

Lake Gunterville Sailing Club Binnacle

September 2013



Where it's always a beautiful day to go sailing!!

Be sure to join us for a presentation at the October Social on popular anchoring spots on the Lake. This was a request from a new club member. If your interested in presenting your favorite anchorage please contact George Brown at

gbrown1@hiwaay.net and put Anchorages in the subject line.

There are several interesting activities taking place around Gunterville this month.

The EAA Pancake Breakfast is October 12th, get there early.

LGSC Family,

The new website is up so please check it out! Keep in mind it is a work in progress. I for one am very grateful to Fleet for the work he has done to build this new website for our club!

So unless you have been living under a rock or were in a coma for about the last six months you probably have heard about two things around the Marina. The America's Cup and the TVCC. Not having been around sailing all that long, I am still amused at times, at the intensity and passion many have exhibited to the sport. I never really considered sailing a competitive activity until we "landed" at LGSC and the racing bug bit! Now it is as though two seasons of our life are controlled by it...Spring Race Series and Fall Race Series. And I find I'm not alone. As we prepared for the TVCC earlier this month, often times as you passed through the clubhouse a group would be gathered around the TV watching the America's Cup races. Now you probably all know it did not look good for "America's Team" Team Oracle who was behind 8-1 to the challenger, Emirates Team New Zealand, and within one defeat of losing the Cup. Oracle proceeded to win an unprecedented eight straight races to defend the trophy. I have to admit that the last couples of races were as exciting as most any Nascar race with the exception of the crashes and they came close to having at least one of those!

The TVCC was a huge success! The weather started out a little unpleasant but eventually cleared. The winds were as usual flaky the first day but redeemed themselves on the second day. I don't think anyone could complain. The races were well organized, the food phenomenal, and the entertainment exceptional. It was great meeting sailors from the other clubs and hearing their stories. We all had our personal challenges on the water from not quite getting the main reefed tight to getting crowd at the mark. But each experience makes us better sailors.

I don't think you can thank all those who came out and prepared food, cleaned up, volunteered their time and boats to make this a successful event enough. It is all of you that makes this such a great club to be a part of. And a special thanks to our sponsors.

The Errol Allan Park Fall Concert Series runs through Oct 31, and the Guntersville Ladies Civitan Club will be selling **Brunswitch Stew** on October 12th, 9am- noon. So if you dare go by and support the Playground project.

Here is the link to the Chambers website for more information:

[Lake Guntersville Chamber of Commerce](#)

Charlie has new MSD stickers for 2014 and will be available most weekends to do inspections in October.

Please have current registration and \$20.00 in hand. Contact him at 256-302-0777 cell or at home 256-878-8330 for more info. This is a state requirement for all boats with a head.



**TVCC
Racing Sunday**

Fall Race schedule and Social schedule can be viewed on the new LGSC website by clicking the Calendar

I like a quote I read this week from Jimmy Spithill the Oracle Team USA skipper and helmsman, one of his mentors, the Australian Syd Fischer, gave him words to sail by. "Syd used to say to me when something was going good, 'Be careful,' " Spithill said, "because you can be a rooster one day and a feather duster the next." "Absolutely no doubt," Spithill said, "it's better to be the rooster than the feather duster." But can't that apply to Life in general as well as Sailing?

So the TVCC...a word from a Participate:

I had the pleasure of participating in the Tennessee Valley Challenge Cup regatta, hosted by the Lake Guntersville Sailing Club and Marina in Guntersville, AL. The regatta is a challenge between six member clubs which field teams of at least three sailboats each. The low score (sailing races are scored like golf, lower scores are better) of the top three boats from each team is awarded the Cup, and the hosting duties rotate around each of the six member clubs that ply the waters of the various Tennessee River lakes.

As with any event, it's the people behind it that make it happen. Granted, the weather is always a factor in any outdoor activity, and especially so in boating-centered ones, but Mother Nature cooperated in large measure and the organizers made the most of it. But the man behind the controls showed the dedication and drive that I found with the well-compensated suits at IBEX, and he did it for kicks. The folks behind the scenes - those cleaning up the place the week(s) prior to the event, shopping for the food and beverages, organizing the amazing meals (including make-and-take lunch provisions, a great idea!), entertainment for the Saturday festivities, and other details too numerous to mention were all executed flawlessly by volunteers with smiles on their faces at all times.

