

# The Binnacle

A newsletter of the



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## Lake Guntersville Sailing Club

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<http://www.lakeguntersville.com>

March 2006

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

- Sat., February 25 - LGSC Chili Cook-off. Bring your best recipe! (changed from 2/18 due to inclement weather!)
- Sat., March 4 - 10 a.m. LGSC Board meeting in the clubhouse.
- Sat., March 4 - 6 p.m. Social. Keith Kuhlman will explain the Cruiser Pursuit.
- Sat., March 11 - 10 a.m. Skippers Meeting at BCSA to discuss Cruiser Pursuit racing.
- Fri., March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Sat., March 18 - Cruiser Pursuit - 11 a.m. start at the Harbor House.
- Mon., March 20 - First Day of Spring!
- Wed., March 29 - New Moon
- Sat., April 1 - 10 a.m. LGSC Board meeting in the clubhouse.
- Sat., April 1 - 6 p.m. Social.
- Sun., April 2 - Daylight Saving Time Begins. Turn those clocks & watches forward 1 hour.

### LGSC CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> the LGSC Chili Cook-Off kicks off our season of socializing, sailing, socializing, and so forth.

You are invited to bring your favorite chili recipe for judging or just for everyone's enjoyment.

If you want to enter your chili to be judged, it must be in the clubhouse no later than 5 p.m. The judging begins shortly thereafter. Prize categories are Hottest Chili, Most Unique Chili, and Best Overall Chili.

At 6 p.m. all are invited to spoon up a bowl of chili and the cost is only \$3.00 per person.

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS



Well, Spring is just around the corner and I know everybody is looking forward to warmer weather, I know I am.

Mike Mitchell left us with a lot of good memories of last year's events. With Pat Lindsay's knowledge of racing and the help of the club members, we had a real exciting racing year.

I hope this year will be even better. I, too, am looking forward to Keith Kuhlman's racing and what he has planned for us this year.

I think the social team that's been put together will really be beneficial. I am

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looking forward to their help in planning and organizing this year's events. But that can only happen with everybody's participation. Please help us make a difference.

Looking forward to seeing your smiles and hearing your stories from last year.

Sea ya, Charlie

### From "A Lubber's Dictionary"

**Admiralty Law - Convolutd body of law which regulates behavior at sea. For example, under admiralty law, captains may perform marriages at sea, but not divorces, bar mitzvahs, or most forms of brain surgery; the eating of one individual on a lifeboat to sustain the lives of the others is permissible under some circumstances, but certain recipes, such as casseroles and all but a few cold dishes, are forbidden, and although it is considered improper for a captain to maroon his passengers on some godforsaken island inhabited by unpleasant natives, this stricture does not apply to Bermuda.**

### FROM THE RACE CHAIRMAN



Hi Sailors. It's a new year with a new Board and, as always, some new ideas on how to have fun on the water, or in it, or with it but somehow water related! That means we are going to try and get all you couch potatoes back on your boats and out on the lake for some fun.

Now as Race Chairman I recognize that we are not a bunch of die hard racers. However, we are a bunch of fun loving heavy cruisers that are only racing when the other guy is not paying attention. It's always fun to catch up to another boat. So what if they were anchored!!

I hope to design some events that will lure all of you out to participate. Most people associate racing with screaming, yelling maniacs out too scare you to death. It doesn't have to be that way. Racing, or just catching up to somebody, is fun. It's not about winning but about challenging yourself to get better at sailing. To think about how to adjust your sails. To think about how the wind is blowing and shifting and how to take advantage of it. To think about how to make your boat easier to control and more comfortable in big blow. If nothing else you learn how to get to your next cruising destination a little faster.

So the events I am planning will center on "chasing" rather than "racing". In other words we will attempt to minimize the close boat to boat work of "around the buoys racing". Instead we will let you focus on chasing down the guy in front of you. This is called Pursuit Racing. It is a great way to get started in learning how to make your boat go fast without getting screamed at!

The way it works is we give you your handicap time at the beginning of the race instead of computing it at the end. Two things happen. Usually you are the only one crossing the starting line when it is time for you to start (no screamers around) and slow boats are in the lead at the start of the race. Everyone likes to be in front, even if just for a little while!! If we do it right, everyone finishes together so we can raft up and swap beer stories!!

We will talk more about this at our "new" monthly membership meetings. They will be at 6 pm the first Saturday of each month at the club house. So be there March 4th and we can

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get started talking about some new ways to have fun on the water, or in it or with it or whatever!!

#### From "A Lubber's Dictionary"

**Dock - Harbor landing-place that goes squeak or thud when hit.**

#### FROM THE DOCK MASTER



I know my calendar tells me different but it must be spring. I just launched a boat this morning and have gotten a number of calls pertaining to boats this week. It has been a mild winter, and except for the bugs this summer is certainly to my liking. Now that my thoughts are turning to sailing I'm reminded of a promise that made to myself and of course Janet. We are going to sail much more this year not allowing distractions to interfere. After sitting in on our first board meeting with our new officers, I'm excited! I listened to a host of new ideas aimed at building on the success of last year. Since it's all about sailing, my favorite was made by our new race chairman, Keith Kuhlman. Called a pursuit race, it staggers the start placing the slowest boat starting first and the fastest starting last. The staggered start is designed to place all the boats finishing very close together, making the finish more exciting and the conclusion 1, 2, 3, as we cross the finish line. This will eliminate the large spread among our participating boats. This will be fun! We have just added some fast boats that can keep my Sonar company at the start. All of this is in the spirit of fun and is a great education in sailing your boat. I prefer to think of this as organized competition "simplified" and not racing with its rules and fear factor. This should even up the playing field and certainly make this more enjoyable for

everyone involved. I hope that those not accustomed to sailing against other boats will join in and profit from this rewarding experience.

I should not leave out the other thing close to my heart, Food! Sorry, Janet. We have a team approach slated for our socials. It promises to be a good year for me, hope you don't miss out but rest assured I will eat enough for both of us starting this Saturday. It's Chili Time!

See you there,

Duane

#### LGSC WEB SITE!



**Our web site has a new look, links to other sites, the latest activities, and even a 7 day weather forecast; that is Lake Guntersville Sailing Club weather.**

**So before you pack up the car, check the web site (unless you already live in beautiful Guntersville) to help you plan your sailing adventure.**

#### 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.**