

2005 Annual Report of the Management Committee Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse

ABSTRACT

The Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse, 13700 BoatHouse Rd, Thunderbird State Park, Norman, OK 73026 (mailing address is P.O. Box 1652, Norman OK 73070-1652) is a community center operated by a consortium of boating organizations of the Norma area. This report summarizes 2005. The report was prepared from information provided by the leaders of BoatHouse organizations and from the records of the Management Committee. It is meant as an evaluation of management effectiveness and as an assist to fund-raising efforts and publicity.

The total of persons benefiting from educational, public service programs and organizational activities amounted to nearly 2100. Providing these services were 123 volunteers who contributed 2758 hours of *on-site* effort teaching, mentoring, participating in public service projects and serving in maintenance roles.

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Introduction

"To promote safe enjoyment of water sports and lake activities through educational programs and community partnerships", Mission Statement, **LAKE THUNDERBIRD BOATHOUSE STRATEGIC PLAN, April 4, 2000¹**

The Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse is a non-profit organization dedicated to community service. Through educational and recreational activities plus the commitment of volunteers and partner organizations, the BoatHouse continues to serve the Norman boating public and other interested persons. 2005 was the sixth full year of operation. The BoatHouse operates under an educational franchise granted by the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation to the Thunderbird Sailing Club. The BoatHouse Management Committee is the operational and administrative body of the facility and functions within the structure of the sailing club. The Management Committee serves on behalf of the organizations that either participated in or otherwise supported the 2005 programs of the BoatHouse. In addition to the Thunderbird SC, consortium organizations were:

- ◆ Boat US
- ◆ Heart of Oklahoma Chapter of American Red Cross,
- ◆ Hobie Fleet 63
- ◆ Norman Sail & Power Squadron
- ◆ Sea Scout Ship 5790
- ◆ Sooner Sail Club & Team
- ◆ Oklahoma City Sail & Power Squadron
- ◆ OU Naval ROTC
- ◆ USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 16-6
- ◆ West Marine

Serving to support and promote the BoatHouse project is the **Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation**. This agency raises funds and otherwise encourages the BoatHouse project thereby insuring that the endeavor provides the community low-cost and effective programs. The state and federal administrative agencies, the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, respectively, provide regulatory support to the project.

Supporting Records and Documents

Records and documents summarized here are available from Howard Haines (405-329-7180; howardhaines@sbcglobal.net). Elsewhere in the report footnotes denote documents that may be obtained from Haines or others identified in given footnotes.

¹ See Strategic Plan, April 4, 2000

Synopsis: What BoatHouse Volunteers made Happen in 2005

Scheduled activities at the BoatHouse facility occurred on 145 days of 2005². In all, there were 203 community-related events such as meetings, classes and public services, with 23 additional management and administration occasions. The busiest months were April through September. Multiple uses, that is, two or more activities occurring on the same day, were commonplace with Saturday, May 21, having the extreme of six functions. A listing of specific activities and events follows.

CLASSES & CAMPS

- Norman Sail & Power Squadron Boat Smart Classes (2 classes) hosted by Norris Marine
- Safety Boat Skills and Class & Camp Orientation for Volunteers & Instructors
- Basic Keel Boat Sailing Classes (3)
- NROTC Dinghy Classes (2)
- Adult Dinghy Classes (2)
- Essentials of Sailing Class (2)
- Sailing Smart Camps for youngsters (2)
- Girl Scout Merit badge class
- US Sailing Level 1 Instructor class

PUBLIC SERVICE

Major Gatherings

- Lake Sweep sponsored by OK Water Resources Board
- West Marine Fun Regatta and Water Festival for youngsters
- Catch A Special Thrill, fishing festival for physically challenged children

Regattas

- CSSA/ TSC Dogwood
- Hobie 14 District Regatta
- Jerry Layton Memorial Regatta
- CSSA/TSC Hiram Douglas

Workshops, Seminars, Conferences and Retreats

- Kid's Safety Workshop
- Fleming Scholars Retreat
- Junior Sailing Team program
- Fire Arms Review Board, Lake Rangers
- Cub Pack 777 hosted by Ship 5790
- Sea Scout picnic & campout
- NROTC use of boatyard and dock
- Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16-6 General Membership Mtg.
- CSSA Annual Meeting
- NROTC staff retreat
- Splash Day, NSPS
- First Aid & CPR Training
- Safety checks and Jet Smart Class by Norman Sail & Power Squadron

² 2005 Master Schedule

ACTIVITIES OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Special Events hosted by Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation
 - New Years Open House
 - Christening of Vanguard Prams
 - Labor Day Open House & McDonalds Cup-Volunteer Recognition
- Monthly Thunderbird SC Exec Comm & General Meeting and Holiday Party
- Monthly Sea Scout meetings and weekly training sessions
- Sooner Sail Club and Team & Naval ROTC practices, April through October
- Junior Sailing Team, Sundays, May through October
- TSC club races

MANAGEMENT MEETINGS & TASKGROUPS.

