



THE LIGHT



Learning On The Lake, Racing on the Ocean

Those of you who sail outside the Laguna Madre area will attest to the fact that our local winds are a real treat. It is very common to sail many months with our typical wind conditions. You can set your sails, head out of Dolphin Cove and sit for hours enjoying the wind and the waves without making any major changes to your sail configurations. It is wonderful but on the other hand, it can make us complacent.

As someone who sails on the Gulf, both coasts and on several lakes, I've seen that my skills have to change completely with each venue. While that may seem like a "well, of course they do Brian" statement for some of you, those that have not sailed on a lake may not see the great differences between the types of venues and most would benefit from trying it.

Lakes can see wind conditions that vary so much that it is like sailing in three different places during one race. The level of attention required is much higher than a typical day on the Gulf. During a recent race, the windward leg started at 315 degrees 30 minutes before the start and had clocked around to 275 shortly after that. As the race progressed, land masses changed the apparent wind direction four times varying almost 30 degrees each time. Quite honestly, it made me nuts. On the other hand, it allowed me to really focus on paying attention to the wind - something I don't normally focus on at SPI.

The last time I went sailing around the rigs I used this same attention to the wind and while the shifts weren't nearly as dramatic as on a lake, I found myself far more attune to the changes and went faster and more efficiently the entire time.

There is nothing quite like ocean sailing but if you get a chance, take the time and go out on a friend's boat, charter or take a course on a lake. The experience will make you a better sailor.



Treasurer's Comments

HO HO HO, Merry Christmas. St Nick will be making his rounds soon and with all the hustle and bustle associated with the Holidays it's easy to forget some of our day to day chores. Please remember that your renewal dues need to be in before the New Year.

There are lots of fun things coming up soon including the LMYC Christmas party next week. The Commodores Ball next month, the continuation of our educational series and racing series.

With the success of the White Elephant sale, \$1,291.00 deposited with a few dollars left to collect, and dues' rolling in weekly the clubs checking account is in good order and while it was close, we did not have to dip into our savings to make it through the end of the year.

I encourage each and everyone of you to take advantage of what the LMYC has to offer and hope to see all of you next Saturday at the social and of course next month at the Commodores Ball.

Sea you on the water.

Chris Hughston Treasurer

Directory Updates Needed

Have you changed your phone number, address, boat name or had other updates to your directory information that need to be published? If so, please make sure that you get us the new data as quickly as possible. The new LMYC Directories are just around the corner and we want to be sure they are as current as possible.

Members use these directories not only for general information but many keep them or a copy in the boat to help identify other members on the water.

Email your updates to Mrs. Denise Meyners at dbeckett51@aol.com

Fleet Captain's Report

Fellow Sailors of LMYC let me first wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! This is the time of year when everyone is hunkered down making preparations for the Holidays and boating activity is greatly diminished. As I write these words the over night temps are forecast to be in the mid 30's, not many boats will be out in the next few days. Fortunately our winters are short and we do have nice days, one just has to pick the right day. On that note, we have had to postpone our last race of the Fall Series 3 weekends in a row. Just too much wind and seas, safety is always our first consideration. We will try again the weekend of the social, Sat. Dec. 10 or Sun. Dec. 11.

One last item I would like to bring to the attention of our members is the severity of Winter Northers. I recognize that our members are more cognizant than the general boating public in regards to properly securing and safe guarding vessels in severe wind conditions. I would just like to share some of the experiences I recently had as the local TowBoat US company for the Lower Laguna Madre. On the evening of Sat. Nov. 26 a strong gale blew across the South Texas Coast with north winds in excess of 50 mph. Sunday had winds all day of 40 mph. The resulting mishaps kept TowBoatUS Port Isabel busy all day Sun. and Mon. Two 21' bayboats sank at their slips and another was driven high up into the Mangroves near SPI Coast Guard Station. All three were the result of improper positioning and securing before a well known gale warning issued by the National Weather Service Brownsville. The first error of these boaters was most likely not knowing about the Gale warning. The second error and the most egresses was tying the stern to the oncoming wind. These mishaps could have been easily avoided. I would like our members to carefully monitor the NWS Brownsville on WX1 VHS or on the Web during these potentially severe winter storms. Check your boats and add extra lines, place additional bumpers to prevent gouging against pilings and docks. It is true that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

