

# MindJibe



**Newsletter of the Triangle Boardsailing Club, Vol. 25, No. 3 May 2007**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**NEXT CLUB RACE: FIRST WINDY DAY AT JORDAN BEGINNING JUNE 9TH 11:00AM. WATCH THE CHATBOARD FOR FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The fourth race of the TBC 2007 race season being held at Ebenezer Point on Jordan Lake is approaching. The Racing Committee (which you are welcome to join) has decided to have more quality (windy) races this year so we have opted for flexible scheduling. The June race is scheduled for the weekend of June 9th-10th; if a 12mph wind minimum is forecasted AND realized we will have a race. If not, the race will be the following weekend and so on until we have completed the fourth race. We will try to announce the race date and time by 8 p.m. on the Thursday before the weekend, but may have to change dates based on updated forecasts. Again, we're looking for 12mph plus racing conditions. Skippers meeting is scheduled for 11:00AM with racing to begin at 12:00 noon, but may be adjusted to accommodate a specific forecast. Watch the Chatboard, or call 380-1819 (Erik S.), or e-mail Erik at [elstaub@yahoo.com](mailto:elstaub@yahoo.com) if you would like personal notification. –Erik Staub

## Learn to Windsurf.

Instead of a single Learn to Windsurf Day, we're starting a program to get experienced windsurfers to teach beginners whenever it's convenient for them. This includes people who've never windsurfed before, or people who have taken a lesson but need help with sailing or rigging the gear. If you're interested in this, contact Randy Dunn at 919-522-3895 or send an email to [randy@triangleboardsailing.com](mailto:randy@triangleboardsailing.com)

## 2007 TBC Race Series Synopsis

(By Mark Kernodle and Charles Livaudais)

The first race in the TBC 2007 series was held on March 25 at Windmill Point. Although the cool air/water temps just met our 100 F rule, the exceptional NE 20-25 mph winds kept the excitement factor high and everyone stayed warm. Eight sailors competed; the largest sail on the water was a 6.0. Race director Charles Livaudais set a figure-8 race course, two laps per heat. Each heat was won by either Bill Bradstreet or Charles Livaudais, resulting in a tie for first place. Bill Bradstreet won the tiebreaker by winning the final heat. This was one of the most exciting races in TBC history!

The second race of our 2007 season was held at Jordan Lake on April 14. The wind was light, as was the attendance. It was a beautiful day, and the three participants raced for three heats on a triangular course laid out by race director Mark Kernodle. For the first time ever we used rabbit starts, a good solution for the lake. Bill Bradstreet dominated on his original stock Windsurfer and 9.8 sail. Gervasio Pineiro came in second on club gear, the HiFly 330RX and 7.5 sail.

For the third race on May 6, we had one of Wind Whiner's infamous "inverse skunks". Rather than drive to the Outer Banks and face unsailable conditions, and lacking the required special use permit for Jordan Lake, race director Johan van Die wisely decided to cancel the race. Many sailors instead congregated at Jordan Lake. All agreed it was one of the best days they'd ever experienced at Jordan. We did an informal 2-lap run around the 5-mile marker, which was won by a new arrival named Paul. Paul also emerged victorious in a race across the Lake and back.

Johan van Die may have kept score for the rest of us, but it is irrelevant—Paul was the man. Bill Bradstreet was the man for speed, recording a very impressive 34.3 mph. Bob Elmore hit 32.0 (who says older gear is slow?), Erik 31.5, Johan 31.3, Charles 30.9, and Randy 30.5. Not bad!

One interesting bit of gear info for anyone looking at sails: both the race winner and GPS speed victor were using Sailworks Huckers.

We invite all TBC members to come out for the club races. First-time racers especially welcome, the events are informal and instructive. To keep up with this season's flexible race schedule please stay tuned to the TBC Racing Forum and the TBC Race web site at [triangleboardsailing.com](http://triangleboardsailing.com). Our predicted wind minimums for Jordan Lake races is 10-15 mph, for the coastal races, 10-20 mph.

<http://tbc.bme.duke.edu/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?board=Racing>  
<http://triangleboardsailing.com/tbc/bulletin.html>

#### 2007 TBC Race Series Standings Through two races

Participant	Points
1. Bill Bradstreet	13
2. Charles Livaudais	7
3. Erik Staub	6
4. Bob Elmore	5
5. Dana Thalheimer	4
6. Randy Dunn	3
7. Mark Kernodle	3
8. Gervasio Pineiro	2
9. Miguel de la Mata	1



#### ERIC STAUB on the Hypersonic

The first U. S. feature on Starboard's Hypersonic appeared in the August 2002 issue of *Windsurfing*. They had not yet tested it, so they were cautious about its claims. But the board "is said to enable riders to keep the pedal to the metal without any loss of control." Jim Drake and the Starboard team "have made early claims it could revolutionize the sport." The magazine was amazed that the Hypersonic was only 227 cm. long and 76 cm. wide. After five years, we take another look at the Hypersonic. Erik Staub is the happy owner of a Hypersonic and agreed to write a wrap-up of the board. So, let's see if hype meets practice.