- Meetings of the Management Committee (6)
- Meetings of the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation Board of Directors (2),
- Maintenance and improvement task groups (6) together with numerous landscaping and mowing sessions
- Meetings of the Programs & Publicity subcommittee (5)
- Lake Sweep Planning Meetings (2)
- Regular Saturday Hours (11 Saturdays)

PROJECTS, DONATIONS AND GIFTS-IN-KIND

- Six Vanguard Prams
- Dock enlargement and improvements
- Boat Yard Expanded by 50%
- Boat Hoist donated
- Acquired an Automatic External Defibrillator
- Cincom *Sailorships* for youngsters
- Coronado 14 donated
- Replaced pontoons of Project safety boat
- Equipment and boat library from the estate of Vesta Gettys

Volunteerism

The BoatHouse project runs on the willingness of dozens of boating enthusiasts to donate time, effort, money and ideas. In 2005, one-hundred-twenty-three persons served in one or more of the events occurring *on-site* at the BoatHouse (Table 1). Members of eight consortium organizations volunteered plus members of the Junior Sailing Team and unaffiliated guests. The level of volunteerism increased substantially from 2004 (Table 2). 2001, the year when the BoatHouse building was constructed and educational and public service activities were also provided, remains the year of greatest effort.

Slightly over 22 hours was the average time volunteered. Members of Thunderbird SC led in this regard averaging about 35 hours per volunteer. As was the case in previous years a relatively few unusually dedicated volunteers contributed disproportionately greater amount of time; this year fourteen persons contributed half the effort.

Specific programs and the involvement of volunteers are detailed in later sections. Most leaders of BoatHouse organizations failed to provide membership numbers available for this report. A very rough estimate of the total 2005 membership is two-hundred meaning that approximately 2/3rds of the membership found time to assist with BoatHouse activities. In specific cases the fractional 'turnout' was much greater, namely, the Sea Scout Ship 5790 and Sooner Sail Club & Team fielded almost all of their membership. The entire roster of volunteers with the hours they donated is available on request³. An attractive poster recognizing the 2005 volunteers hangs in the BoatHouse conference room.

Table 1. Hours contributed by members of BoatHouse organizations towards public service, facility maintenance and educational programs during 2005.

Organization	Volunteers	Hours
Thunderbird Sailing Club	48	1673
Sea Scout Ship 5790	18	383
Sooner Sail Club & Team	11	239
Guests	7	53
Junior Sailing Team	1	15
Norman Sail & Power Squadron	17	180
USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 16-6	1	8
O.U.Naval ROTC	4	37
OKC Sail & Power Squadron	15	159
Hobie Fleet 63	1	11
	123	2758

Table 2. Summary of volunteerism at the BoatHouse for 2000-2004.

Year	Vol's	Hours
2000	55	712
2001	124	3231
2002	107	2223
2003	97	2169

³ 2005 Volunteers Excel spreadsheet

2004	102	2575
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It is important to note that in addition to the *on-site* effort reported in Tables 1 and 2 there is the far larger commitment of volunteers by way of related programs conducted away from the BoatHouse *per se* plus the substantial committee and staff work requirements of the project. This commitment is too complex to reliably record and document but suffice it to say that any one public service event or class requires several planning and logistical meetings. Multiply this by the many events described in following sections to gain an impression of the involvement and dedications of BoatHouse volunteers.

Awards, Honors and Remembrance

Regrettably the otherwise full and productive year was marred by the loss of a dear friend and dedicated volunteer. Vesta Gettys died suddenly in early summer. Vesta was part of the BoatHouse project from the beginning giving unhesitatingly of her time as volunteer and as sailing instructor as well as making numerous donations of money and material. Today when one looks around the BoatHouse facility the influence of this one person is evident everywhere. At the time of her death Vesta had already devoted eleven hours. At the January meeting of the National Sailing Programs Symposium at Longbeach, CA, Vesta Gettys was posthumously awarded the prestigious *2005 Outstanding Leadership* award. The award was from the Community Sailing Council of the U.S. Sailing Association.

Also recognized at the Sailing Programs symposium was Chadwick A. Cox who was presented with the *Outstanding Contributions to Community Sailing* award. Chad is a BoatHouse sailing instructor and volunteer and has served as President and Secretary of the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation. For the last few summers he has been primary instructor of one of the Sailing Smart Day Camps offered by the BoatHouse.

David Shumake, a member of both the Norman and Oklahoma City chapters of Sail & Power Squadron and Board Members of the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation was honored with the Regional Boating Safety Award of the National Water Safety Congress. The award presented by Arlyn Hendricks, Region IV Vice-President, was one of six presented throughout the United States this year and covers the states of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Oklahoma which makes up Region IV of the National Water Safety Congress. It was presented to David for his 34+ years of volunteerism on behalf of boating safety education and his association with the Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron and the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation. (NB: It is with great sorrow that we must report that on June 28, 2006, David Shumake was struck by a car and killed.)

Norman Sail & Power Squadron was recognized by the national parent organization for the quality of the chapter's website. Webmaster Danny Goss was primarily responsible and deserves credit.

Education

Fifteen educational programs conducted at or sponsored by the BoatHouse facility trained 147 students (Table 3 & 4). Early in the year the Norman Sail & Power Squadron gave two Boat Smart classes to approximately 20 persons. The classes met at Norris Marine, a Norman boat and marine business. Shortly afterwards American Heart Association Instructor Jerry Lojka taught two First Aid and CPR classes. Orientation and safety boat training on April 16 was meant to appraise instructors and mentors of the teaching season. Classes and camps began in full with April.

The number of students receiving BoatHouse instruction increased by 44 persons in the current year versus 2004. This was the result of full enrollment in several offerings plus three versus two basic keelboat classes and the introduction of a new class, Essentials of Sailing. Then new offering is designed as a weekend introduction to the sport of sailing. Intermediate Sailing was deleted in 2005 and replaced by a program of regular hours on Saturdays.

