

Lake Guntersville Sailing Club Binnacle

February 2014



LGSC Family

We are so excited to have our website up. I hope all of you have been visiting the site at lakeguntersvillesailingclub.com. You can keep up with all the news and current events. It is still a work in progress so if you see something you would like to have added to the website, please contact Fleet Willoughby or one of the other Board Members.

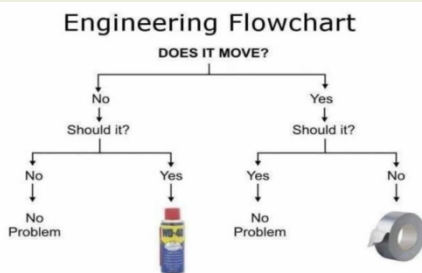


Where it's always a beautiful day to go sailing!!

Spring Fever

by Ed Miller

It's that time again kids. No not Howdy Dowdy. Howdy Doody? Anyway, I'm just showing my age and lagging retention. It's spring, I know not technically, but it'll be here real soon. Time to get our cash sucking plastic toys ready for sailing again. If I was as OCD as my wife accuses me of being I would use a real checklist. Instead I look around the boat, turn some things on, turn some things off and crank 'er up. I know there's a better way but I really do try to do a few things right. So here they are in no particular order.



1) Open up every hatch, look inside with a strong light and take a sniff while you're at it. Make sure there are no leaking, dry rotted fuel lines and if there are, replace them before you find yourself down by the dam on a windless evening trying to get Quill on the phone.

2) I take the sails home and wash them in the bathtub. Everybody takes showers now at our house so it's no problem tying it up for a few days. Throw in the sail, fill the tub and pour in some WoolLite, pretend like you're a Frenchman pressing grapes. I let it soak for a day, drain, rinse, dries it as best I can in the bathroom. Spread it out for an afternoon, then before rolling it up go over all the seams and sail

We would like to welcome Peter Flowers and Jerry B. Smith to LGSC.

Mr. Flowers now owns Passing

**Wind in slip C68.
Mr. Smith is the owner of the
Catalina 22 in slip B4.**

**Be sure to drop by and
welcome them both to the
club.**

[Join the Lake Guntersville
Sailing Club Facebook page
and share your photo's and
comments.](#)

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slugs. Roll them up or fold them and keep them somewhere dry till you put them on. WoolLite is very mild and probably won't take out every stain, but it is very gentle to the threads unlike bleach.

3) I do an oil and filter change which I consider cheap insurance given the cost of a new diesel. I also check my coolant and transmission fluid levels. And while you're down there look real close at your stuffing box and transmission coupling, they take a beating over time. Look for cracks and check for bolt tightness.

4) I go around the boat with an anti-corrosion spray called CorrosionX. I spray everything I think might corrode or rust, aluminum or steel. Actually doing this before you put it away for the winter is a better idea.

5) Check the battery water level, and be very careful to use distilled water to refill. And not to contaminate the cells. A surgically clean turkey baster works great.

6) I give all the thru hulls a good once over making sure there are no cracks or rusted band clamps. If you're curious about what can happen there we have a couple club members with stories that are positively captivating.

7) Count your life jackets and make sure you have at least a cheap orange one for the most people you think you'll ever have aboard. Then take a look at your anchor rode(I think one hundred feet is about the minimum if you plan to spend the night out). And look at your halyards, if you aren't sure if they look ok ask one of the old timers, they are a lot easier to replace before they break.

8) I give the standing rigging a once over making sure all the cotter pins, rings and clips are in place. Look for cracks in the turnbuckles and broken wire strands.

After all this fun, I give it a bath and clean out any wasp nests. And then...it's time to go sail. See ya at the lake!

