

Good afternoon, Lake Conroe Sailing Association!

May was a good month for the club, with 3 of 4 scheduled races sailed (one having to be called off, due to storms), a delicious Full Moon Dinner Cruise to Fajita Jack's, and a first-time-ever afternoon "Destination Sail" to Papa's on the Lake. Even better was the number of new members we had join our club! Our club is growing, no doubt due to the great word-of-mouth of our members and the outstanding positive outreach and mentorship on the water.

New members:

On behalf of the Lake Conroe Sailing Association, let's welcome aboard our newest members:

Randy Sanders

Mike Lindstrom

Mario and Sara Dicaro

Denet Martin

Tami Riner

Ron and Kim Liston

From the Commodore:

-John Moulds

From the Vice Commodore:

Please see activities and sailing class events farther down the newsletter.

Remember: We Can't Direct the Wind but We Can Adjust the Sails

-Bob Lenhart

From the Secretary:

What's in your sailing library?

As we get into the long, hot days of summer, now might be a great time to do a little summer reading.

That got me thinking about my sailing library.

Some of my favorites are, *Alone Against the Atlantic*, by Marlin Bree & Gerry Speiss, and *Dove*, by Robin Lee Graham & Derek Gill. Both are incredible true stories of sailing and adventure that are almost impossible to put down.

Other books I enjoy picking up from time to time are my reference books which include, *The American Practical Navigator*, by Nathaniel Bowditch, *Dutton's Navigation and Piloting*, by Benjamin Dutton, *The Rigger's Apprentice*, by Brion Toss, *The*

American Merchant Seaman's Manual, by William B. Hayler, and *The Small-Boat Sailor's Bible*, *The Arts of the Sailor*, and *The Marlinspike Sailor* all by Hervey Garrett Smith.

Next on my reading list is, *Carry on, Mr. Bowditch*, by Jean Lee Latham.
So...what's in *YOUR* library?

Also, if you are looking to buy, sell, donate, or trade any sailing-related equipment, let me know and I can include it at the end of the July newsletter along with your contact information so that members can contact you directly.

And if you have anything club-related or of interest to the membership as a whole that you'd like included in the newsletter, please let me know and I'll try and include it in the July newsletter.

-Gerrit Rickwalt

From the Treasurer:

Please remember to update your online membership forms if you have any information that has changed (e.g. email address, phone numbers, home address).
Also, be sure to add your birthday info so we can give you a shout-out!

-Anna Mode

From the Activities Coordinator:

June has some fun activities coming up...

See the "Upcoming Social Events", near the end of the newsletter for the details.

Also, June will be our first-ever "**Summer Sailstice**" event. Gerrit Rickwalt will be providing more information on this event as we get closer.

This year's Summer Sailstice will be Saturday, June 18th, with activities, times, and locations to be determined.

For more information, go to summersailstice.com

Gerrit has already created an account for our club's activities, but you are welcome to roll in the official start of summer with your own activities, should you not be able to attend ours.

-John Davis

From the Race Coordinator:

May was a fantastic month of racing and also the end of the Spring Series.

The summer series begins with our Thursday night race on June 2nd, and will run through August 25th.

Below are the top 5 finishers in the Spring Series. Congratulations to you and your crews!

Spring Series standings as of the end of May are:

- 1) Dave Hopkins "Phone" - 88 points (4 first-place finishes)
- 2) John Barnes "Jay Bee" - 59 points
- 3) Peter Mason "Hole Shot" - 53 points (2 first-place finishes)
- 4) John Lane - "J Bird" - 50 points
- 5) Mike Hallett - "That's What She Said" - 50 points (2 first-place finishes)

I also thought I'd share my sources for making the wind forecasts prior to each week's race.

When it comes to weather and wind, I use these sites:

[Weather.com](#) (The Weather Channel)

[Weather.gov](#) (National Weather Service)

[Willyweather](#)

[Windfinder](#)

[Sailflow](#) (observations at Conroe Yacht Club)

[Windy.com](#)

And when I map our racecourses, I use these sites to get a rough estimate of the depths, so I can ensure all boats have adequate water beneath their keels and that they aren't traversing any shoal areas. When I place the marks, I physically measure the depth at these locations with the Committee Boat depth finder as a safety-check.

Depths:

[i-boating](#) (allows to you determine latitude and longitude of the depth which you are trying to find)

[Lake Conroe depths](#) (really better for finding fishing spots, but there is also a lot of useful information here to help avoid getting anchors snagged on old bridges, etc.)

Also, as this is the beginning of summer, we *ALL* need to keep safety on the water in mind and never take the lake for granted.

