



# The Mainsheet



## From The Helm

By Bill Beglin Beneteau 323 ~ Past Behavin' Slip D-31 at Kent's Harbor Marina



Commodore Beglin

Thank you to all our members that responded to the recent club activities questionnaire for the 2013 season. Your feedback makes it much easier for the board to plan the season and has helped direct some changes in this year's schedule and events. The 2013 membership drive is underway and Mike Chrisman has improved the process we began last year supporting online completion of the membership form and dues payment. Of course you can still print the application and send it in via regular mail. We really appreciate the online applications as it makes it much easier for us to update our records and the membership booklet and some of your handwriting is not

always the most legible.... You'll notice one change that was announced last year; we are increasing our annual dues by \$10. This is our first increase in 5 years and is necessary to cover club expenses and maintain a small reserve fund. So please, watch your email for this year's membership form and complete it as soon as possible. Scott Webb and Bill Ralston have developed the tentative social and racing calendar for 2013 and we will be finalized it at our board meeting on 2/9. Watch your email for the final calendar along with the 2013 membership form. As you review the events calendar and complete your membership form, please consider

volunteering for a social event and/or race committee duty. Aligning member volunteers early for all of our events is one of the most important steps to insuring a successful season. The first social event of 2013 will be our annual late winter social at Rick's Tavern in Fairfield on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. I hope to see many of you there. It's a good time to get back together, talk about your winter and spring projects and just catch up with fellow members. It's been a rougher winter than last, but hang in there, May 1<sup>st</sup> will be here soon!  
Bill

## Calendar

**Birthdays:**  
Brian Tacy 2/4  
Walter Frank 2/10  
Kim Price 2/28

**Winter Social @  
Rick's Tavern  
2/16 from 6-9.**

**Next board  
meeting:  
3/16**

## BLSA BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Commodore</b> Bill Beglin <a href="mailto:wrbeglin@aol.com">wrbeglin@aol.com</a> Cell: 317-447-7550	<b>Social Director</b> Bill Ralston <a href="mailto:wm_ralston@yahoo.com">wm_ralston@yahoo.com</a> Cell: 513-604-8650	<b>Treasurer</b> Rick Ege <a href="mailto:rege@fuse.net">rege@fuse.net</a> Cell: 513-307-6509	<b>Communications</b> Kim Price <a href="mailto:kimmjprice@gmail.com">kimmjprice@gmail.com</a> Cell: 859-801-6021
<b>Vice Commodore &amp; Membership Chair</b> Mike Chrisman <a href="mailto:mchrisman513@gmail.com">mchrisman513@gmail.com</a> Cell: 513-604-8650	<b>Racing Director</b> Scott Webb <a href="mailto:scott@scottwebbarchitect.com">scott@scottwebbarchitect.com</a> Cell: 513-368-8274	<b>Secretary</b> Cathi Ege <a href="mailto:Egepropertyrental@fuse.net">Egepropertyrental@fuse.net</a> Cell: 513-307-6510	<b>Harbormaster</b> Jeff Houk <a href="mailto:reefdmain@aol.com">reefdmain@aol.com</a> Cell: 317-432-6578

As many of you know from Tim Fry's article in last month's newsletter, he is a very talented writer. Now we show you that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Here is a story Mary Fry wrote for her English class about her puddle duck regatta experience.



As the end of the summer neared, my dad put the finishing touches on the sailboat that he had spent the last few months making with his best friend, Bo. The small handmade boat was called a Puddle Duck. Lots of hard work and sweat went into the production of their Puddle Duck, and the project was coming to an end. Two days before they intended to leave for Brookville Lake for the Puddle Duck Regatta with a group of other boat builders, my dad got a call from Bo saying that he was sick with the flu and would not be able to make it to the gathering. My dad, now gloomy with disappointment, needed to find a new partner. Soon.

My dad asked me if I wanted to come along with him to the Lake. Not being very interested in boats, I was initially hesitant to say yes. However, seeing the look of desperation to find a partner in my dad's eyes, I agreed to join him. We spent the whole afternoon packing the car for the Regatta the next day. After a long day of preparing for our outing the following day, I needed to get some sleep.

"Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep!"

I rolled over hit the button to turn off my ringing alarm, and got up out of bed. I looked at my clock, which read 4:30am. Sleepily walking to the bathroom to wash up before heading to Brookville Lake, I stumbled into my dad, who was already awake and dressed.

"This is going to be a blast!" his voice glittered with excitement, "I can hardly wait to put the Puddle Duck in the water!"

"It's too early," I groaned, clearly not as eager to get on the road.

"I know you've never been sailing with me before, but I bet if you go in with an open mind you'll end up having fun and really enjoying yourself," he recommended.

I decided to take his advice. I smiled back at him, "You know what? You're right." With a new pep in my step and an optimistic outlook for the afternoon, I went back to my room to get ready for the big day I had in front of myself.

"DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'!" My dad and I half sang, half screamed along to the car radio "All right, we're only about 5 minutes away from the lake now!" My dad informed me.

I put my shoes back on and prepared for the race ahead of me. When we stepped out of the car, I was immediately engulfed with the afternoon heat, and I could feel the sun beaming down on my cheeks. Tiny drops of sweat formed at my temples.

