



GulfBreeze -Corpus Christi Windsurfing Association (Part 1)

The Corpus Christi Windsurfing Association (CCWA) was created in 1982 to organize windsurfing events around the Corpus Christi area. There were a few name changes over the years but today the CCWA still exists primarily to promote the growth of windsurfing, protect launch access, promote wind sport safety and sponsor civic projects. The CCWA has an excellent website (<http://www.corpuschristiwindsurfing.com/index.html>) with current and past information, links, newsletters and photo galleries.

1980's.....boardsailing, sailboarding, windsurfing

In 1982 Vicki and Bob Harraghy opened Sailsurfing, a shop that offered beginner and instructor windsurfing lessons and BIC equipment sales. Sailsurfing soon became the meeting place of the first organization of windsurfers, which was part of the U. S. Boardsailing Association, known as Fleet 6. Along with Vicki and Bob, good friend Gary Motl is thought to have invisioned an organization. Some of the other founding members include Connie Vallie, Crab Lumley, Joe Sevilla, Cindy Van Veen, Tom Genrty and Blanch Montelongo. In 1985 the organization was renamed the Corpus Christi Sailboarding Association (CCSA) and had grown to include 60 members.

Gary Motl served 4 consecutive years as Commodore and was succeeded for two years by Cindy Van Veen Gentry who was the only lady Commodore. Craig Hawkins became the next Commodore followed in 1988 by Jocko Taylor, a veteran Hobie Cat sailor. By 1989 there were 140 members and many of the founding members filled various officer positions throughout the formative years to promote windsurfing, the great conditions and variety of launch sites available in the Coastal Bend.

The CCSA's name was changed to the present CCWA and Part 2 of this writing will include more about the 1990-2010.

Activities.....charitable, civic and club

Through the 1980's the CCSA sponsored over 120 local, state and national events including the USBSA National Regatta in 1983 and the USYRU Nationals in 1986. There were also several long-running annual events which highlighted the fun and racing interest of many members. The CCSA made donations to the National Kidney Foundation, Special Olympics and the city for Oleander Park improvements. Membership in the Chamber of Commerce, Texas Yachting Association, working with the City Parks and Recreation Board and

National Seashore further helped promote the sport and safety. After a few years of hard work, efforts to establish a Boardsailing Hall of Fame and Museum were abandoned in the early 1990's.

Local events.....racing series

Initially the CCSA was more of a racing organization starting a series of local competitive and fun events. Between 1982-1988 the Suck Down Sail Off No Rules Regatta was an annual event at Bird Island Basin. Blanch Montelongo created the event and in the photo of Vicki Harraghy, who won the 7th annual race, is displaying the commorative t-shirt.

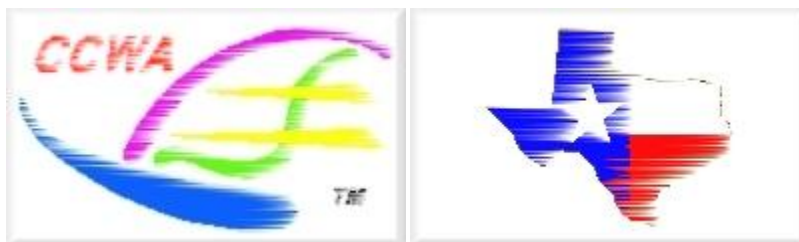
From 1983-1990 the Screamin' Reach, a one- way race across the bay from the Naval Air Station to near Ingleside and back to Oleander Point. The Screamin' Reach was the idea of Vicki Harraghy and Kandi Van Dyke and was probably one of the longest continuous running windsurfing events during that time.

Between 1985 ????-1999 the CCWA began the Whataburger Slalom Series in Corpus Christi Bay which was popular among locals for a several years.

Coming Soon.....Free to the public

On September 25 the CCWA will host the 4th annual Discover Windsurfing Day (DWD) at Bird Island in conjunction with a fee free day at the National Seashore. The DWD is free and the CCWA invites the public to experience the basics of windsurfing. CCWA volunteers, Worldwinds staff and equipment provide about 45 minutes of land demonstration and water practice to participants. In the past the DWD has been successful with 50-100 participants each year and the limited time slots fill up fast. In September a DWD flyer will be distributed with contact information to register for a time slot. If interested you can also watch the CCWA website for more information and a short video of the first Discover Windsurfing Day.

Photos credits and captions:



CCWA windy and patriotic logos



Spectators and gear line the shore at Oleander Point during the U. S. Open in ????



Racers at the start of one of the U. S. Open races in Corpus Christi Bay at Oleander Point



CCWA volunteers and Worldwinds staff after another successful DWD at Bird Island Basin



Vicki Harraghy has operated Texas Excursions since 1987