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51ST BAREFOOT OPEN



SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2025

LAKE LANIER, GEORGIA

Join Us for the 51st Annual Barefoot Open (BFO) – Lake Lanier's Longest-Running Regatta!

Get ready for two thrilling days of competitive racing for all fleets, set against the backdrop of one of the premier venues for lake sailing. With a top-tier race committee and experienced judges, you're in for a weekend of exceptional racing.

BAREFOOTSAILINGCLUB.ORG

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

REGISTRATION LOCATION:

University Yacht Club, Flowery Branch, GA

1730	Friday Evening - Late Registration Skipper's Packet pick-up Social Hour
1845	Registration Ends
1900	Skippers' Meeting – All Fleets

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

REGISTRATION LOCATION:

RC boat V-dock, Flowery Branch, GA 08:00 to 08:15

Late Registration (a late fee may apply for late registration) Skipper's Packet pick-up

09:55	Warning signal for start of first race.
10:00	Races start (No race will start after 1600 on Saturday.)
17:30 - 21:30	Party at University Yacht Club

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

RACE LOCATION:

Flowery Branch Bay and adjoining environs, Lake Lanier, GA

09:55	Warning signal for the start of the first race on Sunday (No race will start after 1400 on Sunday)
10:00	Races start

AWARDS LOCATION:

University Yacht Club, Flowery Branch, GA

15:00	Social Hour
16:30	Awards Ceremony



In Memoriam

Thomas "Tom" Jay Swendiman

1943-2025

Chief Petty Officer, USNR (ret)

Member, SSC 1979-2021 and BFSC, 1999-2025



We are sad to note the passing of Thomas "Tom" J. Swendiman in June of this year after complications set in from surgery in 2024.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he was predeceased by his parents, Ralph and Betty, and his sister, Jeanne. He is survived by his brothers, John, Trent and Mark, along with several nieces and nephews, whom he loved very much.



Tom enlisted in the U.S. Navy in the 1960s and went on to serve for another 30 years in the U.S. Navy reserves, where he achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Tom graduated from Brenau University with a B.S. degree in 1991 and was awarded membership in Phi Beta Sigma, a scholastic fraternity. Professionally he worked for Western Electric, Southwestern Bell and eventually AT&T, garnering several awards for his outstanding work.



Tom sailed on Lake Lanier for 50+ years, first in a Catalina 28 named "Song of Norway". In 1984 he purchased his beloved Cal31 "Windwalker", which he has cruised and raced ever since. A secret "Wind Wax" was alleged to have been used to make it extra fast. So many family members and friends have sailed w/Tom over the years... so many owe Tom for introducing them to the lifestyle... as much as Tom personally enjoyed sailing on Lake Lanier, he got the most joy out of sharing the experience with friends and family.



Several of us in BFSC considered Tom a close friend. Intelligent and kind, he had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh. One of his dearest qualities was being genuinely interested in other people. He was one of the very best listeners and phone calls with Tom were never short. He'll be missed. He already is. Fair winds, Swendiman.

Fair winds and following seas.



ANGELA WILLIAMS - Yeoman

Angela and her husband, Scott, have lived in Johns Creek since 2002. Neither grew up near the water in Pennsylvania but love the ocean and sea air. Both are certified divers and love traveling with friends. Angela discovered sailing recently through her husband. During Covid, he took lessons and learned everything he could about sailing and sailboats. They currently own a houseboat on Lake Lanier and Scott participates in sailing races when crews are needed. Angela is still learning the basics but is always up for an adventure!



JACQUELINE STEADMAN - Membership Captain

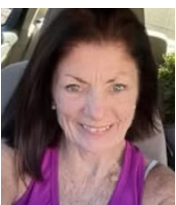
Jacqueline was first introduced to sailing on a trip to Lake Pontchartrain near New Orleans with David. She attended an 'Evening at Emory' sailing class but learned mostly while crewing and playing with our boats. They started crewing BFSC races in the early 1990's, then bought their own Catalina 250 in 1997. After 20 years they traded up to "Out of Office", their current Catalina 355.



CHRIS HARDING - Boatswain (Bo's'n)

Sailing runs in his family—his father passed down both skill and passion from his own experiences.

Christopher first took the helm at 16, learning on a 16-foot dinghy along a river in Cornwall. Since then, he has sailed and raced in waters near and far: across the English Channel, up and down the Chesapeake Bay, over the waves off Rhode Island, and now among the shifting winds of Lake Lanier. For him, whether it's a nimble 16-foot dinghy or a 42-foot Beneteau, sailing is always about the journey and the experience it brings.



DEBBIE SOUTH - Social Captain

A Savannah native, Debbie South brings her lifelong love of wind and waves to her role as Barefoot Sailing's Social Captain. Her passion for the water found a perfect match in sailing, quickly becoming her newest adventure.

With a background in organizing successful land-based fundraising events, Debbie's skills have become a valuable asset to the many social gatherings hosted throughout the year. She helps create memorable moments for our community. After all, life is best enjoyed with good friends, great adventures, and breathtaking sunsets.