Table 3.

Class	Hrs Instruction, beginning	Stud- ents	Inst ruc- tors	Men -tors	Staff Hrs
Boat Smart	20, Feb 21	~20	2		36
First Aid & CPR Training	6, Feb 26	9	1		6
First Aid & CPR Training	6, April 12	6	1		6
Safety Boat Training & Instructor/Mentor Orientation	6, April 16	18	4		16
Basic Keel Boat Sailing	20, Apr 22	2	2		27
NROTC Basic Sailing	24, May 1	7	5	2	84
Beginning Sailing for Adults	28, June 6	5	5	2	83
Basic Keel Boat Sailing	20, June 17	6	1	5	39
Sailing Smart Day Camp	27, June 20	17	8	9	324
Essentials of Sailing	3, June 29	2	1	3	39
Sailing Smart Day Camp	27, July 11	17	7	14	321
Girl Scout Merit Badge Wkshp	8, July	7	1	2	24
Beginning Sailing for Adults	23, July 25	6	4	4	87
NROTC Basic Sailing	20, Aug 15	14	7	15	184
Basic Keel Boat Sailing	20, Sept 9	5	1	2	30
Level 1 Instructor	40, Sept 2	6	2		56
Totals	298 hours	147	52	58	1362

Involvement of volunteers is obvious (Table 3). On average the ratio of students to instructors and mentors is 3:1. Staff for classes and camps is structured such that the *Principle Instructor* has overall responsibility for an offering and is assisted by an Operations Officer and Business Manager. Beyond these three, volunteers provide instruction and mentoring as directed by the Principle Instructor.

The BoatHouse is listed in the U.S. Sailing website as a location for dinghy and keelboat training. Regarding keelboats the BoatHouse is an official US Sailing Keelboat school. As part of an effort to insure quality instruction at such schools the U.S. Sailing Association conducted an inspection of the facility in September 2004⁴. Mr. Hart Kelley was the inspector. His report is may be examined by those interested⁵. In brief, Kelley considered the Basic Keelboat Sailing class to be of high quality, suggesting attention to preparation by instructors and upgrading certain equipment and boat types. Regarding improvements to the entire BoatHouse program, Kelley suggested having regular business hours and a more effective publicity effort. Regular business hours on Saturday were introduced in May and maintained through early September.

Early in the development of the BoatHouse curriculum it was decided that qualified instructors would teach classes. Instructors of the 2005 educational program are all certified by a disinterested accrediting organization. (Table 4). Several of these individuals have additional credentials in boating operations and safety such as Coast Guard qualifications (Les Cummings & Roger Elliott) and certification as US Sailing Basic Keelboat Instructor (Richard Shaw) and Instructor Trainer (Richard Shaw and Howard Haines).

This year, five additional sailing instructors were certified in the Level 1 Instructor class of September: Dave Jewett and Lee Smith (both with Sea Scout Ship 5790), Mike Klatt (Sooner Sail Club), Bryan Rainbow and Phil Trotter (Hobie Fleet 63),

⁴ See page 5, 2004 Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse Annual Report of the Management Committee

⁵ Report from Hart Kelley, US Sailing Assoc. Director of Keelboat Training

Table 4. Instructors of 2005. All instructors qualified to their subject under U.S. Sail and Power Squadron and or U.S. Sailing Association guidelines.

Instructor		Sail & Power	U.S. Sail		Instructor		Sail & Power	U.S. Sail
Last	Given				Last	Given		
Brackett	Bill		X		Lojka	Jerry		X
Brett	Andy		X		Poon	Te Woei		X
Brown	Corbett		X		Pope	Bill		X
Campbell	Keith		X		Rainbow	Bryan		X
Cox	Chadwick		X		Reynolds	Paul		X
Cummings	Les	X	X		Shaw	Rick		X
Elliott	Roger	X	X		Sherry	Roy	X	
Galoob	Mike		X		Shumake	David	X	
Graham	Gray		X		Smith	Lee		X
Graham	Dorrie		X		Striz	Fred		X
Greenawalt	Jim	X			Striz	Elise		X
Haines	Howard	X	X		Thurston	Karen	X	X
Jewett	Dave		X		Trotter	Phil		X
Johnson	Steve	X			Veley	Larry	X	
Johnson	Sandy	X			Veley	Shirley	X	
Klatt	Mike		X		Watson	Jody	X	X
Knowles	Kerry		X					

Public Service

The BoatHouse facility hosted three major public service events, four regional regattas and numerous workshops, seminars, conferences and retreats. BoatHouse volunteers were involved at most of these occasions, frequently serving the major leadership and coordination roles. With exception of the Fleming Scholars Retreat fees were not collected for these events (Table 5).

The second annual **Lake Thunderbird Lake Sweep** resulted in the removal of tons of trash from the shores and environs of the lake. Through the leadership and coordination of Juli Ridgway of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board the event was simultaneous with the Big Event, a day of charity and community work by O.U. students. Members of the Sooner Sail Club and Team administered the event on-site. The sponsors provided lunch, drinks and tee shirts.

