



The Mainsheet



From The Helm

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



Commodore Beglin

Calendar

Next Board Meeting is February 9th.

Be sure to wish our beloved Commodore, Bill Beglin, a very happy birthday on January 27th

This morning we had the first board meeting of 2013. Your new board will be working hard over the coming weeks to put together the social and racing calendars and as always we're looking for your suggestions on ways to make this year our best ever. Bill Ralston and Scott Webb's contact info is listed at the bottom of this page; feel free to contact them with your ideas and consider volunteering to help out on one of our many social and racing events. It's a great way to get to meet other members and after all member volunteers are the life blood of any organization. So, it's January, other than football what is there to do? Well of course the best thing

to do is think about the coming sailing season. Every year each of us creates a mental list of those things we'll get to someday but never seem to quite get around to once the season starts. Now is a good time to write down those items and start checking them off the list. Start with needed maintenance items, standing rigging (stays and shrouds), are they worn, have a few broken strands etc. Get new ones made now. How about running rigging (you know sheets and lines). Take the old ones in and get them replaced now, you'll be glad you did. How about sails, do they need repairs? Send them off to make sure their back in time. Need to add something, cup holders, a new stereo, how

about a vhf radio. The list goes on and on, but there is just something satisfying about having some new stuff ready to go when the time comes to uncover your hot rod and get it ready for spring sailing. One of the new items the board is considering is a way to create a small boat dock that would float a few inches out of the water, located somewhere at/around the Hanna Creek docks. Paul Hemker found a company that floats just a few inches out of the water. This would be a nice addition to the facility and greatly facilitate the use of Puddle Ducks, kayaks, Lasers etc. Stayed tuned for more on this in the future. Bill

BLSA BOARD MEMBERS

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The Story of Santa Clews and The Three Kings

We all know the story of Santa Claus and the other story about The Three Kings. They are stories about the gifts we give each other at Christmastime as symbols of the gift God gave to us. This story is a little like those more famous stories, but it's different. In this story, we will hear of another of gift, the gift of sharing something we love.

Every December 26th the Fat Old Man from the North Pole goes on his winter vacation to the town of Red Gold in the Commonwealth of Dominica, in the Sea of Caribbean. He goes to visit his friend Brian, the proprietor of a sailing shop called *Sails And Tacks And Clews* or *Santa Clews* for short. We take up the story after Santa has parked his sleigh out back, behind the shop, next to the unsold boats. He walks inside, washes up after the long trip, and sits down.

"Hi Brian, It's good to see you. I'm worried."

Santa has been looking forward to the trip this year, more so than normal, because there is trouble and

sadness across the world. The news is full of war, violence, and economic trouble. "People are focused on the wrong things," Santa tells Brian. "They aren't joyful the way they should be. They are in too much of a hurry."

Santa is counting on Brian to lift his spirits. Brian is a child of the sun and full of Caribbean good cheer. Always an eager listener, Brian sits patiently as Santa recounts many tales of trouble, tales gathered as he made his rounds this year. They sip rum together, talk about family, Brian asks about Rudolph. Brian does his best to raise his friend's spirits, but nothing works. Brian excuses himself to make some phone calls.

"Hello Balthazar, this is Brian. Get here please. Quick!"

"Hello Caspar, this is Brian. Get here please. Quick!"

"Hello Melchior, this is Brian. Get here please. Quick!"

Balthazar immediately sets sail in his blazing red Beneteau Oceanis 58 "*Lauran*" to answer his friend's plea. Caspar boards his teal Catalina 470 "*Sandra*," while Melchior embarks on his copper-nickel colored Morris Yachts M52 "*Alexandra*." Each man a king, each ship a queen of the seas, each sailed for a noble purpose. They sail from the East, each following the Southern Cross to Red Gold and *Santa Clews*. The Three bring a gift. Not precious metals, perfume, or medicine; they come with a different sort of gift, a gift that costs nothing at all.

The Three arrive in Red Gold on January Sixth and race into the shop.

"What's the problem Santa?" asks Caspar. "Tell us your troubles," says Balthazar. "Share your burdens with us!" commands Melchior.

"I'm worried about the sadness I see in people today," Santa says, while a solitary tear grows in the corner of his eye. "I sense peoples' feelings of longing, longing for something they don't know and can't describe. The good people of the world are preoccupied with things beyond their control. I'm saddened by the insular tendencies I see developing among some of my most cherished, the children. What I see most lacking, is person-to-person contact; the simple give and take between individuals and small groups of people. What seems to be missing most is the sort of contact that breeds community and fosters simple joy. The joy we are meant to have."

"We've seen this before Santa," the Kings assure him. "The fix is simple. If one wants something they value to grow, they must share it. Share it with energy and passion. Share is quietly and subtly. It really doesn't matter how one shares; it is the act of sharing that promotes the growth."

"Look at us," says Caspar, "we are sailors. We live simple lives, lives we enrich by sharing our love of the wind and water with each other and with those souls we encounter ashore."

"Our boats are like time machines," Balthazar

comments. "Not in the sense of time travel, but in the sense of slowing time. Sailing brings time to a stand still. Time at sea isn't counted against one's allotted time on Earth," he grins.

Melchior continues... "The love of sailing and sharing that experience with others gives one more time. More time with ones thoughts. More time with people. More time to find inner joy."

Brian, long silent, jumps in. "I am the son of a sailor and I can confirm that what the Three say is true. My Dad always taught me that sharing the gift of sail with others was a sure fire way to make life-long friends. Now Santa, it's really not that hard. Go share what you love," Brian instructed.

Santa started to feel better. He believed what they had told him. He decided to take up sailing and share the good news of his passions when he sailed to the four corners of the Earth. He promised himself he would introduce at least one new person to sailing this New Year. He promised to give his time and love to others. He promised to spread his talents throughout his community. He promised to share.

Tim Fry

Catalina 28—Tracy Ann



2013 PUDDLE DUCK FLEET

Paul Hemker has once again this year graciously agreed to offer space & set-up to do a basic puddle duck racer. Many members took advantage of this family friendly, skill building project in 2012.

It's once again time to get started building. If you are interested this year, please contact Paul Hemker as soon as possible at 937-437-7261 or at phemker@embargmail.com



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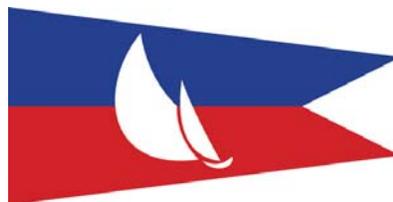
BLSA Logo Wear

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 Mike Burd



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