#### **The Straight and Skinny on the Round and Fat: The Starboard Hypersonic.**

By Erik Staub

Certainly no board has had more hype than the Hyper in recent years; and yet what was once fervor has fallen off into a mere murmur. Where has all the Hype Gone? It's still there, perhaps people, it's possible it has just found its proper proportion.

The Hyper is the lightest, shortest board I own. My Hyper is 105L, 227cm X 76cm. It's the only board I've ever bought new. It's the board that I have sailed with the widest sail range (5.2-10.1). And most peculiarly, it's the board I have sailed the least! So what gives? Why is this board not the best I've ever owned? Why don't I sail it the most? Simple. I have lots of boards!

The Hyper is the greatest of Great Compromises! It does little well, beyond doing everything OK. When I sailed the 5.2 I got bounced around and eventually ended up on a traditional 105L, 278cm X 59cm board. This offered a more reasonable ride through the chop in the open water at Harkers Island. I sailed a 10.1 at Lake Crabtree, mainly because I was nervous about getting stuck in deep water at Jordan on a light wind day when the winds are likely to fall to less than 10mph. These extremes in sail size for a single board seem to be limitations, but what other board can possibly cover that range?

The Hyper rides more like a Formula than a bump-n-jump. It will likely lose in a drag race in steady winds against a board optimized for the conditions at hand. The March club races showed that the board had no advantage over others in the strong and steady OBX winds. However, when the wind is up and down other boards are more likely to get overpowered or underpowered and fall off a plane. The width lets it glide with a 7.0 like no other 105L known to mankind. It is happy to do all the BAFing you want, and yet it holds in reserve the ability to go upwind and downwind like no other freeride you've ever ridden.

The bottom shape has DEEP double concaves. Did I mention the double concave? It's deep! Oh, and the double concaves are deep—you get the point. You can feel the 76cm width in the chop, but not nearly as bad as you might imagine due to the deep concaves. The other aspect of the unique and extreme bottom is a large central rail between the concaves; that in my estimation affords some lateral resistance. Now this is far into conjecture and Fantasy Land, but I believe this is why one can use such small fins. I used a 44cm with the 10.1, and internet advice suggests using the 34cm with an 8.0 or smaller. That allows some shallow water sailing, an important component to a useful OBX board. I have used a weed fin and it affected trim no worse than my other freerides. I hate weedfins.

I'd say that the Hyper offers an interesting "One Design" option for racing circuits. Different weight sailors can choose the 105, 111, or 133; and they can use 2 or 3 sails from 6 to 11. These would be planning races in 10-20 knots with and upwind-downwind component. I guess this will never happen, but it would be an interesting compromise between formula and slalom.....wait a minute, that is exactly what the Hyper is all about; it is a compromise between the two! Some day when the pendulum is out of kinetic energy and is done swinging, I think the

Racing format will find a happy medium that needs a board like the Hyper. The shape will be more refined by then, but more importantly, the time will have to be right.

I still own my Hyper because it's worth so little, \$450 with a bag on a good day. When in a travel situation with limited space, the board helps simplify. Despite the amazing claimed range,

I'd say the practical range is more like 6-8, with a stretch to the 5.5-8.5 range. This one board and 3-4 rigs do cover quite a range.

In summary, for a given wind range you can find a better board, and as long as you're willing to own multiple boards. If you want to get to know one board well, across a wide wind range, it's hard to beat a Hypersonic. Hit me up for a ride anytime I'm at the lake.

*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: Bill Bradstreet, Erik Staub, Charles Livaudais, Mark Kernodle, John Rutledge, Sam Zamani PHOTOGRAPHER: Bill Bradstreet, Ernie McGrew. 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

## What It's Like to go to an ABK Camp

By Sam Zamani

This was my second ABK camp. These things are great! If you have never been to one of the camps before you should really think about giving it a try.

The camp I went to was only three days but there are week-long camps as well. There are plenty of cheap-o inns and motels to stay at around the Rodanthe, NC Outer Banks area, but you can also rent out a house on the sound if you're bringing some family and want to make a trip out of it. The two times of year that they hold the camps in OBX are in April and October. The winds are usually pretty good but it can get pretty cold at times. This last trip the winds were up in the 30 mph range for sure and the air temperature reached a high of 55 degrees during the day. A wetsuit (preferably a 4/3 mm) was required.

The clinic is a great social event—there's nothing like hanging out with other windsurfers who are just as eager to learn new stuff and having nothing else to do all day from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm but to windsurf. This year will be my fourth season windsurfing. I was making okay progress on my own, but, I was really starting to hit some walls in my progression and I felt like I needed a boost to get back on track. The ABK instruction really helps to ramp things up much more quickly.

It's really nice to have someone critique your technique so that you can refine some of your skills. Apparently I was getting really sloppy with some of my basic skills such as with tacking and the pivot jibes. But, after watching myself on video and seeing the steps demoed in slow-motion on land, I was able to be much more precise with my footwork technique and to get a better sense of the correct way of doing things. Ben, Tom, and Andy (the instructors) also get out on the water with everyone and have each of us sail by and practice the various moves. It's very helpful to get real-time feedback from them while you're trying to figure things out on the water.