It's the smiles that counted most. Any time anything was asked of anybody, the response was a cheerful yes, or a cheerful I'll see what I can do, or a cheerfully friendly something. The organizers and volunteers made each and every participant - or more accurately, guest - glad they spent the time and money to come to the LGSC and play in their sandbox. I've participated in a lot of regattas in my day, and organized a few too. I've sailed in everything from World Championships to the beer can stuff mentioned above, and I gotta tell ya, the organization and execution of this TVCC was right up there with the best, a sentiment echoed by each of the individual award winners at the closing ceremonies. This is what makes the boating lifestyle so rewarding. There are so many aspects to it - Lake Guntersville was buzzing with bass boats and PWCs and more in addition

tab. Or you can link to it here [LGSC Calendar](#)



TVCC Racing Sunday



TVCC Group shot



TVCC Dinghies

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to the sailboats this weekend - and we enjoy participating in many of them. But mostly we think the people who selflessly contribute to others' enjoyment of boating is what makes it such a satisfying way to spend time. Thanks again to the good folks at the LGSC and at all the local volunteers who make it so special!

[Sunday Boating on the River!](#)

(Click this link for a picture of the boats getting ready for Sunday's races)

Posted on [September 23, 2013](#) by [BoaterRated](#)

Comments From Our

Commodore George Brown



If you weren't at the lake a couple weekends ago, you missed a great TVCC and a lot of good food. Congratulations go to Fleet for organizing it, Val and Diane for the fabulous social events, Keith for running five great races and all others who helped make this an event to remember. Our goal was to run the best TVCC we could, and by all comments from our guests we succeeded. We even managed to take third place in the club standings.

We are into the final stretch of our yearly events, with the "Stew Night" coming up on Oct. 12th following our fall race #3 and the club /board meeting at 4 pm. We will then have an open discussion on the best anchorages in Lake Guntersville, so bring your opinions and comments. Due to one work commitment and two sets of cataract surgeries, we had to cancel the fall trip to Chattanooga. However, since the interest is still there, we'll reschedule at a later date. Our LGSC Annual Dinner will be held on 9 November at Gunter's Landing. It is always a fun event with good food, pictures from throughout the year and great fellowship. It's also when we elect the club officers for next year. If you have suggestions or want to volunteer, see Ed Miller who is Chair of the nominating committee.

We've only had one additional couple approach me with an interest in going to the British Virgin Islands, so it appears that there is not enough interest at this time to plan a flotilla there next spring. We would need at least four boats to get a group discount. Keep me posted if you do have an interest in going sometime in the future, and we'll try again later.

See you at the lake.
George Brown

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS TO
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE RESORTS
105-A LOCUST STREET
GADSDEN, AL 35901

If you would like to submit material for the Binnacle contact me at cben1963@yahoo.com and put Binnacle in the subject line. I love to receive pictures and articles from club members! It is your newsletter.



Comments From Our Rear Commodore Val Mason



October social events...

Join us for our **October potluck social on Saturday, Oct. 12th**.

Bring your favorite meat and potatoes stew or casserole to share for dinner at 6pm. Social hour will begin at 5pm. If you can't bring a main dish, please feel free to bring an appetizer, side dish, salad, and/ or dessert...we eat it all! After dinner, we will have a group discussion on some of the favorite **places to anchor on the lake.** Our "experts" will share well-known spots where you can anchor overnight and some hidden gems. So, come and discover more about our beautiful lake.

Mark your calendars for our **annual dinner at Gunter's Landing on November 9th**. The cash bar and live entertainment will begin at 6pm. The buffet-styled dinner and "change of guard" program starts at 7pm. Additional info on the menu, cost and how to rsvp will follow soon.

As always, I have a few acknowledgements:

Thanks, Clark, for hosting the annual Labor Day Cruise & Dinner at Goose Pond (again!!!) We had beautiful weather, great food and a wonderful turnout!

We also had an enjoyable evening at the Bridge Café in downtown Guntersville after our marina spruce up on September 14th. Thank-you George, for handling the reservations and pre-orders. This restaurant is within walking distance of the city piers and I can personally recommend the awesome steaks there!

Now, for the TVCC...(this is lengthy, but I feel it needs to be said!)

