



THE LIGHT



Cold Weather Boat Care

As I write this, the temperature is a cool 18 degrees in San Antonio, five hours from my boat at SPI where my weather app shows it to be a full 20 degrees warmer. As usual, I wish I was there. My other boat - a J/22, is sitting on a trailer high in the air at Canyon Lake where the temperature is showing a brisk 15. What should I be worrying about in these different conditions?

Those of us in the South don't think much about winterizing our boats simply because we can sail year round. Unfortunately, it doesn't always happen and it makes some sense to know some of the procedures that our friends in the East Coast States follow. While they often pull and wrap their boats - something we wouldn't do, there are some common items that can be adopted.

Boats out of the water often get much colder due to the lack of heat coming through the hull from the water. While it can get cold, the water at SPI won't freeze so there is a natural heating effect that provides some level of protection. However, we can't always rely on this when it comes to the fluids inside our boats.

My J/22 can accumulate water through the hatch during heavy storms so I fitted it with a full cover. The water infiltration is less but can still occur so I made sure I took a sponge to the area around the keel bolts and got it off the boat. I also made sure that the boat tilted slightly backwards to ensure good drainage just in case there was an issue with a storm. Avoiding standing water is the goal. This is a good idea for any boat out of the water regardless of the time of year.



On bigger boats or those with inboard heads, there are other concerns. All water should be drained from the boat and all other fluids removed if possible. This includes any water in holding tanks. If you are on the hard, use a hose on the intake and fill the head with antifreeze (50/50) and close the seacocks. Make sure you get the antifreeze into the system by running a few flush cycles. If you are on the water, you'll be ok as long as you drain the holding tanks. Remember that a bit of antifreeze there will help as well given that most tanks are in less insulated areas above the waterline. If you do find a frozen line or valve, let it sit until it defrosts and flush the system correctly. Don't forget to flush well at the beginning of the season.

Outboard engines should be removed from the boat and taken inside the garage. Be sure you drain the gas and store the engine on a sawhorse or other upright support.

If you are running an inboard, add stabilizer to the tank and fill it. Running the engine will ensure that the stabilizer has time to mix into the lines and injectors.

This is also a great time to do an oil change. Drain and re-fill and do the same with your transmission if necessary. Check all the filters on all systems.

Your cooling system/heat exchanger can also be serviced and filled with 50/50 antifreeze for protection. While the engine block is less likely to freeze, some of the coolant lines are quite susceptible.

Finally, look for standing water. Remember that water goes naturally to its lowest point so check the bilge first and work up from there. A frozen bilge pump just doesn't do the job. Again, this isn't common here in Texas but can occur in colder climates. Water settling in other areas (anchor lockers with clogged drains, cockpit, etc) can find its way into fiberglass surface cracks and cause some real problems.

Fortunately, this won't last long but we only need a single hard freeze to cause a problem so be prepared.

Commodore's Ball Photos Available On-line

Thanks again to Herb for posting a whole slew of photos from the Commodore's Ball on-line. You can access them from the following URLs simply by clicking them.

<http://walldogsjourneys.blogspot.com/2011/01/lmyc-commodores-ball-2011.html>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/herb.stark/LMYCComodoresBall2011?feat=directlink>

Laguna Madre Yacht Club 2011 Social Calendar

February 12	Social-Valentine's Day
March 12	Social-Mardi Gras
March 26	Wine & Cheese Tasting Party at the Yacht Club
April 9	Social-Pirates of the Laguna Madre
May 14	Social-Tour of Italy
June 11	Social-South of the Border
July 9	Social-Steak Night
August 13	Social-Hawaiian Luau
August 27	Strange Brew Party at the Yacht Club (bring an exotic beer & share it!)
September 10	Social-Bar-B-Q
October 8	Social-Shrimp Cookout
November 12	Social-Annual Membership Meeting & White Elephant Auction
December 3	Christmas Decorating Party
December 10	Social-Christmas Party

Commodores Corner

Col. Bill Maples

"Welcome to 2011"

Nothing is more inspiring to LMYC volunteers who have given of their time to those countless achievements, than being recognized by fellow team members through the silent nodding of heads and or a good handshake communicating respect between friends for team success.

Each nod transmitting "Well Done!

Such is true acknowledgement of a goal reached, between "Volunteer Leaders, and Members who have contributed as a team within their respective area of responsibilities" then reflecting quietly upon the respect they have gained through the year's achievements by "team work".

