



The Mainsheet



Commodore Webb

From The Helm— Commodore Scott Webb

Design First — Beneteau First 285 — Hanna Creek, Slip 73

Following a wonderful week of sailing in crystal blue waters, we landed in Dayton to snow on the ground. Looking down at my feet, realizing my flip-flops were not a good choice, we looked at the forecast for the sock burning; a high of 38 with a chance of snow...I had clearly abandoned my socks too soon.

But alas...April is here, and we are on the countdown to the start of the season.

So we will give it another shot. The sock-burning has been rescheduled for the 11th, and I am sure those BLSA members at Kent's Harbor have used the extra time to get their boats ready for the pre-season inaugural cruise. Surely the ice will have all melted by then.

Besides thoughts of our own boat projects, the spring is a busy time for the Board. The calendars are set, the budgets are adopted, and the membership drive is in full swing. If you

have not already done so, please stop by the website and complete your registration/renewal.

Speaking of calendars; this year we have coordinated the racing program & social calendar to try and encourage more people to have fun with their boats and their friends both on the water and on the shore. Each is a great way to learn about sailing, and develop lifelong friendships. When I joined BLSA in 2000, I knew no one. I can personally say that the friends I have made through the past 15 years of sailing and the BLSA are among the most dear in my life. There is just something about people who sail.

Also this year, we will be holding some educational "how-to" clinics. Are you confident anchoring? Do you know how to raft up with other boats? And of course...can you make it go faster? Keep watching the newsletter, your email, Facebook, etc. for all the happenings at

Calendar

April 11th
Ice Breaker/Sock
Burning

May 1st
Brookville Lake
opens for 2015!

May 16th
Regatta and
Welcome Back
Dinner

May 23rd
Family Day Races
and Social

May 30th
Racing Skills
Seminar

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the lake.

So...my message "from the helm" as we start this season is Get Involved. Try racing one weekend this year. We always need additional hands for Social events, and it's a great way to meet people. Attend a clinic, or simply ask for advice. Invite people to sail with you. This is a great club, full of wonderful people. Send in your membership form and let's get the season started.



Mr. and Mrs. Webb

Sailing the Net...

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages the water levels for Brookville Lake. The primary reason for the lake's existence is flood control for the Ohio River, but the happy result is we have a great lake for sailing.

In the spring, the USACE will monitor the water levels of the lake, allowing the lake to fill up with winter melt, but also releasing enough water to keep proper levels further

downstream. The timeframe for this roughly coincides with the "opening" date for the season, May 1st. USACE begins drawing down the water levels in the fall, again around the "closing" date, 10/11/15. Depending on summer rain levels, water may or may not be at optimal levels for the marinas (combined with the on-going concern over silting).

You can check the water levels at this site:

<http://lrl-apps.lrl.usace.army.mil/wc/reports/lkreport.html> (it is also linked thru www.BLSA.us).

Summer Pool is 748 feet and most boats (up to 5' draft) can still sail, carefully, at 743 feet.

Outflow numbers are also interesting as you can watch the rush of water being released at the Dam & Tailwater Park on Route 101, Brookville. Amounts at 1000 CFS and more are spectacular.

Louisville District Daily Lake Report											
18 February 2015											
		Lake Elevations					Flood Storages				
Basin	Project	Winter Pool Feet	Summer Pool Feet	Flood Pool Feet	Today's Pool Feet	Dev. from Pool Feet	24 Hour Change Feet	24 Hour Precip Inches	6 A.M. Outflow CFS	Inches Avail	Percent Util
Whitewater	Brookville	740.0	748.0	775.0	740.1	0.1	0.0	0.10	69	10.60	0.17

Membership

Tim Fry — Tracy Ann — Catalina 28 — Kent's Harbor, Slip C-26

As of March 31st we had 38 registrations. That's less than half of the final 2014 membership total. Please register in the next couple of days. Sharon Hughes is preparing our annual membership book this year. She needs to have all of your information by April 15th in order to get the book to the printers on time for the 2015 sailing season. You may register on-line at www.BLSA.us.

Also, if you wish to add or update your photo for the booklet, please contact Sharon .

Harbormaster Update

Roger Ruwe — Sails Call — Hunter 27 — Hanna Creek, Slip 56

Can anyone say brrrrrrrr...! I went over to Hanna Creek this past Sunday. Surprisingly the debris around the docks was a lot less than I had expected. Not totally clean, but better!! We will work with the IDNR to move several of the larger "floating" trees. In the upcoming weeks I want to do a walk thru with Scott/ Webb Dennis Weber to repair several dock boards. Should anyone see a required maintenance issue, please contact me regarding your concerns and I'll will have them addressed: roger@rcsales.biz.