Your Fleet Captain Rick Ekstrom....TowBoatUS Port Isabel

Commodores Corner

First I would like to compliment and thank everyone that was involved in the "White Elephant Auction Social ." All the contributors of items, the auctioneers, the bidding winners, those who did not bid but participated with substantial donations. All efforts resulting in an ending sum estimated in the \$1,300 range. Note that we still have some bid winners who have not yet had time to forward their funds. This doubled our take from last year..

Additionally I want to thank Steward Peggy Godfrey and her helpers - the "Great Ladies" of LMYC who came through with scrumptious appetizers and deserts. The yearly election was well organized by the nomination committee and again with no nominations from the floor, our Master of "Roberts Rules of Order," Mr. Russell Judah asked for an acclamation of the vote and we moved forward. Our newest members Mrs .Denise Meyners Secretary; Master Chief Frank Meyners Steward; Dr. John Pinkerman as back up for the Rear Commodore Mikiten with a voting proxy, as well as Education coordinator; Mr. Abel Meda as back up for the newly elected Fleet Captain Wes Thom and Captain Rick Ekstrom elected to move into the surgeons position vacated by Thom. All will be officially sworn in at the Commodores Ball on January 14th 2012 at the Isla Grand Ball Resort Grand Ball room on SPI. Please mark January 14th on your calendar.. "The Commodores Ball."

In line with our continuing involvement of our Boating Committee with the City, I am meeting with the Port Isabel City Officers this week to discuss the disposition of the side slips at the Pompano City Docking facility. There is still a wavering issue as to the future of the docking facilities. I would ask that any one who may be interested in investigating the cost and use of renting the slips (Sail or motoring) please e-mail me at wdm1000@aol.com before Friday this week and state your interest. I realize rates have not yet been set by the City but I am meeting with the City management to establish an interest and to get the ball moving.

We are in the process of setting up the 2012 social calendar, with finalization meetings being held with the current Steward Peggy and Steward elect Frank. There will be some new variations in the scheduled events for this year with an LMYC Pirates Beach party accessible for all by vehicle with generator lights. Additionally, a Take our Ladies Night out at a TBA local Restaurant, One good old "pot luck event," and again a "Commodore Maples Treat," (Steak Night) to be cooked by our bachelors. The date for socials will not change - they will still take place on the second Saturday of the month. On the water schedule---The new Fleet Captain elect Wes Thom and his associate Abel Meda along with members and Fleet Captain Rick Ekstrom's input are developing some great adventures for this coming year 2012 for all vessels. Dr. John Pinkerman and Jim Godfrey are responding to last years great LMYC education classes turnout and are asking that you send in suggestions for consideration for the 2012 curriculum to Dr. John at brendenke@cs.com of Jim Godfrey at madhouse1114@sbcglobal.net .

I am sure you have noticed our social dinners have increased in attendance . This is outstanding as our income flow will be increasing as well, however it appears that depending on the Steward to prepare for the new numbers alone is beyond what we should ask of one person. Granted in some cases like this year, Dr. Pinkerman and his wife Margo have been loyal volunteers for Peggy. Realizing this increase of work load, I have started a volunteer effort too recruit a "Helping team" for each social. This means starting in February we are asking for volunteers to be attached to Master Chief Frank Meyners (Steward Elect) for one social a year to assist the "Chef" in prepping the meal. I have already asked many of the members and in no case has anyone been reluctant to volunteer. We can work around vacation time etc. so I will personally be contacting those of you on a list to seek your support. We have already eliminated (5) socials back up requirements with The Commodores Ball in January, The Beach Party, Ladies Night Out, One great old POT Luck Night and the Commodores Treat Steak Night. The actual in-house cooking will be limited to seven nights needing a helping team. Please allow me to re-iterate that we need to concentrate on everyone cleaning up behind themselves. Our last social, members seemed to be, " gone like the wind." Please take it upon yourselves to do a "Pick Up, " after the social. Thank you new members Leo and Caren who stayed behind and did all the dishes.