Shipwrecked

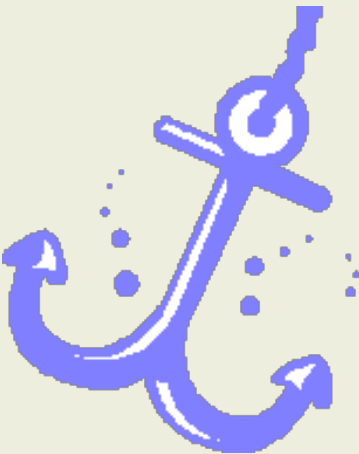


TVCC - Getting ready to race!



TVCC - Perfect racing conditions.

All schedules and copies of the Binnacle can still be viewed on the LGSC website.



Many of us dream of and may have done a little off shore cruising. While there have been a number of movies about sailing adventures there are few that make us absolutely fearful as those of being shipwrecked. I found this story "A Tale of Shipwreck & Survival" at SaltySailors.com about a couple from the US traveling Central America and their harrowing shipwreck experience. And yes while I realize it features a powerboat the challenges they encountered after the boat sunk are all the same. Makes you really consider what you would do. Below is an excerpt of the story:

Many Years Ago I had a dream to travel more, so I bought a backpack and along with my girlfriend, Trena, headed south to Mexico and further south with the hope of a year or two of laying on the beach swimming and emerging ourselves into the locale culture. When we reached Belize, we had found a little touch of heaven. The year was 1981 and Belize had just received their independence from Britain, so locals were hopeful in their future. The island towns were small and simple in comparison to today. We spent about two months in Belize and figured it was time to move south to Honduras, but that was not possible. The rebels had just pulled 2 nuns off a bus and shot them in the ditch so Americans were discouraged from traveling in Honduras. The cost of flying to Costa Rica would have put some hurt on our budget. While we were trying to figure out what to do next, a 57 ft Chris craft powerboat arrived at the dock. While talking to the Captain, we discovered the boat was headed to Columbia and they would be happy to take us with them, so we signed on as crew. The boat was planning to stop at a couple of islands, so we had options to get off if we didn't like it. The Captain's name was George and he had been an officer in the Columbian navy and spoke broken English. The crew were two, Johnny, a 19 year old kid who was the general deckhand and Oriano, a 30 year old diesel mechanic who spent all his time in the engine room working the two large engines prior to leaving port.

We dropped the lines off the dock on April 22, 1981 at 3.30 pm on a clear day. We motored out of the cut into 4 to 6 ft seas. Shortly after dark, we ran into a squall with winds building to the point where we were looking up to the crest while standing on the top deck about 8ft above the water. To say the least,

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We Hope Everyone will Join us for
 our St. Pattys
 Day Dinner March 8,
 Appetizers at 5, Dinner at 6.

everybody started to get seasick, except the captain. We had all done a one hour go at the wheel to get used to how the boat handles, since all of us would be hand steering during our shifts. The boat didn't have an autopilot. At about 8pm while I was at the wheel, Oriano went down to the aft cabin to get some seasickness pills. He started screaming in Spanish and even though I understand very little Spanish, I had this gut feeling that we were sinking. George and Johnny ran down to inspect the problem and pulled the engine covers off. They saw that water was gushing in on the starboard side. We were sinking fast from a split in the seam in the wood planks which made up the hull.

[Click here to read full article](#)

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We enjoyed a great sunset and watched the International Space Station pass overhead while anchored at Miller Creek.

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[Click here to read full article](#)

Comments From Our Commodore

George Brown



Unfortunately our Commodore is currently unavailable for comment.

No worries he has not been captured by pirates and held for ransom. Rest assured all is well. I'm sure he will be back very soon.

Comments From Our Rear Commodore

Diane Seals



We all had fun at our Mardi Gras celebration in February! Some great food and camaraderie as usual, but with somewhat more of a festive mood which is what anyone should

expect around Mardi Gras!

