



Windsurfing
Enthusiasts of
Tidewater

A Fond Farewell by Tom Cobin

Talk about going out with a “BANG”!

I’m not a regular practitioner of that ignoble windsurfing move, the catapult body-slam. But rare though they be, they tend to leave a lasting impression. What would turn out to be my final day of windsurfing the Lower Chesapeake Bay before moving to Annapolis, MD, was no different. The Formosa faceplant, in 30+ on a frigid Thursday in November, left no doubt it was “all over” – the day, as well as this phase of my life.

I moved to Hampton Roads almost 10 years ago, and my first two friends here were both windsurfers. I had met John Contos two years earlier, from his regularly attending both windsurfing and catamaran regattas I helped to run in 1993 at Sailing, Etc., up in Ocean City. I met Billy Kidd, who managed the satellite shop up in Dewey Beach, in 1992, the year I moved to Dover, DE, to my first job as an on-camera reporter. By 1995 Billy had moved back home to Virginia Beach, where I located him while being flown-in for a final interview with WAVY-TV 10. Within weeks, I had rented an apartment at the Ocean View complex where Billy and his mom both lived at that time; his sister, Beverly, was also in TV, at Channel 3. That summer at Kokoamo’s off Great Neck Road, I ran into, and recognized, Contos. I was firmly planted. It felt like home.

Of course, it wasn’t long before I learned about WET. In fact, as I sit here at my computer, I notice that among the old papers that has mysteriously surfaced out of nowhere is an issue of “W.E.T. MAIL” (sorry, Glenn, I’m just being accurate: it *IS* punctuated in the Masthead) from December, 1995.

The community of windsurfers in this area was a critical part of my acclimating to my new home. After leaving my hometown, NYC, I had moved around enough for several years, trying to “climb the TV market ladder,” that I was relieved to feel Virginia Beach was a place where I would actually want to stay for a while. The camaraderie and constant communication among sailors here not only kept me busy, but gave me a solid feeling of groundedness so important when settling-into a new home.

I thought I might never leave.

Yet, now I’ve made the decision to move out of my adopted hometown, where I have spent the past nine years – longer than I’ve ever lived anywhere besides NYC. I’ve made countless friends; had incredible fun times; been accepted by the community and become somewhat of a “celebrity” (whatever that’s worth); become a good enough monohull sailor that I own a boat; achieved a great many things, personally and professionally; become a “property owner” (technically, on paper, at least) in the Outer Banx; the list



Photo: Glenn Woodell

goes on. Oh, and I think I've become a much better windsurfer, too, thanks in large part to the inspiration and instruction of superior sailors, around whom I've been lucky enough to watch and learn.

When Marcie Kennedy asked me to write a newsletter article about my "final session," I knew it would be about much more than

windsurfing. After all the session reports and race reviews (plentiful enough on "letsrig"), my reflections are about the personal bonds of friendship forged through the sport, the "connections" it has always created for me. I've never experienced that feeling more than I have here in Hampton Roads over the past decade. And it is largely due to WET.

I became so enamored of the group that I spent several years devoted to high-level participation in WET: first, as Newsletter Editor for a couple of years, later as Vice President and ultimate President. Even when conflicting responsibilities forced me to resign that post, I've continued to be active, as Member-At-Large, Publicity Chairman and most recently Race Officer. It has been a labor of love, rewarding beyond words. And that is a tribute to the individual members, the people who are WET.

It's really cool to be able to say that, while I'm "moving," I don't entirely feel like I'm "leaving." We'll continue to stay in touch via e-mail, thanks to the incredible passion and energy of Glenn Woodell. I'll see you at regattas, run in Hampton Roads by Dave Kashy et. al. or farther north in the area of my new home in Maryland. I'll see you down in OBX, no doubt as a regular resident of the BABA houses not far from future Rodanthesfests.

And all of you now know you've got a home-away-from-home, with sailing privileges on the Bay, right outside Annapolis – which is, of course, "the sailing capital of the world!"

Bon Voyage Tom!

Happy sailing and thanks for all the energy, time, and expertise you put into WET.

A Trip to Maui by Bob Rowland

A trip to Maui is the dream of most East Coast windsurfers and I have now had the opportunity to hunt for trade winds on Maui twice in my windsurfing career. This is an account of my recent trip, as I have bored most of you with my first trip ad nauseum.

