

The Binnacle

Hello from the New Editors

Volume 1, Issue 1, Dec. 2012

Connie Benton Miller

Taking over from Sterling are some big shoes to fill and I mean figuratively and maybe a little bit literally? I know we are all going to miss Sterling's experience and insights. The first thing I said when approach to take this job was, well besides I don't have time, is "I'm NOT a writer!" I felt maybe I could gather information and distribute it but I do not write well. And here we are. Diane and I are happy for this opportunity and hope you will not be too disappointed. And ***Please*** if you would like to contribute to YOUR Binnacle, or have an idea for a story don't hesitate to contact Diane or myself. In the meantime I was searching the internet the other day looking for something interesting to write about and who knew!! Spying in the Sailing World!! Looks like someone has some ***explaining*** to do...According to Stuart Alexander with *The Independent*, seems a real show down is brewing between the Italian team Luna Rossa, backed by the Prada fashion house and the Oracle team, who we all know is backed by Larry Ellison. Spying has been going on forever as rival teams assess the performance of their competitors – if Oracle is indeed spying on Luna Rossa it will also be spying on Team New Zealand (TNZ) and if it is not it would be astonishing. But there are rules, one of which says that anyone using cameras or performance measuring equipment should respect a 200-metre exclusion zone. Neither team will say if an official protest has been lodged. Sounds like they are all taking cues from the Lindsey Lohan camp!! Another interesting note, a senior local observer said that, at times, the boat being used by Oracle's men in the field was not fast enough to keep up with Luna Rossa. I guess the Petraeus affair isn't the only spy scandal story this year.



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

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**



If you would like to submit material for the Binnacle contact me at cben1963@yahoo.com and put Binnacle in the subject line.

The Binnacle

Sailing websites

Volume 1, Issue 1, Dec. 2012

Ed Miller

As the year winds down and the water at the docks is turned off, some of us still find the need for a sailing "fix". Fortunately, the internet offers a bunch of websites to satisfy most lounge chair captains through till spring. I'm sure most of you have a plethora of favorites which would be fun to post somewhere for the newbies to the club. Listed below are a few of the sites I go to regularly and in no particular order.

Sailboatowners.com- This site is really a catalog of sites with forums for just about every make boat out there. There is also an online store where you can find things I haven't found anywhere else, like gasket material for Grey portholes. In addition to the make specific forums there are three "featured" contributors. Don Guilette discusses sail trim, Roger Long talks about cruising and a guy who I have never seen what his real name is but goes by "Maine Sail" who is by far the most all around knowledgeable person when it comes to maintenance. If you work on your own boat you will find the problem you are dealing with discussed ad nauseam. Whether it's polishing the hull or rewiring your entire electrical system you can look here and see what may not be the quickest solution but it will definitely be the most seaworthy.

Sailingtexas.com-This is really a nationwide classified ad resource on the order of auto-trader.com. Most ads have lots of pictures so if you're considering doing something to your boat you can see how others might have done it.

Defender.com-Commonly, the least expensive source for all things sailing. From shoes to shackles they have just about everything.

Jamestowndistributors.com- This company based in Bristol, RI has been around forever. They are a complete source for many basic materials like raw teak or fiberglass. The cool part about this site is they have over a thousand videos which are how-to's on everything from fixing a really big hole, to installing a marine head.

Sailinganarchy.com- Primarily geared to the world class racing crowd. This is a running blog which may not always be the most politically correct place in the sailing internet world, but it does talk about some cool things like the Vestas Sail Rocket. I think this is now the fastest sailboat on earth after hitting close to seventy knots.

Bumfuzzle.com- This is more a travel log of a couple thirty-somethings who made it big in the Chicago commodity trading world and decided to buy a boat and sail around the world after taking exactly one lesson. Pat and his wife Ali did practically everything backwards of conventional wisdom but nonetheless circumnavigated with a 35 foot catamaran without any significant problems. Well written and with great photographs, it's a terrific insight for those of us thinking about casting off someday. I recommend skipping all the current stuff and going straight to the beginning of the archives.

There are a lot more sites out there I know. What are your favorites?

The Binnacle

Commodores Comments

George

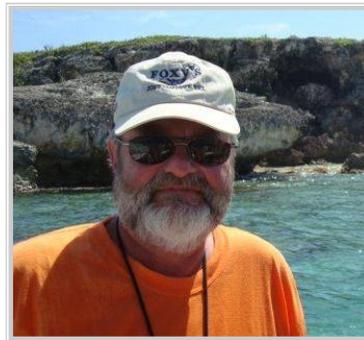
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Winter is right around the corner. Hope you all have winterized your boats. Your new Board has had their first meeting and have begun planning out activities for next year. Be sure to check the calendar for the complete schedule of activities. We will begin the year with the ever popular Chili Cookoff on 9 February (See Social for details). Our first Spring Race will be March 2. Fleet has posted the complete race schedule for the year. Let's hope the weather cooperates and we have wind.

