

# The Binnacle

A newsletter of the

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## Lake Guntersville Sailing Club

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[www.lakeguntersvillesailingclub.com](http://www.lakeguntersvillesailingclub.com)

February 2007

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### Activities at a Glance and the LGSC Race Schedule

#### February

##### Sat., February 17:

3 p.m. - LGSC Board Meeting in the LGSC clubhouse.

6 p.m. - Chili Cook-Off with a presentation on BVI by Trish & George Brown

##### February 19:

All articles are due to Marsha Babb for the newsletter.

#### March

##### Sun., March 11:

1 p.m. - Skipper's Meeting – Spring Pursuit Series

2 p.m. - Race Start - Spring Pursuit Series

##### Sat., March 17:

LGSC Board Meeting in the LGSC Clubhouse – time TBD

6 p.m. - Saturday Night Social with speaker. Lynn Haxton of Toucan Canvas will present a program on the care of canvas covers, biminis, etc.

##### Sun., March 18:

1 p.m. - Skipper's Meeting – Spring Pursuit Series

2 p.m. - Race Start - Spring Pursuit Series

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## LGSC CHILI COOK-OFF

Get out your favorite recipe and cook pot. The time has arrived for the challenging (for the judges) LGSC Chili Cook-Off! Join us at the clubhouse on Saturday, February 17 for this favorite event. Cost will be \$3.00 per person.

If you are entering chili to be judged, have it in the clubhouse by 5 p.m. Judging will begin shortly after 5 p.m. There will be prizes for: Hottest Chili, Most Unique Chili, & Best Over-All. Once the winners have been declared, the eating may commence. Following this “hot” event, George and Trish Brown will give a presentation on sailing in the BVIs.

This evening will surely fire up your taste buds and your sailing imagination!

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### What Really Happened at the Autumn Challenge By Amy Stapleton

I know that many of you Autumn Challenge 2006 race participants are still scratching your heads over what happened to my Hunter 22, *Radical Lift*, shortly before the course finish line. As you many recall, *Radical Lift* was well ahead of the second pack of boats, and rapidly approaching the finish line, when the vessel mysteriously halted dead in the water.

Lisa was at the helm. I was on the sheets, attempting to eke out every bit of power from the pathetic little breeze puffs that were all that remained of what had begun as a decent racing wind. With the finish line taunting us at less than 100 feet away, the breeze suddenly ran out again, leaving us in what Keith referred to as ‘the hole’. At the same time, a strange wind shift occurred which reached the trailing boats before it got to us. As I looked behind me, I saw *Judith* gaining relentlessly. Off to the side, *Breeze* was approaching and Rodger and Neil in the Hunter 23.5 were catching up as well.

Now, you probably think that what occurred just after this moment was all bad luck for *Radical Lift*, or maybe ‘just desserts’. (Admittedly, I’d taunted Charlie at the start of the race with a flippant “See you later, Charlie!” remark when we hit the wind. But as you will soon learn, that was all part of the script).

Well, folks, I’ve played out this little charade long enough. In this edition of the Binnacle, I’ve decided to come clean and reveal the extent of the Autumn Challenge prank.

The sudden stalling of *Radical Lift* was all a ploy! An elaborate ploy at that! Unbeknownst to all of you, I had been planning this little deceit for many months. I was finally able to recruit Simmes into helping me execute the plan. Most of you are probably

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not aware that Simmes was previously a Navy Seal. Yes, Simmes has many secrets from a storied past. (Perhaps more on that in another article).

We architected our plan and then, during the months leading up to the Challenge, carried out multiple furtive training sessions. Did you notice inexplicable splashing and bubbling around the docks in early September? No, those weren't diving Coots. It wasn't Duane's underwater money sucking machine either. It was Simmes, outfitted with diving gear and practicing the risky maneuver that would become the coup de grace of the 2006 Challenge!

So here's how it played out. Just as planned, I waited until the most critical point of the race. As I saw *Judith* bearing down on us, I knew the time had come to pull the trigger. The cue for Simmes to spring into action was the pointed phrase: "Lisa, for the love of God, fall off!!" Lisa, who was not in on the caper, looked at me blankly. I wasn't certain if Simmes, who was waiting underwater, had heard. So I yelled the phrase again.

Seconds later, Simmes deftly wound the rode of a large anchor around a cleat that I'd installed on the bottom of *Radical Lift's* hull. This final maneuver had been practiced only once, so I was pleased that Simmes pulled it off under pressure so artfully. You all know the result of Simmes' action. *Radical Lift* came to a dead screeching halt, despite reaching the breeze. As each boat passed us, I felt compelled to stomp and swear like a sailor to add to the dramatic effect. (Come on guys, you don't think I really use words like that!?)

Why, you may inquire, did I go to such lengths to lose the race? Well, sometimes a good story is worth more than a trophy.

Although, come to think of it, a trophy would have been nice...

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### LGSC WEB SITE!

<http://www.lakeguntersvillesailingclub.com>



**Our web site has a new look, links to other sites, the latest activities, and even a 7 day weather forecast; that is Lake Gunterville Sailing Club weather. So before you pack up the car, check the web site (unless you already live in beautiful Gunterville) to help you plan your sailing adventure. Need pictures to post on the web site. Please e-mail to [sailor@mindspring.com](mailto:sailor@mindspring.com). Thank you!**

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS



Hope the Holidays were great for all and you are getting ready for a full year of activities at the marina. We have decided to switch the Board meetings and socials from the first to the third Saturday of each month. Let us know if this works better, or is worse for you. We will start the year's activities this February (17<sup>th</sup>) with our regular Board meeting followed by dinner and a presentation by Trish and me on sailing in the British Virgin Islands. It's our favorite destination for sailing, and it ought to be fun to look at warm Caribbean waters during a cold February evening - and get us psyched up for spring and more sailing.