We carried our Puddle Duck down to the lake together and put it in the water. As I lifted my second foot from the shore and it joined my dad and me in our boat, we sailed off to the starting line of the race, where we saw about 10 other Puddle Ducks already floating in the murky water.

"Now here are the rules," We heard the Puddle Duck leader announce through a microphone. When he finished explaining them all, we were all ready to go!

"Three, two, one, GO!"

We were off! At first, our Puddle Duck slowly crept along, but as the wind picked up, our boat hurried through the misty water. We took an early lead along with a second Puddle Duck very similar to our own. We sailed for about 45 minutes, pulling away from most of the crowd. However, we could not seem to shake off the second boat.

As we got closer and closer to the finish line, my hands were stinging due to the cuts all over my fingers from the rope burns. The blazing sun blinded me and sweat dripped past my eyelids, making it nearly impossible to see anything. But now was not the time to worry about bloody hands or the flaming sun. Now was the time to worry about being the first Puddle Duck to reach the finish line, which was just barely visible in the glistening water. Out of breath and heart thumping, my chest was about to burst. I caught a glimpse of my dad; perspiration soaked his shirt and covered his forehead.

I could taste victory seeping into my mouth and exploding on my tongue. Closer and closer we got, the finish line was now only a couple inches away.

We crossed the finish line a full 9 seconds faster than the second place boat. My dad looked over at me with the biggest smile I had ever seen. There was no need for him to say anything; his smile expressed exactly how he felt. It was a mix of accomplishment, appreciation, but most of all, love.

At this moment, we both knew that today did not conclude the way it had started. At first, it was just about going out to the lake for a day of happiness and bonding with my old man. Had we planned to have fun? Of course. Had we planned to take first prize in our Puddle Duck race through the combined efforts of our teamwork, competitive mind-set, and natural skill? I know I didn't. However, today's accomplishments were probably the most memorable of my life. Not the fact that we won. Although that was a great bonus, the real triumph was that my dad and I now had a new hobby to do together every weekend. All of this happened because I decided to take a risk, and try something new, and I ended up absolutely loving it.

**Lesson: if you try something new with an open mind, you may end up liking it. Partly because you did it with someone you like, and partly because you find it to be an enjoyable activity.**

## BLSA 2013 Social and Racing Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Social Event</b>	<b>Race</b>
2/16	Sat	Winter Social	
3/16	Sat	Ice Breaker	
5/12	Sat		Practice Races
5/18	Sat	Welcome Back Cookout	
6/1	Sat		Spring Series Races 1 & 2
6/9	Sun		Spring Series Races 3 & 4
6/15	Sat		Spring Series Races 5 & 6
6/22	Sat	Summer Sailstice/Wine Tasting	Summer Sailstice Parade of Boats
6/29	Sat		Spring Series Races 7 & 8
7/7	Sun		Spring Series Races 9 & 10
7/13	Sat	Cheese Burger in Paradise Party	Portsmouth Series: Big Bubba Burger Bash
7/20	Sat	Almost Full Moon Frolic	Portsmouth Series: Full Moon Frolic
7/27	Sat	Puddle Duck/Kids Day	Puddle Duck
8/3	Sat		Fall Series Races 1 & 2
8/10	Sat	Beach Party Raft-up/ Shrimp Boil	Fall Series Races 3 & 4
8/18	Sun		Fall Series Races 5 & 6
8/24	Sat	Beer Party	Poker Run
9/7	Sat	Pig Roast	Pig Regatta
9/8	Sun		Pig Regatta Day 2
9/14	Sat		Fall Series Races 7 & 8
9/22	Sun		Fall Series Races 9 & 10
9/28	Sat	Oktoberfest	Team Racing
9/29	Sun		Series Match Race
10/5	Sat	Chili Cook-off	
11/16	Sat	Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet	

## 2013 Membership Drive:

The 2013 BLSA membership drive is on! Take a break from the cold and start planning for an exciting season of sailing by renewing or registering with BLSA for the upcoming year. You can fill out your renewal online this year or print and mail/email the registration form. We are offering Pay Pal as a payment option again this year. Note: you will need to sign up and log into Pay Pal to use this option. Of course, you can still mail a check. Please see [www.blsa.us](http://www.blsa.us) for complete details including the membership form. There is a link from the BLSA home page. If you have any questions, please email me at [mchrisman513@gmail.com](mailto:mchrisman513@gmail.com).

Please renew early. It helps the club plan and budget for the coming year. It will also guarantee your listing in the 2013 membership book.

Mike Chrisman  
BLSA Membership

**Sailing "Wisdom"**

*Wake:* 1. Horizontal track in the water caused by passage of a boat. 2. Ceremony held if track become vertical

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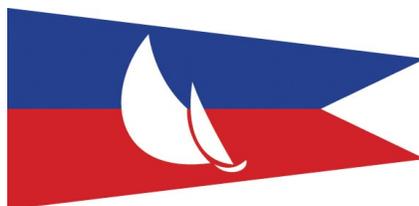
**BLSA Logo Wear**

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 **Bill Beglin**

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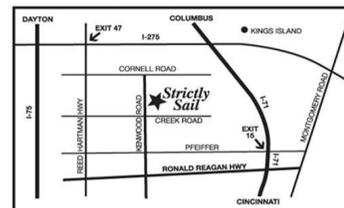
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Hobie 33 'Wicked Witch'