West Marine Fun Regatta, Saturday, July 29, certainly lived up to its name despite terrific heat. Indeed, one reason the events was such fun was the early suggestion, enthusiastically endorsed by all present, by Regatta Chair *Les Cummings* to make it a one day affair rather than risk a second day of heat exposure. *Principal Race Officer Janie Davis* and her race committee put on a fine three-race regatta with fleets of Opti/Prams, Lateen Rigs and Handicapped boats. Sea Scouts, Junior Team members and new sailors from the Sailing Smart Camps represented BoatHouse groups. Sailors from the Junior Group at the Oklahoma City Boat Club were the other competitors. In all forty-some great kids, both newcomers and experienced racers. Members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16-6 provided traffic control.

Ashore and near -shore activities were radio-controlled boats, tin-can races of kayaks and sailboats. Activities were topped-off with an enjoyable presentation of trophies, prizes and gifts plus a delicious hot-dog, hamburger buffet.

This year's 4th Annual **Catch a Special Thrill or CAST for Kids Fishing Derby**, was another perfect day! Some thirty children were taken fishing and everyone caught something. *Chad Cox* and *Les Cummings* were the principal BoatHouse leaders on this remarkable and worthwhile public service event which is a collaboration between the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation, the Bureau of Reclamation and the BoatHouse.

Thirty youngsters with disabilities had a wonderful morning on the water, fishing with some of the best fishermen in the area. Once again, thanks to Sarkeys Foundation and the Hudiburg Auto Group, the luncheon and awards ceremony were held under a tent erected just north of the BoatHouse. A cool breeze and sunny skies made it enjoyable for the 150+ people involved. Food was donated by Albertsons of Del City thanks to Ms. Sharon Perry and some eighty Albertson's employees from area stores donated their Saturday to help with the event. Besides helping directly with CAST these good-willed people performed a trash pick-up around the Zoom Beach ramp and the BoatHouse facility. The local CAST for Kids Committee consists of Susan Hendon (Thunderbird State Park), Jeff Tompkins (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), Les Cummings and Chad Cox (LTEF). Besides BoatHouse volunteers there were fishermen who volunteered their time and the use of their fishing rigs, plus the parents

and guardians of the children and staff members of the Norman EMS services, BOR and Park.

Beginning in January and extending through October were monthly meetings of the Bureau of Reclamation **Resource Management Committee**. Chad Cox, member of Thunderbird SC and Secretary of the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation served on the committee. The committee report, *Lake Thunderbird/Norman Project*, completed in October, will assist the BOR in managing and developing plans for the State Park for many years⁶.

Table 5. Public Service in 2005

Event	Date	Visitors	Sponsoring	BH Vols	Note
Major Events					
Lake Sweep	Apr 2	~155	OK Clean Lakes & Watersheds Assn., the OK Water Resources Boar, the Thunderbird SC & Thunderbird State Park.	24	
West Marine Fun Regatta	July 23	~100	West Marine Inc., local businesses and BoatHouse organizations	37	
Catch A Special Thrill or CAST	Sept 24	~160	CAST for Kids Foundation , Bureau of Reclamation, Ok Dept Tourism Recreation and numerous businesses in the metro area	19	A
Regattas					
Dogwood	April 8-10	~60	Sponsored by CSSA and hosted by Thunderbird SC		
Hobie 14 Districts	May 21-2	~20	Fleet 63		
Jerry Layton Memorial	Oct 16	~25	Thunderbird SC		
Hiram Douglas	Nov 6	~70	Affiliated with CSSA and hosted by Thunderbird SC		
Workshops, Seminars, Conferences and Retreats					
Vessel Safety Checks	May 21	~20	Norman Sail & Power Squadron	5	
Cub Pack 777 hosted by Ship 5790	June 4	25	Sea Scout Ship 5790	3	
Fleming Scholars Retreat	June 23	30	Oklahoma Medical Research Fnd	1	
Kid's Safety Workshop	July 4	20	The family of Chad and Patricia Cox	2	

⁶ Norman Project Resource Management Plan, spring 2006. *Lake Thunderbird/Norman Project*

Table 5 continued

Sea Scout picnic & campout	Aug 14	10	Sea Scout Ship 5790		
Fire Arms Review Board, Lake Rangers	Aug 16	20	Oklahoma Dept. Tourism & Recreation, Larry Habegger	1	
NROTC use of boatyard and dock	Sept 8	65	OU Naval ROTC. Orientation for new Midshipmen and families		
CSSA Annual Meeting	Nov 6	40	Central States Sailing Assoc., Karen Mellgren	4	
Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16-6 General Membership Mtg.	Nov 20	15	CG Auxiliary Flotilla 16-6, Jack Thomas	1	

A. Approx. 80 Albertson's employees also volunteered

BOR Recognizes BoatHouse for CAST

At the December 6 meeting of the BoatHouse Management Committee, Les Cummings, acting on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, presented the BoatHouse a recognition plaque. The plaque recognizes the role of the BoatHouse in the *Catch A Special Thrill* or *CAST*, a fishing derby for physically challenged children, which as held at the BoatHouse September 24.

This, the fourth CAST headquartered at the BoatHouse, was featured in the October *Mainsheet*.

Organizational Activities

Most of this report relates services performed by BoatHouse consortium organizations on behalf of the public. Part of the consortium concept is that participating organizations in return for services rendered to the public can headquarter their own programs and activities at the facility. In return for their public service member organizations hold meetings and activities at the facility (Table 6).

Of course, too, building and maintaining morale among volunteers is of utmost importance, thus the New Year's Day, the Labor Day gathering, the Jerry Layton Memorial Regatta and the TSC Holiday Party.

