

The Binnacle

A newsletter of the

Lake Guntersville Sailing Club



www.lakeguntersvillesailingclub.com

May 2007

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Spring came and went, and has come back again. We've had more races and events cancelled then we've been able to pull off lately, but that is changing. The weather was beautiful this weekend, sunny and near 80, for our biggest event of the year – the Guntersville Cup. We had a great turnout, super food and lots of camaraderie. The winds were their normal fluky self, from nothing on Saturday to over 18 mph on Sunday. The two races on Sunday were some of the most exciting races that Trish and I have been in. I guarantee your adrenaline will be pumping when you have 4 boats all within 10 feet of each other, all tacking together around Short creek Light in 12-15 winds. See Keith's article for more coverage on the Cup.

Keith and the Race Committee and Kathy and the Social Committee did a fantastic job of organizing and coordinating the weekend activities. The rest of the Board jumped in and helped with cleaning the clubhouse, soliciting sponsors, calling club members, and in general just doing what needed to be done. It was a great team effort and the results demonstrate what we can accomplish when we all work together. And finally, it was a lot of fun. Thanks to all for a great weekend.

Much of the financial success of the Guntersville Cup is due to our sponsors and several others that contributed gifts, dinners and products for the participants. All their names are on the banners and the T-shirts. Help the Club for the future by patronizing the sponsors and thanking them for their support when you visit them.

Most of you have heard by now that Duane is in the process of selling the marina. He will be providing more information when the time is right. As soon as the sale closes, we will set up a meeting with the new owners and we'll pass on the most current information as soon as we get it. We'll let you know what we know as soon as we can and when it's appropriate - after closing.

In May, we will have another low country shrimp boil on the 19th, which was one of the most popular events last year. In order to know how much shrimp we need to order, we need you to sign up by May 5th. On the 23rd of June we will host our first annual (depending on how popular it is) poker run. We will set a course for all to sail with at least five stations (will need volunteers to man a couple stations). At each station you will be pick up one card. The boat with the highest poker hand at dinner that evening

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will be the grand prize winner. It is not a timed run, so all can participate without the pressure of a race. It's a fun day on the lake with other sailors from the club.

We have begun the active period of the year for club activities, and there may be last minute changes or additions to the program. We are also trying to coordinate activities with Brown Creek Sailing Association, with joint races, raft-ups and parties. Check the Binnacle each month and the "Activities At A Glance" posted at the clubhouse for the latest information.

George Brown



FROM THE RACE CHAIRMAN

The Gunter'sville Cup has come and gone and I hope everyone had a great time. We had 23 boats turn out and it was a beautiful sight to see all that pearly white Dacron dotting the lake. Too bad the wind did not cooperate for the spinnakers. The color would have been spectacular.

Saturday was a tough day. We all headed out from the docks with great optimism as there appeared to be a nice breeze from the NE blowing down the lake. Unfortunately as we rounded the point, Buck Island seemed to suck the life out of the wind. The course started around Short Creek with a first leg of about half a mile. While there was a little breeze at the start, for those who were at the line on time, it was short lived. It took all of an hour and a half to two hours to make that first half mile to Short Creek Light. There was an encouraging wind line to the NE making us think that something might start happening. Unfortunately there was another wind line coming from the SW. I think we all were in the convergence which equaled "zero wind". We finally called the race after two and a half hours. Dick Potter made an attempt to place boats but there was truly no way to score the race so it was abandoned. Tough deal to work for two and a half hours to no avail. Guess that is lake sailing. As we motored home there was that same nice wind from the NE as we rounded Buck Island again!!! Wouldn't you know!

We regrouped Saturday night and decided to shorten the course and try for two races on Sunday. Again we motored out to a nice wind from the ENE and this time it made the bend around Buck Island. The start was about the same as Sunday but the wind was gusting and boats were rockin'. There was some real tight racing with some real big boats. My rounding at the weather mark was in the tight company of 300 linear feet of white fiberglass on all sides and straight in front!!! The rest of the race went real well until we got in tight with the Short Creek Knob. It was anybody's guess as to where that wind was coming from. Anyway, everyone did real well and we finished the race in one hour!!! A big improvement from the day before.