ERIN SCHRODER

Appointed Advisory (non-voting)

Erin was first introduced to sailing as a young kid in the 70s when her dad built a kit boat in the garage(!) while living in Pasadena, TX. Fast forward to the mid-2000s and she is reintroduced to sailing by fellow Barefooter Tom Beachem. These days, she helps with web editing and can be heard yelling "woooooo" while racing on Kathy and Jeff Paes' S/V Taka, an Islander P40.

Welcome to the 51th Annual Barefoot Open!

I have been a member of Barefoot Sailing Club since 2021, and the Barefoot Open has been and still is a favorite annual event. The BFO is one of the few times that the majority of our members have the privilege to interact, both competitively and socially, with the other sailing and boating clubs on Lake Lanier. This regatta remains one of the best-run, most enjoyable, and energetic events on Lake Lanier! It is also the longest continually running regatta on Lake Lanier.



Events for the BFO begin on Friday with the Skipper's Meeting and social. Racing starts on Saturday at 10:00 with a fantastic dinner and dancing event that evening. On Sunday, racing continues at 10:00 with the awards ceremony following in the afternoon. All of this sailing takes place on Lake Lanier, with the social activities held at University Yacht Club.

This year's racing action will be coordinated, scored, and judged by some of the most knowledgeable and experienced sailors on the lake: our Race Committee PRO, Chris Webster, and scoring will be handled by Tedd Meinersmann. Chefs from the University Yacht Club will cater our Saturday evening dinner, and Thunder Gypsy will provide music for our listening and dancing pleasure. What a great way to spend this weekend!

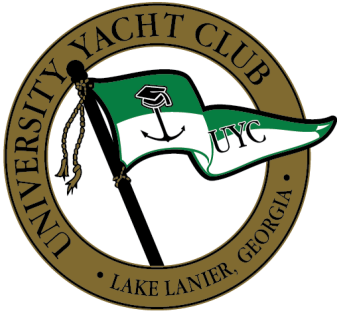
On behalf of the officers and members of Barefoot Sailing Club, I welcome the skippers and crew of the racing and cruising fleets, friends both new and old, and our fantastic sponsors. I hope you enjoy this fun-filled weekend of racing and camaraderie! Welcome to the 2025 Barefoot Open Regatta!

Bill Anchors

Bill Anchors

Commodore

Barefoot Sailing Club



UNIVERSITY YACHT CLUB

6649 Yacht Club Rd,
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Experience the University Yacht Club

ENJOY A FAMILY-FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Welcome to the University Yacht Club website. Founded in 1951, UYC is a member of the United States Sailing Association and is listed on the registry of the Yachting Clubs of America. UYC members participate in active power and sailing fleets that are berthed at Club docks. University Yacht Club is located on Lake Lanier in Flowery Branch, Georgia near Atlanta.

Lake Lanier is a man-made lake encompassing 38,000 acres of water and 692 miles of shoreline at normal level. Its maximum depth is 156 feet. Named for poet Sidney Lanier, it was built and is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources patrols the lake.



BILL ANCHORS – Commodore

I learned to sail small boats growing up in Savannah, GA (Sunfish, Chrysler Man-O-War) and owned a 16 ft ski boat in high school. I started sailing on Lanier in the early 90's with the Mother Ocean club out of Sunrise Cove. After Mother Ocean went out of business, I joined Lake Lanier Sailing Academy out of Holiday. While there I earned ASA 101, 103, and 104 certifications. Today I live on the south end of Lanier and keep a Bennington 21SX (pontoon) and a Catalina 25 at my dock.



LAURA CLARKE – Vice Commodore

I am new to sailing, but not new to the water. I grew up on motorboats on the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers near Savannah, GA. My dad was a sailor and racer, and I always wanted to learn the sport. I have taken many classes at Lake Lanier Sailing Academy since 2021, and I am ASA certified. I have membership access to the LLSA Passport fleet, and I sail as often as my schedule allows.



LISA SCHOER - Past Commodore

Lisa has been an avid sailor since her teens. She has crewed on dinghies; C-15's, Lightning's and MC Scows and cruisers; Capri 25's, Catalina's, J 24's and Hunters.. Lisa and Jack met in 2003 and married the following May, 2004. They live in Cumming Georgia. Lisa and Jack also enjoy open and blue water sailing. Together they have sailed in Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Chesapeake Bay, San Francisco Bay, the Grenadine's and the BVI's.



BILL BOND - Cruising Fleet Captain

Boating was an item learned from my father. Sitting on the flybridge of his sedan cruiser in the New Buffalo Marina on Lake Michigan, sailboats would go by and skippers would ask if I wanted to crew. It was several years later (after college) that I purchased my first boat. The daysailer was sold due to the call of child rearing years. Many years later I bought a 24' S2 7.3 and started sailing on Lake Lanier. Pam, my first mate, had never sailed before and soon learned both the thrill and the relaxation offered by the quietness of sailboats. When the pandemic hit, we bought a Hunter 356. We've been enjoying our boat with Friends and Neighbors, and now look forward to sharing with members of BFSC.