The **Junior Sailing Team**, established in 2004, had an active second year. The Team is sponsored by the Thunderbird Sailing Club, which also sponsors the Sea Scout Ship 5790. Six new Vanguard Prams were added in 2005 giving the BoatHouse twelve of these small boats that are well-suited young and learning sailors. Neville Koop served as coach as he did in 2004 while Vicki Howard, Paul & Michael Reynolds served as adult after guard. Usually approximately fifteen youngsters and parents attended sessions.

Table 6. Meetings, conferences, training sessions, special programs and regattas sponsored by consortium organizations and headquartered at the BoatHouse

Organization.	Activity	Approx. Persons for the year
Consortium-wide gatherings	. New Year's Day and Labor Day. Forty plus each mtg.	85
Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation	Christening of Vanguard Prams, Sunday, May 1	30
Thunderbird Sailing Club	Monthly Meetings of the members, 3 rd Saturday.	330
Thunderbird Sailing Club	Executive Comm, 3 rd Sat	60
Thunderbird Sailing Club	Holiday Party, Dec 3	50
Thunderbird Sailing Club	Club races, summer months	50
Junior Sailing Team	Sundays, April through Oct. Fifteen per session	120
Thunderbird Sailing Club	Jerry Layton Memorial Regatta, Oct 16	25
Sea Scout Ship 5790	Monthly Membership meetings, first Friday. 8-9 per meeting	100
Sea Scout Ship 5790	May through Sept. Saturday practice sessions. 8-9 per session	100
Sooner Sail Club & Team	Twelve weekly practice sessions, spring & summer months, ~ 5 per	60
Hobie Fleet 63	Two regattas	50

Thunderbird SC membership meetings usually included educational segments. This year the club Fleet Captain, Kerry Knowles, presented two "Fun Sailing Tests" designed to let members self-evaluate their boating knowledge while being enjoyable. Mark Robb presented a program on the state Tourism and Recreation Department. Howard Haines coordinated and led a workshop on volunteerism. David Craigie gave a colorful and informative account of sailing in the North Channel.

Three consortium organizations conducted their meetings away from the BoatHouse campus.

- The Norman Sail & Power Squadron Bridge meetings were the 3rd Tuesday of every month held at a local restaurant. This year the Oklahoma City Chapter hosted the Norman Chapter for their annual joint ice cream social, August 17. The Norman chapter took field trips to the Arkansas River-McClellan waterway and Lake Texoma in late June and early July respectively. Certain officers of the chapter attended District 31 summer & fall meetings as well as the Fall Governing Meeting in Portland, OR.
- Flotilla 16-6 of the USCG Auxiliary was active with regular business meetings.

- The Sooner Sail Club and Team also held their business meetings elsewhere, usually at the OU campus. Membership in 2005 was approximately 20 persons.

OU Naval Reserve Officer Training Corp activities, in addition to the two sailing classes, were led by Lt. Randal Shaffer, Midshipman Andrew Brett and Midshipman Jeremy Hans. The unit had 8 active members compete in out-of-town regattas. The Orientation Day (see Public Service) involved 65-plus persons and later unit staff used the BoatHouse for a retreat. Lt. Randal P. Shaffer reports “Our staff and family sail day (see Rentals) later in the fall was also a smashing success. Ten NROTC staff members and their families, for a total of 22 people came out and had a great time cooking on the grill, relaxing on the Boathouse porch and utilizing the dock for our sail boat. Thanks again for providing such a great facility and managing such a positive organization.”

Midshipman Jeremy Hans reports “It was good to get to know and work with you and your volunteers. We had a great year at the lake. I was only here for the second half of it, but we still managed to utilize the Boathouse facilities and training opportunities. The mutual agreement that the Boathouse and the NROTC have is a successful one and one that I hope continues well into the future. I understand that you have the numbers from all classes, so I will just say that the freshman orientation to sailing was a hit among the midshipmen in spite of the wind or lack thereof.”

Sea Scout Ship 5790. 2005 was the seventh year since Rick Shaw, the Skipper of the ship, founded the ship. This year was one of rebuilding the membership. Several crewmembers graduated from high school and left for out of state colleges, or other activities.

The Ship currently has eleven active sea scouts; most of them are new and young women. There is a whole new atmosphere in the ship. The young women bring an enthusiasm to the organization that the skipper never saw before. The Sea Scouts are sailing more, going to the museum, pursuing advancement, and planning a trip for the British Virgin Islands.

During 2005 the Ship hosted groups of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in sailing adventures, spent a weekend at the Boy Scout Camp George Thomas, provided support services at the Council Pinewood Derby, participated in the Lake Cleanup, and spent a lot of time sailing both small and large boats.

Lee Smith, the ship's Boatswain Mate, attended the US Sailing Level One class to become a certified Instructor Assistant.

Sooner Sail Club and Team had some 12 racing practices at the BoatHouse last year, with an average of 5 people at each practice. The Essentials of Sailing class was designed and presented by SSCT members and supporters. The first Essentials of Sailing was presented in June, with two students and a total of four volunteer instructors throughout the weekend. Ms. Jaci Wolf is Commodore and Mike Klatt is the faculty staff sponsor.

Management

BoatHouse Management Committee

The BoatHouse Management Committee “manages the BoatHouse site, facilities and assets at the site” (Management Committee Charter adopted by the Thunderbird SC membership, August 16, 2003. Members of the Management Committee for 2005 according to their primary affiliation are named below. Howard Haines was chair. The Management Committee charter states that consortium organizations are encouraged to have representation on the committee and that intention is fulfilled as indicated by the list of members.

- Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16-6--*Ed Hickman, Bill Rember and Linda Sadler*
- Hobie Fleet 63--*Mark Bengel and Bryan Rainbow*
- Junior Sailing Team: *Neville Koop, Keith Campbell*
- Norman & Oklahoma City Sail & Power Squadrons--*Steve Pierce, Dave Shumake and Larry Veley*
- OU Naval Reserve Officers Corps--*Jeremy Hans and Randall Shaffer*
- Sea Scout Ship 5790--*Richard Shaw*
- Sooner Sailing Club & Team--*Mike Klatt, David Knight and Jesus Salas*
- Thunderbird Sailing Club--*Corbett Brown, Chad Cox, Dave Craigie, Les Cummings, Phil Dame, Roger Elliott, Howard Haines, Kerry Knowles, Jerry Lojka, Diane Moershel, Phil Moershel, Paul Reynolds, Bill Pope, John Potts, and Karen Thurston*

Subcommittees of the Management Committee were – *Budget/Treasury, Risk Management & Insurance, Building, Harbor Master and Programs-Publicity* and the chairs were Diane Moershel, Jerry Lojka, Lester Cummings, Phil Moershel and Howard Haines, respectively.

A the meeting of February 15, 2005, the Management Committee membership voted unanimously to adopt the calendar year as the business year of the BoatHouse. Until this time the business year had been, like the parent organization, Thunderbird SC, the year ending October 31. The transition year began November 1, 2004 and ended Dec 31, 2005. Meetings were held November 29, 2004, January 10, February 15, March 9, October 11, November 8 and December 6, 2005. The interruption of meetings during the busy summer months was when most members were in and out of the facility so frequently as to insure effective communication without formally meeting. All meetings but one were held at the BoatHouse.

Most business of the subcommittees was handled on an *ad hoc* basis however the Planning and Publicity subcommittee had scheduling, marketing and outreach concerns that required meetings on November 15, 2004, January 25, February 22, March 21, October 25 and November 15, 2005. All meetings of the Planning & Publicity group were held in the home of the chairman.

For the most part members of subcommittees are drawn from the Management Committee membership. However, Hadley Jerman, Karen Mellgren and Jesus Salas served on the Programs & Publicity subcommittee and not in the parent committee.

Job Description of BoatHouse Management Chair

Howard Haines opted to step out of the chair positions of the Management Committee and the Programs and Publicity subcommittee as of December 31. In preparation for transferring his responsibilities to the committee he wrote comparatively detailed instructions⁷. The titles of the instructions follow.

- Additional Functions of Management and of Programs and Publicity
- Annual Report of the BoatHouse Management Committee
- Scheduling and Calendar Maintenance.
- Administrative and Management Steps in delivering a sailing class or camp at the BoatHouse.

Partner Organizations Liaison

As in previous years an effort was made by the Management Committee to create working relationships with the consortium organizations whereby the partnership benefits, expectations and obligations are determined and agreed upon. The Sooner Sailing Club & Team created an excellent Letter of Agreement, the highpoint of an otherwise lackluster year regarding this function of the Committee⁸. The Thunderbird SC simply restated the agreement that had been in effect previously despite receiving substantially greater benefits from the BoatHouse. Other consortium organization made no effort whatever in developing these relationships, in fact, ignoring numerous requests and notices from the Chair of the Committee.

In-house Volunteer Recognition

Awards and honors received by volunteers from outside agencies were described on page 6. Recognizing that encouragement, motivation and a positive morale are centrally important in organizations operated by dedicated volunteers the Management Committee with the support and encouragement of the LTEF has developed an in-house program of volunteer recognition.

The volunteer recognition programs initiated in 2004 were continued in 2005.

- Frequent personal and e-mail communication with volunteers with congratulatory and appreciation messages.
- The shirt and or cap program whereby a shirt and cap was awarded for 30 plus hours and a cap for 10 or more hours.
- A large picture-poster with everyone's name, hung in a prominent place in the building.
- The *BoatHouse Volunteer of the Day* in which a single person was profiled regarding their activities on behalf of the project was continued in the e-mail updates
- Volunteer appreciation days at the BoatHouse on New Years Day and Labor Day.

This year an effort to enlarge the shirt/cap program for volunteers who repeated their generous donation of time and effort for second, third or more years was discussed extensively by the Management Committee. Unfortunately a feasible program was not developed.

⁷ The documents are available from Haines

⁸ See Letter of Agreement, Sooner Sail, 2005

Maintenance

74 individuals in maintenance projects logged seven-hundred-ninety-three hours. Scheduled work parties occurred on November 13, 2004, March 5, April 22-3-4, August 6 and November 19, but much of the work was accomplished by individuals working by themselves or in groups of one or two and on a non-scheduled basis. Mowing, landscaping, trash removal, house cleaning, boat, sail & motor repair are routine items that require substantial input from volunteers.

Regularly scheduled hours were introduced this year. The BoatHouse was 'open' from 9AM to 3PM on each Saturday from June 4 through September 3. The objective of the program was to provide a time with proper safety equipment and instruction for previous students to do additional training and for volunteers to receive some recompense by way in sailing BoatHouse boats. David Knight was the agent on duty for most of the Saturday. The Programs and Publicity group developed the program.

Improvement projects.