October is supposed to be a good month for sailing the trades in Hawaii. The winter waves are also just starting to roll in, making it an ideal time to ride the surf that breaks out on the reefs and rolls to the shore, especially on the North Shore of Maui. I step off the plane and am immediately aware of DEAD CALM! Kona winds! Second trip, second time. They started the week before I arrived so I didn't cause this phenomena. To add to the frustration I was told they never last more than a week as we watched day after day tick by.

Picked up my equipment day after arrival, but no wind. This day was free from Vela. Drove to Kanaha, one sailor schlogging on the water. Ran into Jason Voss sitting on the beach. He was there to test short waveboards for several days, but that was a bust with no wind. Next day Jason was in the little town where we were staying, Kihei. He was trying to sail in marginal winds with small sail and board. I eventually sailed with a 7.2 sail and a 104 L board. Got in the straps a little and because I was sailing so slowly was able to ride a few small waves. Next day the same. Met nice guy from San Francisco who is an instructor staying at same place who

said he comes same time every year and this was his first skunk.

Wednesday we did the sunrise on the volcano with the 37 mile downhill bike ride. This made the trip worthwhile! Awesome! If you ever go to Maui, be sure you do this adventure. Actually met one of Chris Z's friends, Russ in a small restaurant in Paia after the bikeride. He was leading another group down the volcano. He's still windsurfing, but the last time I saw him in Hatteras he was buying a kite. Wednesday was a double special day because after the downhill the trades started blowing and blew for several hours. I rigged a 5.7 sail and rode the 104 L board to a small victory at Kanaha. I rode several waves in the so-called lowers and actually made some turns. I was able to plane out through the waves only once but actually jumped a wave in Hawaii. I was sailing with the "good sailors". The instructor from San Francisco was also there and he told my wife, Chris, that I was a good sailor. He told me I was adequate! Next day....skunk, but free from Vela. Next day playing with the 7.2.

Departure day.....go to Kanaha on way to turn in car and equipment. Everyone busily rigging. Tradewinds return! Fly out of airport to see hundreds of sails on the water and not one of them belonged to me. I've a got taste of what it would be like to sail till my hands are raw. I need to return to Maui again soon. Anyone else?

Look for a picture of Bob on page 10.



Chad Perkins, Bruce Powers, and Glenn Woodell unstuck a mast at WindFest 2003.

Photo: Addrienne Woodell

2003 Hampton Roads Sailboard Classic

The Hampton Roads Sailboard Classic was held the weekend of October 25th and 26th 2003. It was once again hosted by Windsurfing Enthusiasts of Tidewater - (WET), and Beach Sports. Thanks to all who

volunteered to help and to the hosts and the MAS sponsors.

For race results visit

www.sailwet.com/MAS/2003_WET_HRSC.pdf



Alan Bernau negotiates the course

Photo: Glenn Woodell



Marcy Kennedy battles through adverse conditions

Photo: Glenn Woodell

More pictures at <http://www.sailwet.com/MAS/2003HRSC>

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Bob Rowland

**Beach Access, Photography &
Web Site: [Glenn Woodell](#)**

Membership: [Marcy Kennedy](#)

**OUR NATIONAL
GOVERNING BODY:**

<http://www.uswindsurfing.org/>



Wanna know where we sail? Check out the launch map at <http://www.windvisions.com/launches.html> for all the information you need about the local sailing sites.

Elections were held at the November Meeting . New WET Officers:

President:	John Perry
Vice-President:	John Contos
Secretary:	Adrienne Woodell
Treasurer:	Chad Perkins
Members At Large:	Earl Berkley, Allen Monfalcone, Bob Rowland

Congratulations to these officers. The elections were preceded by rough and intense campaigning. Well, maybe that isn't exactly true, but congratulations anyway.

Next WET Meeting

The WET meeting will be

5-Feb-2004, 7pm

Mona Lisa's Pizza, Buckroe

Directions : Only minutes off I-64 at the last exit (268 Mallory Street) before you enter the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel East-bound. Turn left at the stop light onto Mallory Road. Follow Mallory for about 3 miles. You will drive down a long straight section of road and finally pass the second 7-11 at a light. Go 2 more blocks across Pembroke Avenue and Mona Lisa will be on the right.

