



"SPI Windsurfing was founded to retain and improve present water access locations, as well as to create a safe, fun, and clean environment for all water sports."

Fall 2005 Newsletter

RENEWAL TIME AGAIN - It's that time of year again. The 2006 stickers are available as of the first of November. Your 2006 registration form is part of this newsletter. Please fill it out, sign the release form and return it to us ASAP. The registration fees are the same as last year. That is, \$15 per sailor or \$20 per family. Please enclose payment with your signed release form. Be sure to print clearly when filling out your registration form. Also make sure you **SIGN** the release form. In order to sail at the North Flats every sailor must have a signed release form on file with the association.

The North Flats property owners are leasing the use of this property to the members of the South Padre Island Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Association with the requirement that all members of this organization submit a signed release form. Please note that your 2006 North Flats Passes are good from Nov.1 through the end of 2006. If you have any questions regarding your registration and release form you can email Herman at sbssso@awesomenet.net. Be sure to put SPI Windsurfing in the subject field of your email. Once you have completed your registration form you should mail it along with your check to the SPI Windsurfing Association.

Summer 2005 - This past summer SPI had its usual influx of vacationers and it was to good see all the island businesses flourishing. However, at the North Flats during the summer months it's not uncommon to see only two or three windsurfers and a handful of kites out enjoying warm water, sunny skies and wind in the high teens to mid 20's almost everyday. We did have a little excitement this past July when Emily gave us a visit. We got lots of rain and some pretty strong winds but all in all this area was spared any serious damage.

During Emily the Flats flooded all the way up to the highway making it difficult to get to the launch areas. However, at the convention center there was one sailor out the afternoon of the hurricane. We didn't catch the sailor's name but we heard he was from Colorado. Figures. It's now September, which is the worst month for wind. But we're all looking forward to October because with the October winds come the fall sailing and kiting members, swap meets, fun times and Jibbers famous fajitas.



How fast can you go? - This past summer small, water resistant GPS units started showing up at the Flats. And as everyone knows GPS units are only good for one thing and that's to see how fast you can go. In early July we had one guy clock 30.3mph on a day with winds in the low 20's. Someone decided that it would be neat to record speed records on the posts of one of the Palapas. The 30.3mph record lasted about 3 weeks when that darn guy from Colorado clocked a 32.5mph in 20+ winds. Then two weeks later Tom Klassen, a local sailor, recorded a 33.7mph in 20+ winds.

Can't wait till more members show up. The winds are stronger in the fall and spring months and with all the good sailors that come out to the Flats, we're sure we're going to see the speeds in the 40's. If you uncork a top speed be sure to record it on the palapa.

Surfrider Foundation coming to SPI - The Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit environmental organization, is starting a chapter on SPI. The Surfrider Foundation South Texas Chapter held it's first organizational meeting on Aug. 8, 2005 at Louie's Backyard. The first meeting had an impressive turn out of Island and Valley families, many local businessmen, community leaders and city officials. For a full run down on the results of this organizational meeting and to find out more about the Surfrider Foundation you can go to <http://www.spadre.com/surfridersouthtexas.htm>

Talking about the wind - Sometimes it seems like you can sail SPI year round. Well you can sail here year round but as you might imagine some months are a lot better than others. One of our members set out to see if he could estimate how many sailable days there are on SPI in a given year. He went to an on line weather service that provides historical data you can down load in a spreadsheet format. He downloaded the wind data for 2004 and came up with this information. He estimates that there were well over 200 sailable days last year.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Sailable Days | 19 | 21 | 23 | 26 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 9 | 21 | 16 | 18 |
| Avg Hi Wind | 21.5 | 24.8 | 23.5 | 22.5 | 26 | 23.9 | 22.3 | 23.1 | 22.4 | 23.6 | 26.3 | 24.4 |
| Avg Low Wind | 11.4 | 12.5 | 12.9 | 13.4 | 14.6 | 13.2 | 11.3 | 10.3 | 7.5 | 11.4 | 13.3 | 12 |
| Avg Gust | 26.5 | 30 | 28.1 | 31.4 | 31.4 | 28.6 | 27.9 | 27.7 | 26.9 | 28.2 | 31.9 | 29.8 |

There is a saying in the business world that what the BIG print giveth the small print taketh away. **Now for the disclaimer.** The day-to-day data was taken from the Weather Underground (www.weatherunderground.com). The data contained Avg high wind, Avg low wind and Avg Gusts over a given 24-hour period. To come up with the "sailable days" estimate he made the following assumptions: The Avg high wind had to be at least 18mph and the Avg low wind had to be 10mph or better. Thus any days in the monthly data that had Avg max wind less than 18 and Avg low wind below 10 were deleted. After purging the data he calculated the days in each month that meet the conditions and calculated the averages for the remaining data. He even included the days in January and February when the Northerly were blowing cold and strong and only the folks from Colorado were out sailing.



Special Thank You - We'd like to remind everyone that the South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau has been very supportive and very involved in the ongoing success of our organization. For example, without the Bureau's involvement the annual Windsurfing Blowout wouldn't be the success it is year after year. And the Bureau's ongoing council and support helps us keep the North Flats open for all of our members. Thank you South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau for all your help and support.

Swaps and Fajitas Fall Calendar of events - We have two swap meets scheduled for Sat. Nov. 5 and Sat. Nov. 12. Both Swaps will be at the Louies Backyard parking lot and both start at 9am. Plus our annual Fall Fajita Feed will be at Dolphin Cove on Friday Nov. 4 at 7PM. See all ya all there.