

## The Christmas Pickle

The tradition of the Christmas Pickle has got to be one of the strangest modern Christmas customs, in that no one is quite sure why it exists at all!

In the 1880s Woolworth stores started selling glass ornaments imported from Germany and some were in the shape of various fruit and vegetables. It seems that pickles must have been among the selection!

Around the same time it was claimed that the Christmas Pickle was a very old German tradition and that the pickle was the last ornament hung on the Christmas tree and then the first child to find the pickle got an extra present.

However, the claim that it's an old German tradition seems to be a total myth! Not many people in Germany have even heard of the Christmas Pickle! (Similarly in Russia virtually no one knows the supposedly Russian story of Babushka!)

Some families now have the tradition of hanging the pickle on the tree, with the first person/child to find it getting a present. But it probably didn't start in Germany!

There are two other rather far-fetched stories linking the pickle to Christmas.

One features a fighter in the American Civil War who was born in Bavaria (an area of what is now Germany). He was a prisoner, and starving, he begged a guard for one last pickle

before he died. The guard took pity on him and gave a pickle to him. The pickle gave him the mental and physical strength to live on!

The other story is linked to St. Nicholas. It's a medieval tale of two Spanish boys traveling home from a boarding school for the holidays. When they stopped at an inn for the night, the evil innkeeper, killed the boys and put them in a pickle barrel. That evening, St. Nicholas stopped at the same inn, and found the boys in the barrel and miraculously bought them back to life!

There is an old legend about St. Nicholas rescuing boys from a barrel but the barrel was originally holding meat for pies - not pickles!

So it's most likely that an ornament salesman, with a lot of spare pickles to sell, invented the legend of the Christmas Pickle!

The American city of Berrien Springs, MI (also known as the Christmas Pickle Capital of the World) has an annual pickle festival held during the early part of December.



[www.whychristmas.com](http://www.whychristmas.com)



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## *Events*

**TUESDAYS: 6-?** Dancing Under Stars  
**FRIDAYS: 6-7** Yoga for Sailors\*

**12/12** Membership Meeting  
\*See Club Calendar for exact dates

**12/31** New Year's Eve Party 9P-1A  
**1/1/2020** New Year's Day Party  
**1/2** BOG Meeting  
**1/9** Membership Meeting  
**2/4—3/24** Dancing Under the Stars

UPCOMING:  
**6/26-28** Lighthouse Regatta

**TO VIEW CLUB EVENTS ON THE  
WEBSITE, CLICK ON:  
"CALENDAR"**

## DECEMBER QUIZ

1. Who was the star of the Christmas movie *Jingle All the Way*?
2. Who tries to stop Christmas from coming, by stealing all things of Christmas from "the Who's"?
3. Who was the star of the movie titled *White Christmas*?
4. Which milk-based beverage is available around the Christmas holidays and comes in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic versions?
5. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?
6. What name is given to small sausages wrapped in bacon, a staple at a British Christmas dinner?
7. How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Spanish?
8. Similar to tinsel, these long strips of shiny foil are used to decorate a Christmas tree. What are they called?
9. What country has the tradition of filling children's clogs with candy and treats on December 5?
10. Who created Rudolph, the most popular reindeer of Santa Claus?

ANSWERS APPEAR ON THE  
EDITOR'S EPILOGUE PAGE

# COMMODORE— Craig Bilodeau

[commodore@okcboatclub.com](mailto:commodore@okcboatclub.com)



