



# Lorain Harbor Boat Club

## Newsletter July, 2020

### In this Special Issue:

- **Thirsty? Long awaited Bar to open**
- **The Club gets a Lift**
- **Maybe some not so shocking relief**
- **Skimming off the top**
- **Race Rules to change 2021**



Robert Coffman, Commodore

We seem to be flying through the summer with July almost over already! Even though this has been an extremely challenging year so far, I hope everyone is having some ability to enjoy their boats. The clubhouse has not been accessible but that is about to change. As promised, I am working diligently to fulfill the promises made by this club. I thank you so much for the patience you have had thus far. I would also like to thank the other members of the board that continue to work tirelessly to make this work. Remember, they are all volunteers as well, with jobs and other commitments that may slow progress sometimes. I encourage anyone that would like to step into one of these positions for the upcoming year to notify me.

Now, the things we have been waiting for:

First, I'd like to thank everyone that came out to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic and city fireworks show. I realize some of you are reluctant to come out because of Covid19, and that's understandable. We will do everything we can to keep everyone safe at all times.

**This Friday, July 24, 2020, the clubhouse will open its doors for members and guest as we have finally secured the long awaited liquor permit!!! FINALLY!!!!**

Other items of interest since the last newsletter:

- 1) In a meeting with the City of Lorain, they have agreed to replace the lift station for the sewer system at the cities expense, saving the club roughly \$8,000.00. They are also considering raising the electrical junction boxes to prevent future issues with shut offs for safety during high water days, saving the club an additional \$15,000.00 . This money can help stabilize the accounts for the hiring of a yard manager/lift operator.

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- 2) The City also is remapping the entertainment district to include our facility, essentially putting us on the map giving us much needed publicity.
- 3) The City of Lorain is also surveying an area outside the fence, our parking areas, which the club could potentially use for additional winter storage. Again, adding income to boost the accounts.
- 4) I was contacted by the city regarding a device called a “Seabin”. It is manufactured in Canada and they were approached as well as cities in TN and NC. All three areas were selected for testing of the product. The city leaders asked if we would be interested in putting it in our marina. It is a device similar to a pool skimmer. It is roughly the size of a 20 gallon trash can that mounts to a floating dock. It collects debris, not trees, but trash and wood chips and plastic, keeping the marina cleaner and easier to maintain.
- 5) Burgees are in. They are \$24.00. If you are interested, please contact me or stop at the fuel dock. Bobby has agreed to get them to the members so you don’t have to wait to see me.

In all, the close relationship with the city has proven to bring changes to the club and that will hopefully continue. It is a process and we can only move so fast, but I will continue to work at this and make it the club that we all know it can be.

Lastly, for anyone interested, we will have a membership meeting at the clubhouse in August. Weather permitting, It will be held outside to comply with social distancing. I encourage members to come and voice concerns or complaints or just thoughts. We cannot address your needs if we are not aware of them. I look forward to seeing you there. Have a safe and happy boating season!

### **New Racing Rules for 2021 – by Wes Scott**

#### **Changes in Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021-2024 Edition**

The international sailing authorities have just released the next edition of the RRS. You can find a copy here: [https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/RRS20212024Final-\[26369\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/RRS20212024Final-[26369].pdf) or join US Sailing in 2021 and have a bound paper copy sent as part of your membership.

While we wait for the current burst of new COVID cases in Ohio to subside I thought I'd take a crack at writing up a summary of what's new in the 2021-2024 edition.

Most the changes are found in the definition section. These changes have caused a lot of specific wording to disappear from individual rules, replaced by cleaner definitions.

Perhaps the biggest change has to do with what qualifies as when your boat has started or finished. In both cases it used to be that any part of your boat, equipment, sails and crew (in normal position) could cross the line to mark your boat as either started or finished. This has been reduced to only a part of the hull crossing the line is the determinate.

Obstructions and marks have also had their definition altered to give them a broader meaning. Objects attached to marks (with the exception of the anchor rode) are now part of the mark. Obstructions can include not only the traditional set such as breakwalls, shoals etc, but also those defined in the Sailing Instructions.

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The definition of “proper course” has been expanded. It used to be a proper course was the course that would get the boat to the finish in the least amount of time. Now a boat's proper course includes that course that the boat's crew has decided to sail. I think they were trying to clear-up the ambiguity of each party having a different understanding of which course will get the boat to the finish line quickest.

In addition to the changes in definitions there are a number of subtle changes in rules about getting around the course without fouling a competitor.

A significant one is avoiding a collision when two boats on opposite tack meet. It used to say the boat with rights could not “change course” while the other boat maneuvers to avoid contact. It now says the boat with rights may not “bear away.” Bearing away means turning away from the wind, changing course can include heading up into the wind too.

Finally there's a new rule 37 that allows the Race Committee to display code flag “V” (red “X” on white background) to request that all competitors monitor the RC VHF channel and follow Search and Rescue procedures defined in the sailing instructions.

I've put a more extensive summary of 2021-2024 RRS changes on the club's website here:

[www.LorainHBC.org/RRS\\_2021-2024\\_Change\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.LorainHBC.org/RRS_2021-2024_Change_Summary.pdf) copy and paste this to your browser.