On the last day of the camp we were hit with pretty much no wind so Ben and Andy did a great job of improvising by teaching us some things to try in light winds such as beach starting fin-first, sail-chi, helicopter tacks, how to get going in the ocean, etc. A lot of the other stuff went over my head, but it was fun seeing what was possible and what the future might bring. One of the truly awesome things about windsurfing is that there is always more stuff to learn!

Tom went over rigging and the various options for gear depending on conditions. There are some little things that you don't notice when setting up your rig that they will help you out with. I finally learned how to tie off my outhaul lines to my boom properly and how to not cross the lines in the downhaul. There was also plenty of discussion about fins and how to select the best one based on conditions and the size of board and sail that you plan on using. There is also plenty of brand new gear to try from the various ABK sponsors. They had lots of JP Australia boards to demo as well as Neil Pryde sails which were all rigged and ready to go.

I would definitely recommend the ABK school camps. With the amount of gear we purchase it seems like a good investment of time/money to learn how to use it all properly and to maximize our progression in the sport. For more info visit [www.abkboardsports.com](http://www.abkboardsports.com)

**Wily Skipper .** There has been lots of speculation about the relationship between circulation of *Windsurfing Magazine* and the health status of windsurfing. I have been assured that the magazine remains healthy and that circulation could fall off a lot more before its existence would be threatened. Whew! [ ] [ ] [ ] I have to say it again: this has been the windiest spring I have seen in 20 years of windsurfing in the Triangle. [ ] [ ] [ ] And speaking of 20 years, I find it hard to believe that I am celebrating my 20<sup>th</sup> year of windsurfing. [ ] [ ] [ ] How about that "Season / 2007" catalog from Isthmus. It further blurs the distinction between a magazine and a catalog. The (shall we call it just a) publication contains four stories in addition to the usual descriptions of gear. The whole thing made interesting reading. Here's to Isthmus! [ ] [ ] [ ] Here's also to Olaf Podehl. I took my 8.5 sail to have him make sure it was working right. He spent 45 minutes with me, rigging, testing the cambers, trying different combinations, until we discovered that my old mast was too thick just where the camber sits. [ ] [ ] [ ] The editor thinks that the new plan for teaching windsurfing is a very good experiment. Students can make appointments with a specific instructor/volunteer for a windsurfing lesson one-on-one. Of course we should remember what Saint Paul saith about teaching: "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, for, like Wind Whiner, you might not have the hang of it." (Offensive to some perhaps, but what other windsurfing newsletter would even refer to Saint Paul? Self-referential humor is probably even more offensive.)

**SPRING CLUB TRIP.** Thanks to Paul Rowan for coordinating the Spring Club trip. We stayed at beautiful Surround Sound in Rodanthe. We had the Harpers, the Rutledges, the Rowans, Geoff Tattersfield, Tom Patterson, and Dana Thalheimer. The house was about a quarter of a mile down the road from the house where *Nights in Rodanthe* was being filmed, based on the novel of the same name by Nicholas Sparks. We could walk down the beach and see what

was going on at the house, which had been re-named "The Inn at Rodanthe." Do you know of any "inns" in Rodanthe? For a few days there was a herd of horses in a corral on the beach. We watched some of the huge machines—wind makers, cherry pickers, cranes—move around the set but we never saw either the male lead, Richard Gere, or the actress, Diane Lane. We had fairly decent winds from Sunday to Wednesday. I sailed mainly 6.0, 6.8 and 8.5; Dana sailed

his 9.5 a lot. Dana and I spend a lot of time dragging each other on fairly similar equipment, often to our chagrin to be passed by Paul Rowan on smaller equipment.

Sunday afternoon brought the best winds of the week. It blew a consistent SW 15-22 and I sailed until I was tired-happy from a long session. Curiously, on Monday we also had 15-22, but this time from the NE. Thursday and Friday were both skunks. A lot of the crowd left on Friday because the forecast did not look good at all and they wanted to get an early start recovering from the trip. We had some good communal meals, watched the sun set in the west over the water.



Why, indeed?

(Photo by Ernie McGrew)

## Racing Trash Talk

After someone wins a heat: "Good run. What did you say your name was again?"

Someone is trying too hard. "Dude, you're sailing like you gotta feed the family."

"Dude, if you sailed for \$hit, you wouldn't even get a smell."

After someone misses a buoy: "Use your other eye next time."

After someone just barely saves a jibe: "Good form."

When someone does something clumsy: "Interesting footwork." Or, "That works—this time."

Ineffectual or feeble handling of equipment: "Does your husband also sail?"

When someone crosses the line very near the end of the pack: "It's like a nightmare, isn't it?"  
"Just keeps getting worse and worse, doesn't it?" (From "The Color of Money")

Someone trailing you unexpectedly passes you: "When we're done I'm giving you ten bucks for lottery tickets."

Someone appears to be confused about the course: "Do you need a map?"





**Bill Bradstreet doing a duck jibe**



**Bill Bradstreet sailing on the fin**

# 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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