I remember back in 1980 after sailing for several years I took a ride on a friend's 22' keelboat. I had sailed my centerboard boats and had sailed my catamaran and thought of bigger boats as cumbersome and slow. I had no desire to have a bigger heavier boat that couldn't plane. But there I was on a keelboat and I loved the way it felt, kind of shippy. I had to have one. Turned out there was one available for sale at the OCBC. I negotiated a price that was too high but managed to buy it anyway. The memories made on that boat are too many to list but I was certainly hooked on keelboats from that day on. I joined the boat club at the ripe age of 23 with my new keelboat and tried my hand at some racing. It was a bit confusing at first since I didn't have a clue as to what was going on. I remember many of the members at that time, Walt Kendall, Guy Liebman, Rick Young, Bayless Kirtley, Harold Eiseman, Pascal Aughtry, to mention only a few. During that time provisionals were sometimes ceremoniously thrown into the water on Splash Day. Being aware of this fact I decided to wear a wet suit underneath my clothes so I could endure the chilly water and get the last laugh. As it turned out that was the first year they decided the hazing was a bit harsh and left us provisionals high and dry, whew. No need for a wet suit after all. When I look back over the years it dawns on me that the greatest thing about the boat club is that we all love to sail. Some more than others but we have that one thing in common. It is my prayer that we can focus on what we all have in common and not our differences. The boat club turns 90 this year. The club is a very diverse group but what has kept us together for 90 years is our love for sailing. Let's focus on our common interest and send the club onward and upward for the next generations.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Regards Commodore Craig Bilodeau





## Vice Commodore—Greg Thomas

[vice-commodore@okcboatclub.com](mailto:vice-commodore@okcboatclub.com)

Work is underway for the Lighthouse Charities Regatta. This regatta is the principal means to raise funds for Lighthouse which among other things provides scholarships for underserved kids to learn to sail at our summer camp. This year the format will change. We intend to increase emphasis on the Challenge Cup which is where most money is generated. The Challenge Cup requests donations from companies, foundations, and individuals in exchange for the opportunity to expose perhaps non sailors to our sport along with the fun of experiencing a sailing regatta. The regatta will be held June 26-28, 2020.

The success of this regatta though is very much dependent on our members willingness to support it. We need our members to go out and raise funds from their employers and friends. We also need our members to provide the opportunities for Challenge Cup sponsors to sail with them on their boat during a practice race and the one regatta race. I already have some members who have volunteered to do this, but we need more. If you are willing to take sponsors on your boat, please let me know so we can line up boats.

Not all the details are worked out yet but we expect to have a practice race for Challenge Cup competitors (during a Family Fun Race) on Friday June 26 and after the one Challenge Cup race on Saturday our sponsors will get the chance to participate in a fun evening with our members and other competitors.

More details on this event will follow but, remember the success of this regatta depends on our members' support. Thank you.

Greg Thomas

Vice Commodore





## Rear Commodore—Terry Carlson

[rear-commodore@okcboatclub.com](mailto:rear-commodore@okcboatclub.com)

Things around OCBC are finally showing down due to winter inactivity. However some of the things ongoing are:

Repair of the Clubhouse stove stalled due to a needed part being unavailable. Ethelyn Barnett and others are searching all over the country for the part. Hopefully it can be located soon.

Dean Shafer, Carl Borgfeld and I removed and stored all the equipment from RC 1 & 2 and in preparation to take boats to be repaired and serviced.

Dean Shafer and Luther Curtis disassembled the "old" youth docks and salvaged everything which could be used for later projects.

The hydrant at dry slip 56 was broken off at main supply line, thanks to Van Downing, Rick Young and Karl Benzer a new hydrant was install and water service to dry slips was restored.

Harold Eisman provided contact information for the electrician who originally installed service to dry slip area 25 years ago, Jerry McCollom. I got in touch with Jerry, who said he felt the warranty on his installation had expired, however he met me on 12/3 and got all the dry slip outlets working.

Garbage disposal quit working and had to be replaced, I picked up a new one and Robbin Phillips installed it in time for the Christmas party.

Met with David's Marine and arranged to begin taking all the RC boats down for repairs and servicing beginning 12/9 with RC# 4, as per David Bass' request.

As always, thanks to all the members who are always available to help with all the repairs and projects around OCBC, without them it would be hard to keep up.

Terry Carlson, Rear Commodore



# SECRETARY'S CORNER: David Archibald

## Summary of BOG meeting held December 5, 2019

[secretary@okcboatclub.com](mailto:secretary@okcboatclub.com)

NO REPORT



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[www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)



“I was texting while driving my sleigh. Your toys are in a ditch outside of South Bend, Indiana.”