We continue to work on this year's schedule and are close to finalizing the date for several more events. The Guntersville Cup Committee has met and has come up with several new ideas and additions to make the weekend of the 20-22<sup>nd</sup> of April a fun filled and entertaining weekend. We will have races, dinner, entertainment and an art show as starters. Put it on your calendar, you do not want to miss any of the activities we have planned. Look to Keith's comments in the future for more details.

We need any ideas you have to make the club a better, more educational and fun organization. Let any of the Board members know your ideas and suggestions. Look forward to seeing you on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

George Brown

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### Spring Pursuit Series

**Racing fans:** This year we are organizing a Spring Pursuit Series with a twist. Instead of racing on Saturdays, we will hold this series on four consecutive Sundays, with a fifth Sunday set aside as an alternate date in case of inclement or uncooperative weather. Only your best three race times will count towards the final tally. So if you have a bad day (that never happens to me, Amy, but I can understand how it might happen to others), or if you oversleep and miss one of the races, you still have a chance at a trophy.

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Trophies for the top series finishers will be presented amid much fanfare and applause during the Gunter'sville Cup activities on April 21. To offset the cost of the trophies, each skipper will be asked to contribute \$5 per race.

The races will always begin at the same time, with the starting sequence and other specifics clarified at a brief skipper's meeting before each race. All skippers should meet around the clubhouse. The plan will be to design each race so that all boats can finish within no more than three hours.

### Race Start Times and Dates:

Skipper's Meeting: 1 pm

Race start: 2 pm

### Race Dates:

March 11

March 18

March 25

April 1

April 15 – Alternate race date

Entry fee: \$5 per boat per race: Money will be used to buy trophies

Everyone is welcome and all are encouraged to participate, except for Tony Martin. Just kidding, Tony. You can participate, with a start time of 2 ½ days after the slowest boat crosses the start line. We hope to see you all there!

Series Organizers: Larry Bontrager and Amy Stapleton

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### FROM THE RACE CHAIRMAN

We had a great Board meeting in Jan. Lots of discussion and perhaps too many good ideas!! Most of the discussion centered around the Gunter'sville Cup. However, Amy "Mad Dog" Stapleton and Larry "The Baker" Bontrager are all fired up and volunteered to get a "serious" Sunday Pursuit Series going right off the bat with scoring, trophies and the whole bit. See her article in this month's Binnacle. It will be fun!!

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**Their zeal has got me motivated to get a schedule out so we can get some “air” time in early this year. I was going to wait for BCSA to set a schedule and then work some joint pursuits in between their normal buoy races. I just can’t wait. Thought I’d do a few Sat Pursuits in early March just to get the delirious cabin fever sailors some hope that the weather will be suitable.**

**Amy and Larry will be running four Sunday Pursuits in mid March to early April. In between I thought we might try a “Run to the Boondocks” on a Saturday. Not sure exactly what we might do but it will involve lunch at Boondocks. Hope Tony comes along!!!**

**Prior to the Guntersville Cup we will have some practice starts and short races. Perhaps a little race instruction in the morning and practice that afternoon.**

**As I said in the beginning, The Guntersville Cup Committee had too many great ideas. We are torn between developing a major “Lake” event to attract some of the general public and what we can physically handle as a club. We got a little carried away with a “festival” at the old Harbor House and multiple races on the same day. Looks like we should concentrate on the races first and perhaps have some displays, entertainment and flea market stuff at the club on Saturday evening. At this time I am targeting two back to back races on Saturday finishing around 3pm and then a third race on Sunday with awards at lunch. Multiple races give everyone a chance to overcome mishaps and learn quickly from their “fubars”!!**

**After the Guntersville Cup we will get back to some Saturday Pursuit and try out a Buoy Race. Over Memorial Day weekend I would like to try the “Ladies Race”. After that we will regroup and see what tickles our fancy. I am confident “Mad Dog” has something new, unique and fun up her sleeve!!!**

**Keith Kuhlman**

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### **A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT LGSC PUBLISHES A NEWSLETTER? THE NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON THE LGSC WEB SITE OR CAN BE MAILED TO YOU IF YOU DON’T HAVE E-MAIL OR IF YOU SIMPLY PREFER TO RECEIVE A COPY IN THE MAIL.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE (OR CONTINUE RECEIVING) THE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL, YOU MAY DO SO BY “SUBSCRIBING” FOR \$10.00 PER YEAR. THIS “SUBSCRIPTION” METHOD WILL HELP US RECOVER SOME OF THE CLUB EXPENSE OF PRINTING AND MAILING THE**

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NEWSLETTER. IN 2006 IT COST APPROXIMATELY \$300.00 TO PRINT AND MAIL THE NEWSLETTER TO 15 MEMBERS.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO LGSC FOR \$10.00 AND SEND TO: MARSHA BABB, P.O. BOX 997, GUNTERSVILLE, AL 35976 AND NOTE ON YOUR CHECK THAT IT IS FOR THE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION.

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY U.S. MAIL AND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE IT ELECTRONICALLY, PLEASE LET ME KNOW (INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS). [druids@mindspring.com](mailto:druids@mindspring.com)

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**REMINDER FROM DUANE**



**2006 MONTHLY SLIP RENT FEES**

<b>B DOCK</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>
<b>C DOCK – EVEN #</b>	<b>\$115.00</b>
<b>C DOCK - ODD #</b>	<b>\$130.00</b>

Make your check payable to “The Anchorage” and mail to P.O. Box 900, Guntersville, AL 35976.

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