A regatta this large always requires tons of volunteers to make it successful. Diane & I received so many sweet compliments on our efforts, but many others stood behind us and made it all work. So, I am



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Fleet1959@yahoo.com
256-603-1915

going to try and credit some of my wonderful volunteers here. If I omit someone, please know that I always appreciate your efforts and reassuring words...I was just a little sleep deprived during the event and some of it is a bit blurry ☺

First, and foremost, thank you Diane & Trish for all your delicious food! Diane made or assisted with the breakfast casseroles, quiches (8!), chili, chicken salad, appetizers, desserts and delicious home-made chicken soup. Of course, she also helped in 100 other ways, including bringing us boxes of Little Debbie's and a bushel of fresh apples! She also provided a laundry service for some very wet visitors. Trish always makes some of the most delicious foods at the marina. She made a ton of hamburger and venison patties, potato salad, green beans and breakfast casseroles, as well as her famous desserts and appetizers. We so appreciate you! And, thanks to her son, Will, who prepared the awesome barbecue dinner on Saturday night. We received tons of compliments on both the quality and quantity of food he served us!

Special thanks to Beth and Clark for hauling gallons of tea and oj, all the way from Birmingham, in 2 separate cars-and for updating the shower curtains, at last!

We also enjoyed so much other great food. Bev made her fantastic baked beans, Evelyn made a delicious pasta salad, and Caroline chopped and combined a wonderful fruit salad for both breakfasts. Connie and Linda chopped and sliced loads of veggies. Deanna, Mary, Bev, Evelyn, Beth, and others provided desserts and appetizers. George brought us fresh eggs from his hens and manned his own, personal, hospitality boat! Bev & Zoe helped setup and decorate the tables Friday evening; Cathy, Linda and Beth helped prep food on Saturday and Sunday; Connie & Ed assisted with breakfasts and lunches each day. Also, thanks to Rich & Clark for manning the grills Friday night, John & Ed for frying up pounds of bacon and sausage, Fleet for taking out a ton of garbage (literally!), and John for starting the coffee and breakfast casseroles each morning. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to all my

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wonderful social committee members who helped set up, serve and CLEAN after every meal. Several spent many hours helping in the kitchen and Jean even made a special trip from Huntsville Sunday afternoon just to wash dishes!

Finally, special appreciation to Rich, for loading and unloading the car with me on several different visits prior to the event, rolling pounds of deli meat, and replenishing the ice in the coolers whenever I asked.

So, although Diane and I receive all the praise, I think it's obvious that we don't do this job alone. If I missed someone's contribution, I apologize. Please know that everything you do, no matter how big or small, is always greatly appreciated. One of the things I love best about this "club" is that in those times of momentary chaos, when I have that "deer in the headlights" look in my eyes, someone always steps up and always offers me a helping hand. Thank you all!

Val & Diane

Comments From Our Vice Commodore Fleet Willoughby

LGSC had the honor of hosting the Tennessee Valley Challenge Cup from September 20-22. The TVCC brings together sailors from Browns Creek Sailing Association, Concord Yacht Club (Knoxville), LGSC, Muscle Shoals Sailing Club, Pickwick Sailing and Cruising Association, Privateer Yacht Club (Chattanooga) and Wheeler Yacht Club. This year we had 25 participants racing in the Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker and Dinghy divisions. Top honors in the Spinnaker class went to John Tyner of Concord Yacht Club. Two local sailors place first and second in the Non-Spinnaker division. John Gwyer, BCSA, took first place and Ed Miller, LGSC, placed second. A pair of Privateer Yacht Club racers, Scott Cline and Gary Smith placed first and second respectively in the Dinghy class. This pair finished first and second in four out of the five races held. Privateer Yacht Club, bringing only four racers and driven by the strong Dingy finish, took first place in the club standings. Muscle Shoals Sailing Club finished second and LGSC placed third.

Among the activities held over the TVCC weekend was a Club Nautical Challenge. This was a "game" show that would test the nautical knowledge of each club. The

LGSC team of Sterling Phillips, Clark Mason and Larry Bontrager walked away with the Club Nautical Challenge trophy. We just proved that LGSC really does know everything.

I know hosting the TVCC was a large task for the club and I'm really proud of how our members stepped up and took on this challenge. I'd like to give a special thanks to Keith and the RC crew and Val and the social team. The TVCC racers are here to compete and the LGSC race committee team ran the races exceptionally. Their job wasn't easy, given the Saturday morning storm and the number of racers and variety of boats. Val and the social team were constantly cooking, preparing, serving and cleaning up. Not only was the food great but everything was served with a smile. We had a lot of volunteers for several tasks, small and big, and what really impressed me is how the volunteers performed them. The volunteers stepped forward and performed their tasks above and beyond what was asked. Thanks volunteers for making this TVCC successful. One visitor gave us the best compliment we could get, "We raised the bar" for the future TVCC hosts. We should be proud of that.

Fleet