# OCBC CHRISTMAS PARTY—2019

Photos by John Walters





# Yoga For Sailors

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**GRAB YOUR MAT AND PRACTICE WITH NOVA**

**FRIDAYS  
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November 15

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November 29

December 13

December 20

**Yoga** can HELP the CREW get:

Mindfully engaged

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Proper alignment

Improved Breathing

Help with seasickness

**MORE INFO:  
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**Nova Phu  
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RYT 200**

**Oklahoma City Boat Club**

9101 Lake Hefner Pkwy, Oklahoma City, OK 73120

## America's Cup Design Warning

Article from stuff.co.nz contains content that Grant Simmer, America's Cup veteran, issued a warning concerning dangers associated with the radical AC-75 boat design to be used in the 2021 America's Cup.

Mr. Simmer has competed in eleven America's Cups, winning the Auld Mug four times in such roles as CEO. He identifies risks involved with the 75-foot foiling monohull as these vessels attempt to break through the 50-knots barrier. Specifically, he indicated that these boats can easily be capsized because of their light weight and high righting moment\*. Safety of the crew is the utmost concern, while protection of competitor's physical assets is the second most important consideration.

Mr. Simmer is a career America's Cup sailor who has won the cup four times in eleven campaigns.

\*Righting Moment: Restoring the previous attitude of an airplane or naval vessel after any small rotational displacement. ...Editor



# MEMORIES

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Submitted  
Monthly  
by  
John  
Walters

## OCBC Christmas 2013

*From the Dictionary for Landlubbers, Old Salts,  
and Armchair Drifters*



**YACHT BROKER:** Form of coastal marine life found in many harbors in the Northern Hemisphere generally thought to occupy a position on the evolutionary scale above algae, but below the cherrystone clam.

*Submitted by: John Barnett*



## ***THE TRADING PAGE***

**FOR SALE:** 1980 Catalina 25. Very good bottom with VC Offshore. No outboard. No trailer. \$4500. Contact David Bilodeau, 405-596-2098.<sup>(1)</sup>

**FOR SALE:** 1997 Beneteau 25, a Bruce Farr racing design. PHRF 114-120, a.k.a. a Platu 25 in Europe and Southern Hemisphere. A.K.A. "Bad Influence" locally. 5'2" bulb keel, single point lift setup. Excellent, almost new, Quantum laminate sails. Very comfortable boat to also daysail with an 8' cockpit. Best offer over \$7500 without trailer, \$9500 with trailer. Contact David Bilodeau, 405-596-2098.<sup>(1)</sup>

**FOR SALE:** 1985 Sovereign 23. Wheel steering with pedestal mounted Autohelm Instruments, plus throttle and shift controls. 2'6" fixed keel. Must be seen to appreciate. \$5500 with galvanized, float on/off trailer. Contact David Bilodeau, 405-596-2098.<sup>(1)</sup>

**FOR SALE:** Flying Scot—great boat with winning OCBC history. Two sets of sails, two covers. Bill of Sale only. Price: \$1,500.00 OBO. Contact Glede Holman, voice/text 405-416-0112.<sup>(3)</sup>

**FOR SALE:** Melges C-Scow with two sails and trailer. \$1,000.00 OBO. Contact Glede Holman, voice/text 405-416-0112.<sup>(3)</sup>

**FOR SALE:** 1981 Catalina 22 Project Boat; includes excellent trailer, good sails, 4HP Mercury. Can be seen in Dry Slip 87. \$3,000. Norm Foster, 405-755-6226<sup>(1)</sup>

*Items on the Trading Page will run for three issues. To continue publishing your ad for an additional three issues, please notify Keith Green, Editor, [green3000@sbcglobal.net](mailto:green3000@sbcglobal.net)*