Social Director

Dave Holdren — Wind Shadow — Kells 23 — Hanna Creek, Slip 55

The 2015 BLSA Winter Social was held at the Trinity Pub in West Chester on March 7th. This was a great place to have our first social of the year and begin our sailing season. Everybody had a great time and the service from the wait staff was excellent. There were 35 people in attendance, including 3 new members. Thanks to everybody that RSVP'd, whether you advised you were or were not attending. This sure makes the Social Director's job a lot easier.

Steve Tacy from Strictly Sail brought in prizes to raffle off as door prizes. Cathi Ege and Jack Slawter sold the raffle tickets and raised \$137.50 for the club. Way to go Steve, Cathi, and Jack!

John Slawter introduced the new racing format for 2015 and there were several good comments made about the change. John also passed out the new racing & social calendar. If you didn't get one they will be available at the Sock Burning/Ice Breaker @ Kent's harbor on the 28th.

Tim Fry introduced the 3 new members that were present: Ben & Kim Parsons and Shari Thornton. Tim also talked about the membership drive and urged late comers to get their membership in ASAP so the 2015 Membership Book can be put together.

Scott Webb announced that him and Annie were married on Friday, March 6th.



Tim Fry, aka Captain Happy



Bill Ralston, Mike Chrisman, and Randy Jones



John Slawter and Steve Tacy

Racing Director

John Slawter — *Uno Mass* — S2 7.9 — Hanna Creek, Slip 71

April Showers...

At last, old man winter is loosening his grip and we are beginning to see signs of spring. The tulips, daffodils, and budding trees are one thing, but its tarps coming off boats that really excites me. It may be hard to believe, but boating season is almost here and the planning and preparation we put in right now will determine how smoothly our May commissioning goes.

To give you some incentive, there are three weekends with BLSA racing activities. Coupled with the Welcome Back Cookout on May 16th, the first ever Clean Bottom Regatta will be our kick off event for the season. Remember that to qualify as a contender for the club championship in September you must race four regattas during the season--the Clean Bottom Regatta is your first opportunity! Also note the time change for our racing events. Unless otherwise posted, skippers meetings will be at 11:00 and racing will start at 12:00 in order to give us time to get at least 3 races in.

Saturday, May 23rd during Memorial Day Weekend is going to be a blast. Strictly Sail is sponsoring a family day event and to support it, Ashli and I will be hosting a kids seminar and dinghy regatta. This is the absolute best day for you to introduce someone to sailing so mark your calendars, bring your kids and grandkids, and invite someone to join us.

This year's Racing Skills Seminar is the last Saturday of May. For anyone who hates to hear people bicker endlessly about rules that govern obscure scenarios that may never happen, this is your kind of seminar! We will cover basics, we will keep it light, and we will get out on the water and practice. This isn't a rules seminar, it's a skills seminar and I want you to join us!

June will keep things moving with the second regatta event for the season, the School's Out Regatta, on June 6. Father's Day weekend will be packed with activities so commit that weekend now—Summer Sailstice Parade on Saturday the 20th, the wine tasting that night, a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning, and the Father's Day Regatta that afternoon! Lastly, our 2nd seminar of the season is geared toward cruisers. Chris Hughes has volunteered to teach us all how to properly set an anchor and raft up with other boats on June 27.

You can see now why I'm so excited about this year at BLSA. You can also see why April is an important month for all of us. Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and get ready for a great season. The flowers are going to come out no matter what but I really hope April showers remove tarps, clean decks, and get boats in the water by May 16th!

Don't forget to come out for the re-schedule ICE BREAKER/SOCK BURNING. The club will provide food; you bring your own drinks and chairs. Dress for the weather as it's outside at the Kent's Harbor fire ring. Noon, Saturday, April 11th. RSVP to BLSA.NEWS@gmail.com.

As you travel to the Lake, keep in mind two recent road closures:

- Hwy 52 between New Trenton and Cedar Grove was closed for a culvert replacement. It will be closed for up to one month.
- Hwy 44 between Connersville and Liberty will be closed for an undetermined amount of time. Please follow detour signs for Alquina Road.

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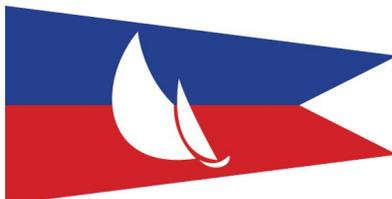
BLSA Logo Wear

Clothing items including T-shirts
and hats are available from Capital
Varsity Sports in Oxford, OH with
the BLSA logo. Call 800-932-5545
for ordering and additional product
availability.

<http://www.capitolvarsity.com/>



For BLSA burgees contact
Tim Fry



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Contact Steve Tacy - Hanna Creek # 72
Hobie 33 'Wicked Witch'