The end of the year is fast approaching us. I am proud to state as Commodore that our club has out done itself again this year in both team and individual efforts..Our new members, our education efforts, our great turn out for socials, the efforts of your Flag officers, increased racing events, the outside decor of our areas (although the electric and water companies have upset the tranquility of our lawn and area putting in new facilities for Homeland security). The friendship and acceptance of all our new members is evident..We should all be proud of ourselves going into 2012. Our goals of Camaraderie, New Members, Communication, consideration and Team work are the essentials of an organization that will extend its Legacy. I am proud to be a part of that team as you all should be. You collectively have all overcome every obstacle. Be Proud "stand tall" set the example as there are many more coming on board everyday to follow you and the Legacy of the LMYC.

Thank you and God Bless you and Yours
Col. Bill Maples, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

You may notice that the yard to the east of the clubhouse has undergone some changes. Parrish Construction Co. from San Benito came in and dug a four foot deep trench and laid some PVC pipe through our lot and on over to the buildings down at the point.

This is in preparation for AEP coming in and running an additional electrical cable for the Homeland Security folks. It was a real mess, with several water lines getting broken during the digging and flooding the ditch. They finally repaired everything, got the PVC pipe laid and covered it all up. The scars are still visible, but I'm sure in eight or ten years, no one will notice. The wire to the sprinkler solenoid was also cut but I rewired it and the sprinklers are back on line.

I want to remind everyone that if you are the last person to leave the clubhouse, please take a few seconds to make sure that all doors are locked, all lights and appliances are turned off, and the heat and A/C controls are properly set. I'm recommending that during warm weather we leave the setting on "Cool", the fan on "Auto" and the thermostat on 84. During cool weather leave the setting on "Heat", the fan on "Auto" and the thermostat on 65. This will help keep the humidity level inside the club down. I went by today, the 4th, and the A/C was on at 76 and the overhead fans were running. And no one was there.

Also take special care not to leave any food or traces of food or scraps around. This will attract cockroaches and mice or rats. Even if the food is still in an unopened package, make sure to put it in the frig or in the cabinets. There was a large plastic container of HEB mixed nuts setting on top of the frig last week and some mouse/mice, judging from the size of their droppings, chewed a big hole through the plastic and were making off with the goodies. And they weren't even leaving the \$5 guest fee!

Over and out from the Vice

Call for Submissions

As a reminder to all LMYC members, we encourage the submission of articles and information for the newsletter. Do you have an interesting off-shore experience? Are you and other LMYC members working on a community project? Do you need assistance from the group? Are you selling a boating related item?

All of these are wonderful items for The Light. Just send your submission to bmikiten@idworld.net in a microsoft word format file or an email. I'll acknowledge that I got it and that it isn't stuck in spam-land and you'll see it in a future issue of The Light.

Steward Stuff

A group of the members got together and decorated the yacht club for the Christmas Social; the club looks really nice which should get everyone into the spirit of Christmas.

Margo and I are looking forward to serving everyone a lovely Ham Dinner with all the trimmings at the December 10th social. I will send out a separate e-mail on Sunday so everyone can RSVP.

Your Steward,

Peggy

For changes or comments email bmikiten@idworld.net

Your 2011 Flag Officers

Commodore

Col. Wm. "Bill" Maples
H 956 421 3168 C 979 244 3144

Vice Commodore

Robert "Bob" Fisher C 956 299 1259

Rear Commodore

Brian Mikiten C 210 863 5245

Steward

Peggy Godfrey C 956-832-3930

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

membership@lagunamadreyachtclub.org

Port Isabel, Laguna Madre, Texas

December 2011