# FLAG OFFICERS, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## 2019-20 BOG MEMBERS

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Vice Commodore	Greg Thomas	<a href="mailto:vice-commodore@okcboatclub.com">vice-commodore@okcboatclub.com</a>	405-203-4795
Rear Commodore	Terry Carlson	<a href="mailto:rear-commodore@okcboatclub.com">rear-commodore@okcboatclub.com</a>	405-694-7011
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Treasurer-elect	Glede Holman	<a href="mailto:treasurer-elect@okcboatclub.com">treasurer-elect@okcboatclub.com</a>	405-416-0112
Member-at-Large	Art Caples	<a href="mailto:board1@okcboatclub.com">board1@okcboatclub.com</a>	240-281-1091
Member-at-Large	Luther Curtis	<a href="mailto:board2@okcboatclub.com">board2@okcboatclub.com</a>	405-850-1574
Member-at-Large	Don Garrison	<a href="mailto:board3@okcboatclub.com">board3@okcboatclub.com</a>	405-203-0290

## 2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Race:** Mike Anderson

**Regatta:** David Archibald, Becky Archibald

**PHRF (Handicap Rating):** Mike Kelly,  
Terry Carlson

**Hoist:** Mike Hahn, Robbin Phillips, Stan Nieves,  
Kenny Parker, Greg Thomas

**House, Dock & Anchorage:**

**Wet Slip monitors:**

**Dry Slip monitors:**

**Permanent Marks:**

**Landscape:** Keith Green

**YeLogge:** Keith Green, Ginny Green

**Entertainment:** Glede Holman, Ethelyn Barnett

**Youth:** Shawn Cina, Richard Walford

**Finance:** Liz Eagan

**Database & Roster:** Liz Eagan

**Scoring:** Ann Kilpatrick

**Commodore's Cup:** Richard Walford

**CSSA:** Dan Camp

**Education:** Alistair Charlton

**Eight Bells:** Bill Hesse

**Historian:** Bruce McDermott

**Technology:** Dwight Bays, Scott Law

**Protocol:** Steve Bryant

**Protest:** Gary Sander

**USSA:** Glede Holman

**Photography:** Bruce McDermott, John Walters

**Planning:**

**Lighthouse:**

**Ladies:** Anita Endres

**Nominating:** Chris Bayouth

**Public Relations:** Cindy Friedemann

**Collegiate:** David Bass

**Procedural:** Bill Brett

**Government & Business Relations:** Greg Thomas



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<http://okcboatclub.com/>

## EDITOR'S EPILOGUE—Keith Green



**French: *Joyeux Noel*; German: *Frohe Weihnachten*;  
Spanish: *Feliz Navidad*; Italian: *Buon Natale*;  
Portuguese: *Feliz Natal*; Dutch: *Vrolijk kerstfeest*;  
Romanian: *Craciun fericit*; Polish: *Wesolych swiat Bozego Narodzenia*  
Swedish: *God Jul*; Czech: *Vesele Vanoce*  
In any language, **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!****

## ANSWERS TO DECEMBER QUIZ

1. Arnold Schwarzenegger; 2. The Grinch; 3. Bing Crosby; 4. Eggnog; 5. Germany; 6. Pigs in blankets; 7. *Feliz Navidad*; 8. Icicles; 9. The Netherlands; 10. Robert L. May created Rudolph in 1939 when he wrote a Christmas-themed story-poem to attract customers in his department store.

The Official Publication of the Oklahoma City Boat Club  
Editor: Keith Green  
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Published monthly prior to the General Membership meeting. Please email all submission by the Friday before the General Membership meeting. The editor of *Ye Logge* reserves the right to edit, delete, or withhold any material submitted for publication. Manuscripts submitted will not be returned. The Oklahoma City Boat Club accepts no responsibility for the content of any item published in this publication.

**Corporate Ad Rates:** 1/4 pg. @ \$120 (4" wide, 5.25" high or 4x4 square); 1/2 pg. @ \$180 (8.0" wide, 5.25" high); Full pg. @ \$300 (7.5" wide, 10" high). Ads will run 12 months from the date of purchase.

**Trading Page:** Free to OCBC members. No pictures. Ads will run three times, then must be renewed via email to the Editor.

**Personals/Custom Ads/Announcements** (Charitable events exempt): 1/4 pg. @ \$30 for 1 month, \$75 for 3 months; 1/2 pg. @ \$45 for 1 month, \$120 for 3 months; Full pg. @ \$75 for 1 month, \$180 for 3 months.

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