Our biggest event for the year is always the Gunterville Cup. This year it scheduled for 12-14 April. Fleet will be looking for volunteers to assist him, so contact him if you want to help. We will be doing the Cup a little differently this year because we will be using it as practice for the TVCC that we are hosting in September. The biggest difference is that we will be adding a dinghy fleet to the race.

Will Marsh has volunteered to serve as our Cruise Director this year, scheduling local trips and activities on the water. Although we have an excellent group of Board members, we still need as many ideas and as much input from you as we can get. Contact any Board member if you want to help with Social (Val), Racing (Fleet) or local trips (Will).

Hope you all have a great Holiday Season and Happy New Year. Hope we get a few good days this winter to get over to the marina and sail. See you then.



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All I Want for Christmas

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By Ed Miller.

Peace on earth and knowing when Apple stock is going back to seven hundred a share would be great but let's be practical here. First of all, sailors aren't like other people when it comes to Christmas. While the rest of the population has hunkered down with good books and a DVR we live with a nagging list of projects which have been accumulating since March. That floating collection of worn teak and malfunctioning electronics beckons for renewal, refinishing and replacement. The leaking hatch, intermittent depth finder, cracked gelcoat and weather beaten jib ride in the corner of the brain waiting for a jog from that Sail magazine on the coffee table to remind us that there are only 12 Saturdays till the Spring season. When the weather is warm and the winds are blowing is not when we want to be cussing with a tube of 5200 sticking to our hands.

With all that in mind we pour thru West Marine and Defender Catalogs dreaming of all that cool stuff while writing down Interlux paint codes. So here's my list of things I wouldn't mind seeing the big guy drag down the chimney. Santa, are you listening?

1) I saw David Stewart's new chartplotter. I want one. A Garmin 545s with AIS. I'm not really sure what AIS is but I heard it helps prevent collisions.

2) A new custom Sunbrella bimini in Pacific Blue with a big window for seeing the mainsail telltales. I'm getting old and the sun is no longer my friend. My even tan has deteriorated into a blotchy pattern that even a Chik-Fil-A cow would find a turn-off. Heck, maybe I can get a prescription for this one.

3) An Envirocool Air-conditioning kit. This baby's a built -in professionally installed 5,000 BTU system which would fit real nice under the V-berth (Yep, I measured it). Lugging the 99 dollar Wal-Mart unit onto the deck and covering it with a well worn paint drop cloth is effective, but I'm afraid of being labeled "You might be a redneck sailor if...".

4) Poli-glow for the deck...no, no, I want someone to Poli-Glow the deck and call me when it's done. Every time I wash the boat it turns my sexy wife's black swimsuit bottoms white with gel coat residue. I would never tell her this as it would horrify her. I have the kit to do it, bought it on E-Bay but it looks like a lot of work. And it's not something you can do when it's too hot or too cold. What's left is perfect for sailing, not crawling around on my hands and knees all day.

Connie's Christmas wish list:

Ed's articles to be

MUCH shorter!!



5) A Magma Party-sized Kettle Propane Grill with stern pulpit mount. Let's face it, everyone else is tired of me showing up with a forlorn look and three packages of bratwursts at raft-ups. I have tried the "give-em a beer while handing them your cold meat" technique but I know it's only a matter of time before they start telling me to meet them in Town Creek when the group is around the corner hiding in Short Creek.



6) The TackTik Wind System with Wireless Multifunction Display. C'mon now, I know you want one. This is too cool, with a great big screen which you can watch while waiting for there to be enough wind for the race to start.



7) Now this is more for my loving first mate. A custom memory foam v-berth mattress from Rocky Mountain Mattresses. I'm not saying she's a princess but she has always felt there's no such thing as a too soft bed. A nice set of thousand count Egyptian sheets might help convince her that we can spend another night on the boat. Hmm.

8) J World Advanced Racing and Sailing Tactics Course- Hiked out screaming around "Frisco bay" in a J/80 with the best of the best instructors. Real salt spray crashing across the pointy end while learning the right way to pop a chute and surf rail-to-rail with a fleet of rocking one designed speed machines. Okay, I admit that this might be something that the kids who aren't naughty are more deserving of, but a guy can dream right?



9) A North Sails 3DL 860 carbon high modulus genoa. No stretch, preformed and nearly transparent, this puppy may not make me a better sailor but I bet we'd look good. And if the North Pole was completely overstocked my Grand prize this year would be a Shannon 39 preferably with the cutter rig. This boat is to me that perfect not too big, not too small size. It would be ready to take on the oceans of the world as soon as I was up to it. A perfect balance of new and old it just looks like what a sailboat should look like. Unfortunately, it would almost take a Powerball winning to put one on order

I'm sure you have your own list ready to go this season. Maybe we can get him to open up the big red bag on the sleigh a little wider this year. I "liked" him on Facebook, that should count for something.





THE DOGS ARE BACK

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EVERY NEED.*



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