bic Astro Rock

Bic Hard Rock

**Mistral Explosion I:** This board only got one nomination, but many of you will remember than Jonathan Phillips used it with a 9.5 (and won a lot of races) down to a 5.8.

**Mistral Screamer I:** This board received several nominations. It was probably one of the easiest jibing boards ever made. Just big enough o uphaul and reliably tack, but small enough to reliably slice through the chop. Mistral went on to make a series out of this board.

Windsurfer Rocket 103

### Wide Boards

**Starboard Go:** Only one board in the wide category; perhaps it's too early for them to be classics. Or maybe it's just harder to love a wide board?

And not a single board that would qualify as a high-wind or wave board.

*MindJibe* is the newsletter of the Triangle Boardsailing Club. It publishes five or six issues a year, if we're lucky. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: John Rutledge SENIOR CONSULTING EDITOR: Mark Kernodle CONTRIBUTORS: Howard Adriance, the Chatboard PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Bradstreet. Please send contributions to the editor at [jbr@email.unc.edu](mailto:jbr@email.unc.edu). The editor can be reached at 919-489-7863. TBC Homepage [www.triangleboardsailing.com](http://www.triangleboardsailing.com) WEBPAGE MANAGER: Roger Nightingale



**Bill and Alex on their Gemini tandem (a future classic?)**

# Triangle Boardsailing Club Membership Form

New Member: \_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve: ( )

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ as a member of the Triangle Boardsailing Club, do hereby acknowledge that it is impossible to eliminate all risks associated with the sport of boardsailing, and for myself, my executors, administrators, successors and assigns, waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages, whether they arise in tort, contract, equity or otherwise, which may accrue to me against the Triangle Boardsailing Club, its officers, directors, and members (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "TBC"), and which result from, originate and/or arise out of, directly or indirectly, my participation in TBC meetings or events, or use of TBC equipment. I do further indemnify and hold harmless the TBC against any and all liability or responsibility for any injury whatsoever, including but not limited to injury to my person or property, received, incurred, and/or arising out of, directly or indirectly, my participation in TBC events, or use of TBC equipment. My release is also given for the reproduction of any photographs taken of me or including me for use in media coverage. I understand that I am waiving rights, which may otherwise have been mine by law, and I do so of my own free will and consent.

The **Triangle Boardsailing Club** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving the sport of windsurfing. **TBC organizes:** public service activities; Club windsurfing trips to Hatteras; Club meetings and social evenings; free instructional clinics; parties; swap meets; races.

TBC owns and maintains the local Windtalker at Jordan Lake  
(387-5969).



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