

The Binnacle

A newsletter of the



Lake Guntersville Sailing Club

<http://www.lakeguntersville.com>

January 2006

Activities At A Glance...and the LGSC Race Schedule

- Coming soon a Calendar of Events.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Le Croix Club at Covenant Cove was the site of the LGSC Annual Dinner. White table cloths, candle center pieces, and good company created a setting for a fine evening. The out-going Commodore, Mike Mitchell and the in-coming Commodore, Charlie Rains, kept their speeches short but to the point; it takes all of us working together to have the activities that make coming to the lake to sail all the more special.

Let Charlie know about your ideas and what you can do to help or your concerns and what you can do to help.

We have received the following e-mail from Mike Mitchell: "This is my last message as commodore. I am now a past commodore and would like to thank each of you for your support this past year. The projects that we

undertook were all a success because of your participation and support.

I would like to introduce your new officers for 2006.

Commodore	Charlie Rains
Vice Commodore	Bill Evans
Treasurer	Hollis Babb
Secretary	Mary Stewart
Comm. Person @ Large	Randy Rathmann

These members will work hard for you, but will need your help, ideas and participation. Once again, thank you and lets have a great year."

SAILBOAT RACING

"Autumn Challenge" at Lake Guntersville

By Pat Lindsay

The first annual 'Autumn Challenge at Lake Guntersville' sailboat race was held on October 22nd, hosted by the Lake Guntersville Sailing Club (LGSC), and sponsored by several local and regional businesses including SignMakers Inc., Impressions, Sailing Plus, Marshall

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Lawn Care, Southern Metal Fabrication, and Burger King, all of Guntersville, and **Schurr Sails** of Pensacola, Florida. This was truly an event to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of the wonderful autumn colors surrounding the lake and the great sailing that this season provides. Mike Mitchell, the LGSC commodore, did a yeoman's job of organizing this first-ever Fall sailing event which included a spaghetti dinner on Friday night, October 21st, a fish-and-chicken fry on Saturday night, commemorative T-shirts for all participants and of course, the awards ceremony for the winners.

Like the 'Guntersville Cup' race, run every April for the last 15 years, the 'Autumn Challenge' is a sailboat race of about 20 miles that ranges from north of Buck Island to the Highway 431 Bridge. Sailboats from 18-foot dinghies to 35-foot yachts compete in the race under a scoring system that gives every boat a chance to win. Every sailor on the lake is invited to participate in these events.

The official start to the festivities was the Friday-night spaghetti dinner and the skipper's meeting that followed. The course layout was described and the sailors were divided into two fleets—a racing fleet, consisting of the boats rigged and crewed for racing, and a cruising fleet, for the less competitive among us.

Race day dawned cool, blustery and threatening with northwest winds 12-20 mph, temps in the 50s and 60s, and light mist falling. Later in the day we were blessed with clear-blue skies, temps in the 70s and winds dying to less than 5 mph. It was an excellent test of changing conditions for all boats and their crews.

The two racing fleets of six boats each arrived at the start line a few minutes before 11AM for a mass start. The fleets were separated by one to two miles at the two-hour mark, with several boats jockeying for position in each fleet. The course took sailors from Buck Island to Upper Guntersville Light to Guntersville State Park,

back to Upper Guntersville Light and finally to the finish line near the Anchorage Marina, home of the Lake Guntersville Sailing Club.

The lead changed several times during the 4-hour race as sailors tried to take advantage of wind shifts and positioning along the course. At one point Pat Day, sailing an O'Day 35, and Keith Kuhlman aboard a Catalina 320 fought each other for the lead by less than a boat length. At the mark in front of Guntersville State Park, the O'Day held the lead, but Kuhlman and his crew (wife Beverly) showed great skill in sneaking inside Day's track to round the mark and put several boat lengths between their boat and the O'Day. The Kuhlman's built on their lead but were hunted down by Charlie Raines aboard the Catalina 28 *Summer Breeze*, J.A. Sammons aboard *Against All Odds*, a Hunter 28.5, and Tony Martin sailing his Catalina 27, *Close Encounters*. In the end, the Kuhlman's won line honors, crossing the finish in 3 hours, 32 minutes. But on corrected time, the overall win went to Charlie Raines (*Summer Breeze*) with Martin finishing 2nd aboard *Close Encounters* and Sammons taking 3rd at the helm of *Against All Odds*.

As the first autumn race hosted by LGSC, the Autumn Challenge featured fewer boats than the well-known Guntersville Cup, which routinely includes over twenty boats. Still, it was a rousing success and all twelve boat crews who raced had a great time. This race will surely grow in popularity to become the premier fall race on Lake Guntersville.

Congratulations to the Autumn Challenge winners and to LGSC for putting another great race on the lake and on the calendar. And thanks to all who supported this event; the sponsors, the LGSC Race Committee, the Anchorage Marina, and the club members who worked behind the scenes to make it a great success.

FROM THE EDITOR

Future issues will contain a calendar, commodore comments, race info and the like. If there is something that you know about and you wish to share, please send your information/thoughts to druids@mindspring.com I welcome your input.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS

Recently many e-mails have bounced back. Please e-mail Hollis Babb at sailor@mindspring.com and let him know what your e-mail address is and verify your current mailing address and phone numbers. We have also had a lot of mail returned due to incorrect addresses. Please let Marsha know if a spouses name was inadvertently left off the mailing, etc.

If you do not use e-mail at all, then call Marsha at 256-582-0661 to verify your address and phone number(s) information. If you prefer to receive a newsletter by U.S. mail rather than e-mail, please let me know.

Thanks, Marsha Babb

REMINDER FROM DUANE**2006 MONTHLY SLIP RENT FEES**

B DOCK	\$105.00
C DOCK – EVEN #	\$115.00
C DOCK - ODD #	\$130.00

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

I'm sure you have noticed the absence of our speed bumps. To ensure their continued absence we should DRIVE SLOWLY as we come and go. Thanks.

I have been picking up more butts from our parking lot. This hasn't been a real problem for many years but reminds me of a job I hated in service. Don't remind me!