The WET have got a newsletter editor, Joachim Pfeiffer, who says hello to everybody!

WET Calendar of Events 2004

February

5th / Thursday
WET meeting 7:00 Mona Lisa Pizza

March

4th / Thursday
WET meeting 7:00 Southside

April

3rd / Saturday
Swap Meet And Beach Cleanup at Buckroe
5:00

4th / Sunday
Race Clinic

8th / Thursday
WET meeting TBD 7:00

15-17th / Thursday-Saturday
WindFest Hatteras

23rd / Friday
Buckroe Beach Challenge

24, 25th / Saturday, Sunday
WET Spring Regatta, Buckroe or Day's Inn

May

6th / Thursday
WET meeting 7:00; Location TBD

2nd / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

9th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

15th / Saturday
Buckroe Beach Windsurfing Open - Long distance race, Freestyle, Intro to windsurfing

16th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

22nd/ Saturday
Rigging clinic, Anderson Park

23rd / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

18th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

30th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

June

3rd / Thursday
WET meeting 7:00; Location TBD

6th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

12th / Thursday
Beach cleanup and windsurfing clinic at Buckroe

8th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

13th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

20nd / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

27th / Sunday
1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

July

1st / Thursday

WET meeting 7:00; Location TBD

4th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

17th / Saturday

Fun regatta

11th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

19th / Saturday

Lotto Regatta (rain date on Sunday)

18th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

24th / Saturday

Introduction to windsurfing (age 10 and up).

25th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

August

1st / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

5th / Thursday

WET meeting 7:00; Location TBD

7th / Saturday

Bring your own BBQ and windsurf at the beach, Buckroe

8th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

15th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

22th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

29th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

September

2nd / Thursday

General meeting 7:00; Location TBD

5th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

11th / Saturday

Introduction to windsurfing (age 10 and up)

12th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

19th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

26th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

October

7th / Thursday

General meeting at 7:00, nominations; Location TBD

3rd / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

10th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

17th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

22th / Saturday

Buckroe Beach Challenge

23rd-24th / Saturday-Sunday

Hampton Roads Sailboard Classic at Buckroe or Day's Inn. This is our last regatta of the year.

24th / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

31st / Sunday

1:00 Sailing at [Mill Creek](#). Bring your light wind and beginner gear so others can learn.

November

4th / Thursday

7:00 General meeting (Elections) at 7:00;

Location TBD

December

Date TBD

WET Christmas Party TBD. No meeting this month.

Members are encouraged to suggest other events and activities. Changes to this schedule will be posted on sailwet.com.

Show up at the February meeting and know this schedule by heart! The new WETMail editor will pay you a sub of choice.



Addienne Woodell on a mild day at Buckroe Beach

Photo: Glenn Woodell

WET MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
P.O. Box 3528 Hampton, VA 23663

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Individual Membership...\$20.00	U. S. Windsurfing Membership...\$25.00
Each additional family member....\$5.00	through WET (Normally \$35)
Total: _____	

WAIVER, RELEASE, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of acceptance as a member of the Windsurfing Enthusiasts of Tidewater (WET), I (the undersigned), intending to be legally bound, do hereby for my administrators, my executors and myself, waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages which may occur to me against WET, its officials, employees and agents of any and all liabilities or responsibilities arising from any injury received or incurred by participation in any event sponsored by WET. 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 otherwise should have been mine by law and I do so of my own free will and consent.



Bob Rowland fin walking in front of his sound-side home in Rodanthe.

Photo: Glenn Woodell



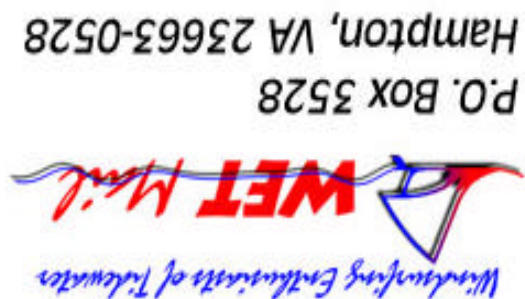
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