Now with the Spring season starting, we are going to kick this off with the luck of the Irish in March! Our March Social is Saturday, March 8th with a St. Patty's Day Dinner. Please bring an Irish dish - stew, pot luck, brew, etc.! I have already found a new recipe for Shepherd's Pie I plan on trying. Maybe I should get this brave on the water so watch out! Feel free to be somewhat adventurous yourself. The internet is full of recipes. We have discussed putting out the names of the dishes in front of these (mostly for those with food allergies). Your feedback would be appreciated. I try my best to at least sample some of everything but sometimes it would be nice to know what I'm eating!

Ed and Connie Miller will be hosting this dinner (wonder if this is why they seem to be so lucky when it comes to winning races?). Don't forget to wear your green so we can all share this good luck!

I know there have been times I have invited someone around the club to our dinners and their response was "but I didn't bring anything" I have always told them they were still welcome! We never want that to stop anyone from taking part in any of the club activities, so going forward we will put out a bucket out for donations for those who feel this way. Just drop \$5 (suggested) in the bucket and have a good time. There will be exceptions and the "first-timer's" who are our guest. This will be based on the honor system and will go towards the drinks and paper ware we seem to go through in a hurry!

See you soon,
Diane

New Singles Sailing Scene

[Diane Seals](#)

Since our club has several single boat owners now, we would like to come up with a way we can team up and take advantage of more of the club activities. Will has done a great job planning some fun cruises for the club. Since things like this are just not as much fun

alone, some of us would like to come up with some kind of "Singles Sailing Scene" for sailors in our area (suggestions for a name would be appreciated). Paula has agreed to lead this effort, so feel free to contact her, Larry or myself for more information.

If there's enough interest in racing, we could even come up with our own team. Who knows what we could do! Sure sounds like much more fun than just taking our boats out by ourselves. If you are single and interested in this, please contact one of us. We would like to get together for a planning meeting real soon. Also if any members have any single friends that might be interested in joining our group we would be more than happy to have them!

Comments From Our Vice Commodore Clark Mason



The spring season is almost upon us and it's almost time to get our boats ready for another awesome year! We'll be seeing some minor changes this year. The prior Spring and Fall Trophy series will be combined into a single Club Series, consisting of seven races plus Guntersville Cup finishes. Our first race is scheduled for March 8 and Captain's meeting will be at 11 am with starts approximately at 12. We will use straight Portsmouth handicap for participants. Anyone wishing to crew let me know or post in our Racing Yahoo Group and we'll find you a ride.

Since participation for the two joint LGSC/BCSA races last year was lacking, we'll dispense with them for 2014.

Mark your calendar for the **Guntersville Cup** to be held this year April 11 - 13! This is our biggest fundraiser of the season so make plans to come out and support our club. Watch for details and NOR to be posted soon.

Brand new for this year will be our Instruction Series. Some of the "old salts" have agreed to join me in

offering tips and guidance on several aspects of sailing. We will have sessions on Sail Trim, Boat Handling, Docking, Man Overboard techniques and drills and even a session on Race Starting. While geared toward novices, anyone wishing to join us is welcome. We'll start out with discussion in the clubhouse then go out and practice what was covered. The sessions are spread through the year so watch for notices and check our web site for information.

Fair Winds,
Clark

Comments From Our Vice Commodore Will Marsh



Ahoy sailors,
As Cruise Chair I look forward to organizing a lot of fun cruises in 2014.

Our first cursing event this Spring with a trip to the City docks. This will be followed by an overnight raft up at the bat cave. Next will be the Gunterville State Park dinner and overnight in Town Creek.

We are having a speaker from the TVA come give a presentation on locking through the Gunterville Dam Saturday March 8th at our monthly Club Social. I'll follow up by having a lock through at Gunterville dam later this year.

I'll try to run a rope swing cruise again this summer.

On Labor day will our traditional Goose Pond excursion.

I'm also hoping to run a cruise to Chattanooga trip this fall, potentially jumping off of the Goose Pond trip.

Then a raft up at Miller Creek again this year.

Stay tuned to the Calendar for dates and times.

Will