



Commodore Ralph "Red Dog" Jones races his sailboat during a Sunday afternoon competition against his fellow Corinthian Sailing Club members on White Rock Lake. But the sailors say no matter what happens on the water, they're all still friends on the dock. Below, sailors hangout in the Corinthian Sailing Club's clubhouse before a race.



Corinthian Sailing Club set anchor 73 years ago in White Rock community

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They call him Ralph "Red Dog" Jones. He is the commodore of Corinthian Sailing Club on White Rock Lake this year. And although he might stand out with his big red eyebrows and a cellphone tone that barks, he has one thing in common with his fellow sailors: He calls this club his home.

Corinthian Sailing Club is where many of the sailors have grown up, where some of them have raised their own children and where all of them feel like a part of this family, they said.

"What really makes this club unique is the people," said Jones, 64, of University Park. "They have a desire to race. They have a desire to learn. They have a desire to get better."

And they have a willingness to help others.

Last month, Corinthian Sailing Club held its annual Leukemia Cup Regatta, racing about 55 boats on White Rock Lake and then racing Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club on Lake Lewisville. The groups raised more than \$100,000 for leukemia and lymphoma research and have exceeded more than \$1 million in the past 10 years, Jones said.

In July, the club will hold its annual Sailing for Rhinos fundraiser, a race to raise money for the care and treatment of rhinos at the Dallas Zoo, he said.

The list goes on.

"We want to introduce people to the world of sailing," Jones said. "Sailing is something you can do all your life almost anywhere you go and it opens a whole new world."



Corinthian Sailing Club members take a break between races on White Rock Lake. This is where, they say, they feel like a family.

A place to call HOME



The Corinthian Sailing Club has been on White Rock Lake since the late 1930s.

Setting Sail

Twenty-eight years after White Rock Creek was dammed to form White Rock Lake in an effort to relieve the city of Dallas' drought issues in 1911, a new sailing club was born.

Corinthian Sailing Club set sail in 1939 when a handful of young people started sailing from a public pier in the northwest corner of White Rock Lake, according to the club's history. They built a small club with a pier where the sailing club's north entrance is now.

Since its inception, Corinthian Sailing Club had an active racing program, hosting the Corinthian Handicap Series, which attracted 26 boats in 1939, and a Frostbit Handicap Series with participants from three clubs in 1940, according to the sailing club's history.

It was a time when White Rock Lake was littered Snipes, Seagulls and Lightnings — the sailing club's preferred sailboats in the 1940s. But even today, when the club's sailors race primarily Flying Scots and Corinthians, the group's focus remains much the same.

Team Spirit

Minutes before a Sunday regatta on White Rock Lake, members of Corinthian Sailing Club gear up for the race, smearing on sunscreen, checking sails and rallying teammates.

On the water, sailors talk a good game — yelling back and forth when boats get too close to each other and commanding each other to slow down. It's a competitive crew.

"But when you get back to the dock, everybody's friends not matter what happens on the race course — and you don't find that at a lot of clubs," said Greta Mittman of Garland.

And, for some, the group is more than bunch of sailors or even a circle of close friends.

Kelly Gough, who still sails out here with his father, Bob Gough, now also races here with his wife, Heidi, and his 12-year-old son, Kevin. He also coaches the junior sailing camp.

"I've been here since I was 6," said Gough, a Coppell resident. "These people I've known all my life. It's not this dock. It's not these boats. It's just the people. It's home for me."

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