The Laguna Madre Yacht Club Members of the Year 2010, through everyone's individual efforts, large and small, has achieved all its goals in fine order.

Material changes by our Vice Commodore Bob Fisher and Mike Myers replacing the entire sprinkler system, not just patching, but replacing it, has become the first team completed project of the year.

Financially and administrative areas reflect improvement on time lines, early collection for events and yearly dues, allowing us to not have to "hit" the CD's in 2010.

Social camaraderie - Our Commodores Ball organizers and great number of members in attendance, have set a high goal and precedence for future balls.

Communications announces the early planned distribution of our communicative tools such as the LMYC updated member directory-e-mail and address listings, schedules and telephone listings that will soon to be published.

More community recognition, camaraderie galore, and on and on including the many new ideas that will be implemented in 2011.

As a direct reflection of my comments, is the "New Training Group" that has blown in this year, in professional fashion and has already achieved success in 2011.

I am extremely proud of all our members accomplishments in 2010 and look forward to those planned and waiting in the aisles for the year 2011.

Such success, as we all realize, are possible only with everyone rallying around the Flag, allowing desired individual recognition to become dissolved in "team recognition" a major contributing part of team effort. With everyone working within their areas of responsibilities, encouraging each other to excel in theirs, while challenging everyone to assist in making 2011 "The Best of the Best."

The next time you pass a "Team Member" of your LMYC family, give them that understanding respectful nod or hand shake or maybe even a big pat on the back. Make their day, let them realize they are part of the LMYC, a proven team.

Thank you for a great 2010, May God bless you and yours in this New Year 2011.

Colonel Bill Maples, Commodore

From the Secretary's Desk

Thanks to all of you who were so diligent in sending in your Accept or Declines for the recent Commodore's Ball! It made our job so much easier, and for those of you who couldn't join us on the 15th, we missed you!

Special thanks to Steward Jana Craft and Treasurer Chris Hughston for all the help at the registration desk - smooth as silk!

We hope you took time to check out the envelopes provided - included were the Social Calendar, the combined Fleet Captain and Education Calendars, a contact list for Flag Officers and of course, a Membership Application.

We are in the process of compiling the final membership list for 2011 and producing the Membership Booklet and sending out the information via mail. If any of you have any additional information (new or different boats/new addresses/new phones/new emails) please let us know ASAP! We would like to make any changes needed prior to publication

 FLEET CAPTAIN and EDUCATION SCHEDULE

2011 Racing, Cruising & Instruction

- Jan 22 **MECHANICAL INSTRUCTION** by Wes Thom
10:00 a.m. at the Club House
- Feb 5 **RACE** *The Mexico Triangle—Skipper's Meeting 8:30 a.m.*
- Feb 19 & 26 **COASTAL NAVIGATION** by Jim Godfrey
 Mar 5 *Three-part series Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Mar 19 & 20 **RACE** *Gulf & Bay—Skipper's Meeting 10:00 a.m.*
- Apr 2 **RULES of the ROAD** by Sid Rouch
10:00 a.m. at the Club House
- Apr 16 & 17 **RACE** *Gulf & Bay—Skipper's Meeting 10:00 a.m.*
- May 1 **RACE** *Annual Dottie & Mac McMillan Race to Port Mansfield*
Skipper's Meeting TBA
- May 7 **GALLEY at SEA** by John Pinkerman
10:00 a.m. at the Club House
- May 21 & 22 **RACE** *Gulf & Bay—Skipper's Meeting 10:00 a.m.*
- Jun 4 **CRUISE** *to Arroyo City—Skipper's Meeting TBA*
- Jun 25 **EMERGENCY TACTICS** by Larry Lewis & Jim Godfrey
10:00 a.m. at the Club House
- Jul 3 **PARADE** *Offshore 4th of July—Skipper's Meeting TBA*
Boat decorating contest
- Aug 20 **SMALL BOAT HANDLING** by Rick Ekstrom & Wes Thom
10:00 a.m. at the Club House
- Sep 2 & 3 **RACE** *Port Isabel to Port Aransas—Skipper's Meeting TBA*
- Sep 17 & 18 **RACE** *Gulf & Bay—Skipper's Meeting 10:00 a.m.*
- Oct 15 & 16 **RACE** *Gulf & Bay—Skipper's Meeting 10:00 a.m.*
- Oct 22 **SAIL TRIM** by Fritz Corey
10:00 a.m. at the Club House
- Nov 19 & 20 **RACE** *Gulf & Bay—Skipper's Meeting 10:00 a.m.*

Race & Water Events Contact: Rick Ekstrom 956-371-1693
Instruction and Education Contact: Dr. John Pinkerman 956-451-8113

Steward's Corner

Our first regular social of 2011, will be held on February 12th. The theme will be Valentine's Day. Pot roast & vegetables will be served along with rolls and some side dishes. If you would like to bring an appetizer or a dessert, it would be greatly appreciated!

