

As we approach the start of the spring semester, it is beneficial to take a few moments to reflect on the GT Sailing Club's successes of the past year and our numerous plans for this winter. 2006 has been a year with renewed enthusiasm at the Lake Lanier Sailing Club to provide the foundation for GT to regain its position as one of the top college sailing programs in the Southeast. This potential was demonstrated early on when our team stepped to be a replacement host for the 2006 New Year's Sugar Bowl Regatta, traditionally held in New Orleans. In addition to the immediate success of the event, our club was able to capitalize on the momentum and continue to host joint regattas with LLSC, build on coaching opportunities, compete at the district level throughout the spring, and finish second at our Points Regatta last fall!

By summer, some of our attention had been turned back to redefining the way we teach sailing basics to the GT community and recruit new members. While the summer was also marked by the loss of our home at the 10<sup>th</sup> St. Water Sports House, I think we are moving past this in a positive direction. Some inventive ideas and hard work by club members developed what has become known as the GT Sailing Center at Lake Lanier. Combined with reorganized Lake Host scheduling and more sailing courses, we are committed to providing the means for more students to get out on the water each year and supplying the team with the top sailing facilities in the state.

This winter, look for some new events taking place to continue supporting these themes. We have our first ever J-24 Match Race scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> and will be spending the next couple meetings going over basics of "Americas Cup" style racing. Each Sunday, until the end of February, there is also Laser Fleet Racing organized by LLSC. Our fleet has undergone thousands of dollars in storage and system upgrades to be ready for this, so look forward to six boats being ready to use and a Laser rigging and racing clinic to get you started. There will also be team practices each Sunday in January, organized by our Captain and Coach Funsch, to have everyone ready for the start of the spring season.

These events will not happen on their own. An active membership with committed leaders is required, and I challenge each of you to broaden your involvement. Our outgoing Fleet Captain will be training his replacement this winter and we continue to have openings for Lake Host positions as long time members graduate. With our new Sailing Center and a full event calendar planned, the perfect opportunity is in place to become re-immersed in sailing at Tech, "college style"!

Sail fast,



Matthew Widlansky  
Commodore of the Georgia Tech Sailing Club