JEFF ELAM - Racing Fleet Captain

I started sailing on Lake Lanier in the 90's. I first had a Cape Dory Typhoon that was great as a learning platform, but not very well suited to summers on Lanier. Several of my dock neighbors were avid Barefoot racers, and they persuaded me to join them. Then, as now, Barefoot encouraged new racers, and always matched new crew with a boat. I was instantly hooked. I have enjoyed racing with and crewing for Barefoot members for over 20 years. I have had my Santana 20 for 17 years, and I still love it. I like to race her, but I also do a good bit of cruising. I just like getting up to the lake, even it's just to tinker with the boat.



DAVID STEADMAN - Purser

David grew up in Atlanta and has lived here for most of his life. He first sailed at a summer youth program on Lake Seneca in Upstate NY, then grew to love sailing on the much warmer waters of Lake Lanier after an "Evening at Emory" program. David and Jacqueline met in a whitewater canoeing class in 1989. They started crewing BFSC races in the early 1990's, then bought their own Catalina 250 in 1997. After 20 years they traded up to "Out of Office", their current Catalina 355.



BAREFOOT SAILING CLUB (BFSC) is one of Lake Lanier's major sailing clubs. BFSC was founded in 1971 on the premise of a common forum for people who love sailing - and who may or may not even own a boat. If you're new to sailing or an old salt, you are invited. Whether you prefer the adrenaline rush of hiking out or "poppin' a chute" as you round a buoy, or just relaxing for a pleasant day sailing on the lake with good company.... You are welcome.

EDUCATION

One of Barefoot Sailing Club's primary objectives is to help our members become more skilled sailors. We offer an Introduction to Sailing Class in the spring, which introduces our members to the basics of sailing. Barefoot has a learning segment at all of our monthly membership meetings. We also offer seminars on various topics, such as spinnaker handling and the race committee, throughout the year.

CRUISING

If you prefer to relax and soak up the sun, you won't want to miss out on our BFSC Cruises. Cruisers come together throughout the year for a wide variety of events. Choose to participate in any of the raftups, moonlight cruises, wine & cheese events, and more. There are also the First Saturday Cruises held every month. The Cruise Captain assigns a time and place to meet up, where everyone is assigned to a boat. Just show up with your cooler and sunscreen!

RACING

Barefoot offers major racing circuit events each year, including the annual two-day "Barefoot Open Regatta" on the first weekend in October. The club sponsors a racing series for its PHRF fleets from March through November, with awards to skippers and crew for each series. Regular club races are held on Lake Lanier, featuring both buoy and long-distance (around the islands) racing. The club's sailing instructions detail the rules of racing with Barefoot. Visitors are invited to crew for races; attend the skipper's meeting, held two hours before each race, to see which skippers need crew.

SOCIAL

As its name suggests, the Barefoot Sailing Club is a casual and informal organization, offering a variety of outings and social activities. You will meet interesting folks from all walks of life who have a common interest in sailing. After-race dock parties, raft-ups, fun cruises, and informal gatherings at Sunrise Cove Marina will give you a chance to meet new friends and talk sailing. The club sponsors annual events, including the Blessing of the Fleet party to kick off the racing season, moonlight cruises, a Blue Water Cruise on chartered boats (in Florida or other areas), the annual Lobster Boil, Steak Out, and a Holiday Awards Banquet to close out the year. A monthly newsletter keeps you up-to-date on all club happenings. Contact our Social Captain; volunteers are always welcome.

Barefoot Sailing Club • P.O. Box 147, Flowery Branch, GA 30542 • 678-871-7937

For a complete list of BFSC events, please visit barefootsailingclub.org.



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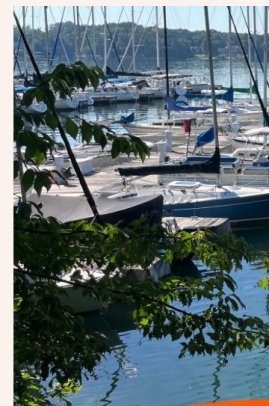
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First Saturday Cruise

Skippers Meeting/Brunch
Sat, Oct 04, 10 AM | Sugar Hill Diner

Remember to RSVP on the Barefoot Sailing Club website for the First Saturday Cruise event. Crew assignments will be made at Sugar Hill Diner, 4500 Nelson Brogdon Blvd, Sugar Hill.

The meet and greet portion will be a relaxed atmosphere inside the diner where you can treat yourself to a breakfast while we organize how the remainder of the event will occur. No more guessing whether the event will occur due to weather, we will meet rain or shine, warm or cold. We plan to leave for boats around 11. Even if you do not plan to go sailing, you can still come to eat and meet with your fellow members.

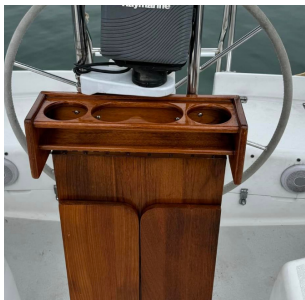
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On Facebook and Instagram.

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