1. The dock was lengthened by some fifty feet and a C-shaped boat berth installed. The work was funded by the LTEF and executed by Bob Davis of Little River Marina
2. Boat yard was expanded to the south to include the Con X container and extended some thirty feet beyond. The result is an enlargement of boatyard area of some 50%
3. Phil Trotter donated a boat hoist. NB: the hoist was installed in the newly enlarged boatyard, March 18, 2006
4. Acquired an automatic external defibrillator via funds from LTEF and BoatHouse revenues
5. Replaced pontoons of inflatable safety boat. Funds provided by LTEF

Publicity & Marketing

The brochure developed in 2004 was distributed regularly to the Norman Public Library and the Lake Thunderbird State Park information kiosk. As in previous years, Chad Cox distributed over five thousand fliers announcing the Sailing Smart Day Camps. Posters and fliers on individual classes were designed and posted in public places.

Publicity of the BoatHouse via the press or TV/radio was much less than in previous years. A March issue of the *Norman Transcript* featured the Dogwood regatta of TSC. The Commodore of TSC KAREN Thurston arranged the story. Lester Cummings and Mike Klatt placed the schedule with KGOU and Chad Cox submitted descriptive schedule listings with *Oklahoma Today*. There was a lack of reports about completed events and activities were not submitted. Consortium-wide e-mailings were used to announce and or describe events and to call-for-volunteers. The Chair of the Management Committee sent 14 consortium-wide messages and four messages to the leaders of BoatHouse organizations. .

Rentals

Under the agreement with the Dept. Tourism & Recreation the facility may be rented if the client intends a gathering whose purpose is educational and or safety-related. Strictly social gatherings cannot be accommodated. Boating safety programs were included occasions

2005 rentals:

- ◆ June 23 – Fleming Scholars
- ◆ July 4 – Kids Safety Workshop
- ◆ July 30 --Splash Day, NSPS
- ◆ October 14 -- NROTC staff retreat

National Sailing Programs Symposium

Chadwick Cox and Howard Haines (both TSC & and Haines, NSPS) attended the National Sailing Programs Symposium in January at Miami, FL.

Finances

Fees are collected for rentals, classes and camps. It is agreed between the Management Committee and the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation that BoatHouse income will be used to pay direct expenses such as insurance, utilities and minor maintenance with major expenditures being relegated to fund raising campaigns conducted by the LTEF. This year, as in 2003 and 2004, the BoatHouse was self-sufficient under this agreement.

BoatHouse Treasurer Diane Moershel submitted the following end-of-year budget⁹.

⁹ Additional Budge Reports are available as needed

Boathouse Management Committee				
Treasurer's report 1/1/05 through 12/06/05				
		Budget	Yr to date	
Income				
Class tuition		10,000.00	\$11,430.00	\$1,430.00
Interest		50.00	\$62.39	\$12.39
Rentals		2,000.00	\$410.00	-\$1,590.00
Partner contribution		1,100.00	\$1,415.00	\$315.00
TSC misc re-imb		300.00	\$400.00	\$100.00
TSC start up		2,445.26	\$2,445.26	\$0.00
				\$0.00
Total:		15,895.26	\$16,162.65	\$267.39
Expense				
Administration		150.00	\$356.32	-\$206.32
Utilities		1,400.00	\$1,237.94	\$162.06
Boathouse upkeep & maintainance (consumable)		275.00	\$455.59	-\$180.59
Insurance		5,700.00	\$3,251.96	\$2,448.04
Boathouse improvements		500.00	\$97.17	\$402.83
Boat yard improvements		500.00	\$249.41	\$250.59
Equipment rental		200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Equipment purchase		675.00	\$635.36	\$39.64
Awards and recognitions		400.00	\$116.41	\$283.59
Sailing class expenses		2,800.00	\$2,249.04	\$550.96
Boat Consumables		250.00	\$131.77	\$118.23
Boat maintainance		1,450.00	\$1,164.73	\$285.27
Boat license fees		300.00	\$380.75	-\$80.75
Tuition refund			\$125.00	-\$125.00
TSC fees			\$100.00	\$4,148.55
Total:		14,600.00	\$10,551.45	
Savings	\$3,742.46		still unpaid for year:	
Income less expense to date	\$5,611.20		Insurance	\$732.48
Cash in bank:	\$9,353.66		utilities	\$100.00
				\$832.48
			Balance available:	
				\$4,778.72
		less motor set aside		-\$3,000.00
				\$1,778.72

Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation

Board members and officers of the Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation met twice in 2005. The Annual Business Meeting of LTEF was January 20 and a business meeting was held November 10. Both meetings were located at the Family Medicine Clinic, OU Health Science Center, 900 NE 10 St., Oklahoma City.

The 2005 Board of Directors was the following:

President Roger Elliott

Vice President Frank Lawler

Treasurer Connie Divine

Secretary Chadwick Cox

Board Members-- Les Cummings, Phil Dame, Janie Davis, Marilyn Friend, Howard Haines, Walter Hedrick, Steve Johnson, David Shumake and Karen Thurston

Organizations represented on the Board were Thunderbird SC, Norman and Oklahoma City Sail & Power Squadrons.

The Foundation continues to promote and facilitate the BoatHouse project.

Board members contributed to \$8440 or 43% of total funds raised of \$19,440. The head of fund raising for the foundation is board member Les Cummings who submits proposals on behalf of the foundation and works closely with pertinent board members and appropriate members of the Management Committee and partner organizations.