Below is a link to the accident report for the *Dauphin Island Regatta*, which occurred in April 2015, on Mobile Bay, Alabama, which resulted in 8 vessels being sunk, and six lives lost as the result of a line of strong thunderstorms which caught many of the boaters off-guard. Although storms were predicted that afternoon, most boaters were still caught off-guard and did not have NOAA weather radio alerts being monitored on their VHF radios or phones.

The tragedy boiled down to three main factors:

-*Weather*: Wind in excess of 70 mph, blinding rain, and swells of 8-10 feet overcame the racers

-*Human error/communications*: Racers failed to adequately check the weather before heading out and during the race, and the Race Committee failed to notify racers or cancel the race.

-*Equipment*: Racers failed to wear lifejackets, or were unable to access them.

You can read the entirety of the report at the following link:

<https://www.clearlakeracing.org/index.php/articles-to-read?task=weblink.go&id=579>

This document is also attached as a .pdf

Be sure to sign up for the Committee Boat sometime during each series. We need at least 1 captain and one helper to set the marks.

Thank you to our Committee Boat crews for signing up and helping set up the courses and run our races!

May's Committee Boat crews were:

Gerrit, Robin, Gabrielle, and Camille Rickwalt, John and Nicki Barnes, Robbie Colosino, Bill Worsham, Bob Lenhart, and John Davis. Thanks, again for all of your help!

New crew procedure:

The new crew and Committee Boat sign-up procedure is running smoothly. *Thank you all for helping make it such a big success!*

If you're interested in crewing...don't be shy! Go to the website and sign up...there are always skippers looking for people to crew.

By now everyone should have a parking pass for the Thursday night races. If you do not have a pass yet, please let the Race Coordinator (Gerrit Rickwalt) know and he will email you one. All you have to do is print it out and place it on the dashboard of your vehicle on Thursday nights.

Please note that this parking pass is for Thursday night races only.

I've also included a parking pass as an attachment on this newsletter.

If you haven't created your RaceQs account yet, it's not too late! It's free, it's helpful, and it's fun!

If you have RaceQs questions, please let Gerrit Rickwalt know.

<https://raceqs.com/>

See you on the water!

-Gerrit Rickwalt

From the Education Coordinator:

Our annual basic sailing class will take place Jun 11th, 2022, from 9:00 AM until noon at the Montgomery County Memorial Library, 104 Interstate 45 N, Conroe, Tx. 77301. It is free to the public and club members. Admission: Sign up with Lake Conroe Sailing Association, email: sailingconroe@gmail.com or visit: www.lakeconroesailing.com. Seating is limited so you must sign up in advance. If conditions allow, we will also try to spend some time on the water on Lake Conroe in the afternoon to apply the skills learned. If you and your

boat are available, please let Dick Morton know at psaltshaker@juno.com or text 936-581-1098. Dick will provide a handout of basic maneuvers that new students should see demonstrated and tried.

-Dick Morton

Upcoming Social Events:

Our next non-racing sailing event will be the Full Moon Dinner Cruise on Tuesday, June 14th at Monty's Lighthouse at 6:30 pm.

The water is deep enough at Waterpoint Shopping Center (where Fajita Jack's and Monty's Lighthouse are) for most boats to safely sail in, but you are welcome to drive there, too...Just show up! We love seeing all our members at these events!

We also have our June social at the Point Aquarius clubhouse on June 25th. There will also be a "Murder-Mystery Game" at the event, with hamburgers being served. Bring a dessert or appetizer. Please let John Davis know which of those items you intend to bring. 270sailor@suddenlink.net

Thanks again everyone for making Lake Conroe Sailing Association such a fun, welcoming, and enriching club!

We'd also especially like to thank **Jeff Taggart** of the Southern Empress for all of his continued support for our club and our members!

BUY/SELL/TRADE:

Spinnaker - Andy Truscott

Andy Truscott has a spinnaker that needs a new home. The sail was run for some time on his Catalina 25 and is in great condition, with no rips or tears.

Details:

Asymmetric Spinnaker.

Luff 28' 8"

Foot 19' 3"

Leach 31' 3"

Lightweight coated nylon

White with light blue tri-point "star"

If you are interested in this sail, make him an offer. You can contact Andy at: andy.j.truscott@gmail.com

Thanks again for a great month of sailing and activities!
See you out on the water!

Sincerely,
Your LCSA Board,

*John Moulds, Bob Lenhart, Anna Mode, John Davis, Dick Morton, Gerrit
Rickwalt (editor)*