

# ADVENTURES AT THE FALL 48

Mark Haraway

## A Plan Comes Together

A plan was hatched sometime in late August or early September when the impending end-of-the-season was weighing upon us. Dock-pull was coming but many of us weren't finished sailing yet! It seemed the Fall 48 Regatta was still scheduled to take place in early November at Lake Norman Yacht Club (LNYC) near Charlotte, North Carolina. Over post-race refreshments the idea was floated... how about heading down to the Fall 48 - who's in? Over the next couple weekends we rounded up a group of people, representing 5 boats, who were interested in extending their sailing season. Those folks were Greg & Cheryl Shafer, Chris Drury & Meredith Hillyer, Ed & Beth Halley, John & Cassandra Latimer, and me and my wife, Sherri.

Given it's the age of Covid, it took some work to get absolute confirmation that the event was going to take place. Once we heard from LNYC club members and the race chairman, we firmed up plans to go, and we would be joined by a 6th boat, of course, with Tyler & Carrie Andrews. What a showing by Deep Creek Lake sailors! Tyler and Carrie are regatta road warriors and have logged thousands of miles and who knows how many events. Three couples are veteran travelers with their Scots (Shafer, Andrews and Drury/Hillyer) have been to a few off-lake regattas. The rest had never traveled to a regatta away from Deep Creek Lake and we were very excited to see a new club and experience a regatta in a different environment.

We had a relatively uneventful trip down and 4 couples arrived at about the same time to rig up on Friday evening. Sherri and I had a trailer wheel hub issue that was going to need some attention. Somehow, after hundreds of miles of traveling on interstates, the hub blew up just 1 mile from LNYC. Thankfully it didn't happen on the highway and the trailer was functional enough to limp the rest of the way to the club.

Rigging on Friday was fun, as the DCL sailors were all in the same area, helping each other and enjoying the nice warm weather. We also met great people from LNYC and gained a lot of insight on what to expect on the water. Bruce and Lynn Kitchen arrived from Ohio so now the Ohio District was represented by 7 boats.



*Lake Norman Yacht Club clubhouse  
(from their website - no events held)*



*LNYC Keelboat Dock*

Instead of a hotel or camping for this first outing we rented a beautiful house on the lake within walking distance of LNYC. Because of a strict occupancy limit, 4 couples could be accommodated (Halleys, Latimers, Shafers and Haraways). The remaining 2 couples stayed at a nearby hotel.



*Our Home Away From Home*



*Awesome view of Lake Norman*

Like we did with our Sandy Douglass Regatta, there were no planned social events. So once our boats were rigged and ready, we headed home where Beth and Ed had prepared a perfect spread of appetizers and snacks. We soon headed outside for a perfect night by the fire pit at the lake's edge. Bruce and Lynn joined us, along with Ed & Beth's son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Megan. It was a great time hanging out and getting to know each other even better. And it was a good thing the racing started late on Saturday as we went well into the night.



*Fire by the lake - from the right, Ed, Greg, Megan, Beth, Bruce, Cheryl, Cassandra, Mark, John, Lynn & Brad - Sherri taking the photo with cool night feature (so a little blurry). Just behind us is the area where the race course was set up.*

## Racing on Saturday

The first race was scheduled for 12:30pm. 31 boats registered for the regatta and per the scoring sheets, it looks like 27 competed. The day was absolutely beautiful with fall colors reflecting on the lake, bright sun and temperatures over 70... but, the wind was not as forecasted the prior evening. The start of the race was delayed, but eventually we got going.



*Ed & Beth 6132*



*Greg & Cheryl 2933*



*John & Cassandra 4988*



*Chris & Meredith 4801*



*Mark & Sherri 5837*



*Tyler & Carrie*

Well into a slow race, when we believed the leaders were finishing, it turned out the race had actually been abandoned. This was our first indication that communication is not LNYC's strong suit. No word about what was going on was provided over the radio. With no actual race recorded, the sailing was done for the day.

After we returned the boats to their trailers, we parked and talked about the "race" over some post-race refreshments. It was another beautiful afternoon and it was nice to linger in the parking area and talk with some of the other sailors around us. After a while, including an intermission for boat trailer work, we headed back to our house to focus on dinner. A great team effort brought together an incredible meal of steaks and salmon on the grill and all the good stuff to go along. We dined in a gazebo built onto the dock and enjoyed a great evening outside. Soon after eating, the prior late night caught up with us and we faded quickly. With an earlier first warning for Sunday we called it a night on the early side.



*With sailing done for the day, Ed Halley and Greg Shafer become boat trailer mechanics. Haraway learns how to swap out a bad hub.*



*An awesome dinner on the lake with great friends. Sherri, Cassandra, John, Ed, Beth, Cheryl and Greg*

## Racing on Sunday

The first race warning was scheduled for 9:30 and the 5 minute sequence started exactly on time. The wind remained good and steady throughout the first race and, as LNYC routinely does downwind finishes, it was cool to finish the race under spinnaker. The second race started immediately but the wind was shifting. On the downwind leg of the first lap, the race committee announced the race was abandoned. Being from Deep Creek we couldn't figure out why the race was abandoned. We learned that due to the wind shift of over 40 degrees the race was called off. At Deep Creek we just deal with it. At Lake Norman they start over.

For the third race, the course was reset to the new wind. The beginning of the race promised a fun race with good wind to the windward mark. The wind began to wane on the first downwind leg but the committee was determined to get in a second official race. We had enough wind to finish two laps and have a two-race regatta. As the wind had died, this was our last race.

Back on the docks we all pulled our boats and began the process of derigging. Chris and Meredith shared cold beer and cheese and crackers and our group talked and recapped the day's events as we packed up. John, Cassandra, Tyler, Carrie, Chris and Meredith were all heading home to Maryland while Greg and Cheryl were heading to South Carolina. Ed and Beth were going to their son's house nearby and staying another night while Mark and Sherri were staying another night for a leisurely ride home on Monday.

As we were finishing up, the Race PRO found our group and we had an impromptu awards ceremony as Tyler and Carrie took first place. There were no planned activities for this regatta which we knew going in. But we were glad to have the quick presentation and get a picture.



*Chicken Dinner! Tyler & Carrie Andrews*



Like a good old fashioned road trip, the Fall 48 was a great opportunity to have a little adventure in a time when things have been so restricted. But it was especially an opportunity to have some fun with really great people and get to know them while all doing something we love to do.

### RESULTS:

[https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/20551#\\_newsroom](https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/20551#_newsroom)

*It's a wrap. Mark, Sherri, Ed, Beth, Cassandra, John, Cheryl, Greg, Carrie, Tyler, Meredith and Chris. Deep Creek Lake - well represented!*