Significant Gifts-in-Kind and LTEF Support

- Donations for six Vanguard Prams
- Dock upgrade and improvements
- Boat Yard Expanded by 50%
- Boat Hoist donated
- Sea Scouts, TSC, BoatHouse, and NSPS donated an Automatic External Defibrillator
- Cincom *Sailorships* for youngsters
- Coronado 14 donated
- BMI Systems replaced pontoons of Projet safety boat
- Equipment and boat library from the estate of Vesta Gettys

Boats and equipment donated for use in BoatHouse programs are retitled in the name of the LTEF. The inventory of boats is available for examination ¹⁰

¹⁰ Consult Howard Haines or Paul Reynolds

Conclusions, Recommendations, Future Objectives

Quality and quantity of programs give a measure to the effectiveness of community centers like the BoatHouse. By such standards the BoatHouse facility is meeting its mission and more. Statements by participants of classes, camps and public services have been positive and laudatory. Criticisms, when given, were in the spirit of improving an already good thing rather than rejection or major revision. As well, with its full schedule, 203 events, and the considerable number of students and patrons, approximately 2100, the BoatHouse is fulfilling its mission in terms of quantity.

There is no question that the BoatHouse project is successful and will continue to provide the Lake Thunderbird community its services and programs. 2005 once again illustrated what can be accomplished by focussed and dedicated effort of volunteers and organizations. All involved can be justifiably proud to be a part of this endeavor. The fundamental premise that the facility can be operated by a group of organizations and that the staff can be composed only of volunteers was supported again in 2005.

Of course, as in any busy and complex group there are areas where change and or action are required.

- Physical and infrastructure problem areas identified in the 2004 annual report, that is, expansion of the yard and dock and the addition of prams to the junior fleet, were resolved. Unfortunately the inefficient filing and storage features of the office and library were only partially addressed.
- New programs proposed in the 2004 report for 2005: 1) an abbreviated weekend sailing class and, 2) Saturday hours, were both established and will be continued in 2006.
- Unfortunately the same concerns regarding leadership, participation and management voiced last year pertained this year as well. Review these problems may be on pages 15-16 of the 2004 report¹¹. These concerns, in fact, became more marked in 2005 with a relatively few people working the most. For example, -- of the 2758 *on-site* hours (Table 1) expended by 123 persons, half was the input of fifteen individuals. Too, the disproportionate effort assumed by a few in staff and committee work continued. No action was taken on the suggestion in the 2004 report to establish programs to recognize or reward committee and staff work
- Another management issue that worsened in 2005 was the development of mutually beneficial working relationships between the Management Committee and consortium organizations. See, *Partner Organizations Liaison* page 16. As suggested in the prior report, the Management Committee made a concerted effort to justify, explain and aid in development of Letters of Understanding. Despite repeated reminders and explanations of why such agreements are necessary only two of the partner organizations developed Letters. Over time this lack of interaction by consortium organizations will erode the fundamental concept of a facility operated by a group of organizations. It is centrally

¹¹ 2004 Lake Thunderbird BoatHouse Annual Report of the Management Committee

important to correct this situation. Programs and policies must be developed that convince member organizations that partnering with the BoatHouse is beneficial and in their interest.

It is useful to ask why partner organizations fail to appreciate the role of Letters of Understanding. One obvious answer is that such organizations do not recognize the BoatHouse project as *their* project. In the building and formative years of the project it was relatively easy to imagine the importance of a teaching facility where organizations could conduct their programs and use as a headquarters. That phase has passed and it seems with it has passed the time when there was a clear and defined objective being served by the input of consortium members.

- Restated in practical terms, the *Strategic Plan* of April 2000 has served well but is now out-dated. A rewritten strategic plan identifying new and different objectives with would be the first step in moving the BoatHouse project into a second phase of its development. The fact is that the BoatHouse has barely begun to fulfill its potential as a site of educational, public service, youth and safety programs. The possibilities of interesting and creative programs are immense. Development of programs for youth, physically challenged persons, interactive programs with local groups (e.g., youth groups, schools, the naturalist program, the YMCA, agencies such as the Crows Secret and Little River Zoo) are possibilities. A new strategic plan would lay out directions, plans and objectives of the facility for approximately five years. Input from as many organizations of the BoatHouse consortium as possible is a given.

A separate but related issue that needs attention and would be addressed in a new Strategic Plan is the curriculum. At present the curriculum is predominately sailing. Classes of other sorts, e.g., fishing, skiing, PWC operation, basic boating safety, need to be established. Together with curriculum expansion would be mechanisms to encourage volunteers to become certified instructors in given areas.

- Another deficiency of 2005 was the lack of publicity. Through 2004 the BoatHouse enjoyed periodic news releases and an in-house publicity schedule both of which acted to inform the public about the facility. The system became less effective in 2005 (a trend that continues in 2006) the efforts of several volunteers, see ***Publicity & Marketing***, page 17. A public relations officer or group duly charged with the responsibility of arranging stories, news releases, encouraging organizational newsletters and web sites and related informational outlets is needed.
- Related to the public relations program is the absence of an official public information officer. Everyone involved has worked hard to prepare for and prevent serious accidents at the BoatHouse. Preparations for such emergencies are in place; first aid equipment including an AED, wireless phone contact with first responders and training for volunteers in CPR, AED and first aid. Nonetheless, at this time, the facility does not have a named official who is trained and prepared to interact with the media in the event of a major accident or emergency.

Respectfully submitted Thursday, August 24, 2006.

Howard Haines
Chair, BoatHouse Management Committee