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The second start was a pistol. I was cruising around letting Grady take pictures and had camped just outside the line on the committee boat side. (Oh! By the way the wind was now out of the South coming straight out of Short Creek). We were just off of the committee boat when she was flying the white, yellow and blue flags and noticed a mess of boats screaming for the start line. I said "oops, there's trouble brewing here!" Sure enough, just as Dick Potter dropped the blue flag eight boats hit the start line. Not a good sign. Dick finished the start, waived the Individual Recall Flag and tried to point to the offending boats. Four got the message, but unfortunately four did not. Lesson to be learned, you must spot the flags on the committee boat during the start sequence. DO NOT key off of the horns. They may be signaling some other notice just prior to the sequence. Find the committee boat and verify!!!

That was unfortunate as some very good racers were disqualified. However, it did open the door to reward some outstanding performances by some sailors who had not been in the money in a long time. Congratulations to our first place winners:

Ed Hurst	Overall First
Ed Hurst	Spinnaker Fleet
Quill Briggs	A Fleet
Amy Stapleton	B Fleet

Also congratulations to our Second and Third place winners:

John Marsh	Spinnaker	Second Place
Gordon Trowbridge	Spinnaker	Third Place
George Brown	A Fleet	Second Place
John Gwyer	A Fleet	Third Place
Bill Hicks	B Fleet	Second Place
Rich Mason	B Fleet	Third Place

And congratulations to everyone else that participated. I think there were some great individual battles out there and I hope everyone had fun!!

We will be back in to the Pursuit business for the next three weekends:

Sat	4/28	Joint Pursuit (at Signal point)	11am
Sat	5/5	Sat Pursuit	11am
Sat	5/12	Sat Pursuit	11am

We have an Around the Buoys Race scheduled for Saturday 5/19 for those that want to
Be There!!! Keith Kuhlman





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s at a Glance and the LGSC Race Schedule

May

Sat., May 5:

10 a.m. - Skipper's Meeting - LGSC Saturday Pursuit

11 a.m. - Race Start

Sat., May 12:

9 a.m. - Skipper's Meeting - Joint Pursuit #3

11 a.m. - Race Start

Sat., May 19:

10 a.m. - LGSC Board Meeting in the LGSC clubhouse.

12 Noon - Skipper's Meeting - Round the Buoys Race.

1 p.m. - Race Start

6 p.m. - Low Country Shrimp Boil. \$10/person. See further information in this newsletter or on the website.

Sat., May 26:

10 a.m. - Skipper's Meeting - LGSC Saturday Pursuit.

11 a.m. - Race Start

Sun., May 27:

1 p.m. - Skipper's Meeting - LGSC Ladies Race

2 p.m. - Race Start

June

Sat., June 9:

9 a.m. - Skipper's Meeting - Joint Pursuit #4

11 a.m. - Race Start

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Sat., June 16:

10 a.m. - LGSC Board Meeting in the LGSC clubhouse.

6 p.m. - Bonfire and cookout by the picnic pavilion.

Sat., June 23:

10 a.m. - Skipper's Meeting - LGSC Poker Run.

11 a.m. - Race Start

Low Country Shrimp Boil

Lake Guntersville Sailing

Club

LGSC Clubhouse

Saturday May 19th, 6:00pm

**Please join us for an evening of social fun and a Low
Country Shrimp Boil, (Fresh Shrimp).**

One of last year's most popular events!

\$10.00 per person

**R.S.V.P – by May 5th (need a head count for Shrimp)
(256) 851-9375/ gbrown1@hiwaay.net**

BCSA Cinco de Mayo Party

Brown's Creek Sailing Club is sponsoring a Cinco de Mayo Party on May 6th (just a day late) at their club. They hope to have a live mariachi band and plenty of Corona's.

They need to know how many people can attend to see if they can swing the deal to be able to afford the band. Charge will be \$15 per person. I think it will be an all day event. It would be nice for us to support our sister club. Sailors are Sailors no matter where they dock. Please let David Ashley know if you can attend at:

ashleygarage@yahoo.com or 256-882-3859 or 256-539-7542

LGSC WEB SITE!

<http://www.lakeguntersvillesailingclub.com>

Need pictures to post on the web site. Please e-mail to sailor@mindspring.com. Thank you!



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.

All articles are due by the 15th of the month to Marsha Babb for the newsletter. E-mail druids@mindspring.com If you have any story you would like to share about an adventure or an almost adventure, or how you solved a particular problem, or if you need help with a problem; this is the place for information sharing. Just send it to me and I will put you in the line-up. Pictures are nice also. Thank you so much.