The social hour begins at 6:00p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:00. Please come and enjoy the company of your "Yacht Club Friends".

RSVP 281-825-1479 or davidjanacraft@gmail.com

(This will help me plan the meal)

Jana Craft, Steward

Fleet Captain's Report

2011 promises to be a exciting year for LMYC members with an expanded racing and cruising schedule. Our club will continue to expand an ever increasing number of participants as evidenced in our last race week-end of 2010. Our Gulf Race in mid November saw 8 contestants compete in near perfect conditions (warm and Breezy) with new boats entering for the first time. Wes Thom had a novel idea for a new start of the race which required all boats to lay at anchor in Barracuda Cove. At 13:30 the anchor could be weighed and the race would be underway. It was an interesting start that was executed in various degrees of success with "Paper Dragon" getting a quick and smooth get away (Wes was Shockingly adept at this maneuver.....hmmm). New comer "Sweet Pea" skippered by Mike and Marylin Myers were running late for the start of the race and deployed their anchor but we're not sure it hit the bottom before it was back on deck. "Lucky Strike" captained by yours truly managed to start the race going 180 degrees the wrong course and managed to hank on her headsail backwards resulting in it jamming as we tried to raise it. But a good time was had by all and some of us learned quite a few things which is an important ingredient in racing.

2011 promises to be a great year for our fleet, with our first race of the year coming up on Feb. 5 the "Mexico Triangle Race". The skippers meeting will start at 08:30 due to the length of this race. The first leg will be to the Artificial Reef 7 miles southeast of the jetties then on to the rig due east of the jetties and the last leg back to the jetty. The race and layout are, of course, weather dependent.

Also new for this year we considering some new options for our bay races. They will take place inside our jetties but try to facilitate many of our members deeper drafts. One idea is to race in the Brownsville ship channel. If anyone has some ideas on courses for our bay races please contact the Fleet Captain.

Rick Ekstrom 956 371 1693

towboatusportisabel@hotmail.com

Everyone was pleased at the first training session of the season. Thanks to Herb Stark for the photos!



For changes or comments email bmikiten@idworld.net

Your 2011 Flag Officers

Commodore

Col. Wm. "Bill" Maples
H 956 421 3168 C 979 218 4850

Vice Commodore

Robert "Bob" Fisher C 956 299 1259

Rear Commodore

Brian Mikiten C 210 863 5245

Steward

Jana Craft C 281-825-1479

Fleet Captain

Rick Ekstrom C 956 535 2224

Treasurer

Chris Hughston C 956 454 4443

Secretary

Marylin Myers C 956-533-4551

Barrister

Bill Schwer C 713 882 0976

Fleet Surgeon

Wes Thom C 956 778 7628

Membership information

Clubhouse Phone Number
956-943-5692

Thanks to all the members for their wonderful articles and photos this month!

membership@lagunamadreyachtclub.org

Port Isabel, Laguna Madre, Texas

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4:36 AM 0.8 5:45 PM 0.7 5:56 AM 0.7 5:43 PM 0.7 11:35 AM 0.2 11:32 PM 0.3 12:09 PM 0.4	5:01 AM -0.4 4:07 PM 1.3 6:02 AM -0.5 4:34 PM 1.3	8:26 AM -0.5 6:02 PM 1.1 12:12 AM 0.2 12:41 PM 0.6 7:34 AM 0.7 5:35 PM 0.7	9:09 AM -0.4 10:46 PM 0.9 6:09 PM 1.0 12:58 AM 0.1 12:57 PM 0.8 10:18 AM 0.8 5:01 PM 0.8	12:46 AM 0.9 6:03 PM 0.9 9:47 AM -0.3 10:24 PM 0.8 1:52 AM -0.0 2:46 PM 0.9	0.9 2:12 AM 0.9 5:53 PM 0.8 2:53 AM -0.2 2:59 PM 1.1 0.9 5:53 PM 0.8 10:34 PM 0.6 3:56 AM -0.3 3:32 PM 1.2	0.8 3:24 AM 0.8 5:47 PM 0.8 10:59 AM 0.0 10:58 PM 0.5
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