



Lorain HBC April Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- 04/17/2019 - 18:00 Bar Committee
- 04/24/2019 - 19:00 Junior Big Boat Planning
- 04/27/2019 - 08:30 Spring Clean-up (Backup 5/4)
- 05/01/2019 - First day for boat launch
- 05/01/2019 - 19:00 PHRF Racing Meeting
- 05/06/2019 - LHBC Board Meeting
- 05/25/2019 – LHBC Memorial Day Picnic
- 05/31/2019 - Boat Launch Deadline

Commodore's Report: Joe Spainhourd



A few years ago, after a board of trustees meeting, a few of us were discussing who would be the next Commodore. This was just after the City had re-appraised the property and tripled our taxes. The upper parking lot could have been used as a test track for the lunar rover and the sheet piling along the river was deteriorating at an accelerated rate. Sinkholes along the river were enlarging and new ones popping up so fast that it was an open question as to what was going to be swallowed whole first: a Star boat, the Gas Dock or Bobby? No one wanted to be known as the Last Commodore of LSYC.

Fast forward to 2019 and guess who got to be the last Commodore of LSYC? But that is a good thing. Now we have a new boat club as a result of a merger. I am humbled and honored to be the first Commodore of LHBC. With any luck and a lot of help from our membership I will not be taken away by some nice young men in white coats to a quiet, peaceful place before my term ends in October.

We had our first Board of LHBC meeting on April 3. We had at least a dozen members show up. This is certainly a welcome change from what we from the old LSYC were used to experiencing. In my over seven years on the Board, I doubt we had that many total. Indeed, there were times when getting a quorum of the Board was in doubt, let alone any interested members. I hope this enthusiasm continues and grows. The Board of Trustees cannot do it alone.

Vice-Commodore's Report: Jon Peter



I am honored to have been placed in a position to help guide the Club in what promises to be a very exciting new chapter in our history. I am amazed at how many people have stepped up to do so much of the work to get our merged Club up and running. But I am also daunted by the amount of effort that is still required for us to reach our full potential. Helping to guide the Club is all any Flag Officer or Board member can hope to do; getting to be the best Club we can be will take concerted effort by many more.

I attended the first Social Committee meeting last week. Very exciting! They have many events to put on the calendar throughout the season. I'm not sure when they plan to meet again, so watch your email, or contact Tim Brunk, Joyce Rhodes, or Claudia Kaspar if you want to be more involved in this important aspect of our Club. And if detailed planning isn't your forte, but you can help out with food prep, serving, setting up, cleaning up, and any of the other work that goes into these events, let them know you are willing to help. See the preliminary list of events scheduled at the end of this newsletter.

We have a Membership Committee with Dwight Sablack as Board liaison, actively working on expanding the Club's visibility to attract more members, and working on new-docker incentives to present to the Board. Contact Dwight if you have ideas or PR experience.

Kevin Welch has stepped up to chair the Bar Committee. Their first meeting is April 17, 18:00. Their mission is to work out operating procedures, hours, menus, staffing and all those other details we need to iron out to actually run the bar after the construction is completed. Contact Kevin if you want to be involved with working out the Bar operation details.

An ad-hoc committee met to address the winter ice damage to our docks. A number of the floats broke loose over the winter; fortunately it looks like we have retrieved most of them. Tim Brunk and Ryan Pinter are working on a gin-pole/crane device so we can lift the docks and replace the floats. They are also designing and fabricating improved banding to help keep the floats in place next winter. May 1 is the first day that our insurance lets us put boats in the basin. Dock repairs may not be finished by then but most of us aren't ready until later in the month. If you are one of the few ready that early, you should still be able to launch, although you may have to temporarily occupy a different dock while repairs are completed.

We need a formal Property and Grounds committee to address ongoing physical maintenance needs, and to develop a strategic maintenance and capital improvement plan so we can stay ahead of future problems. The Vice-Commodore is traditionally the board liaison for this, so contact me if you are willing to help out with the nuts and bolts behind the scenes.

Speaking of immediate needs, we have scheduled a work day on Saturday April 27 starting at 08:30 to get the Club and grounds ready for the season. General cleanup, moving things around, setting out furniture, pressure washing decks and all that fun stuff. Come on down and help; many hands make light work. If the weather turns nasty that day, we will reschedule for the following Saturday.

Our Bylaws require us to have two permanent committees: Grievance and Audit. Both of these are to be predominantly non-board members as a means to ensure checks and balances in our Club governance.

The Grievance Committee will only need to meet when we have a grievance. Not a fun job, and hopefully we won't need it often, but it is important that we have this group in place before we need it. If you have HR experience, had some conflict resolution training, or find people often come to you for advice on resolving conflicts, consider serving in this often thankless, but very important role.

The Audit Committee needs to meet formally each time we elect a new Treasurer to audit the books, and may be asked to investigate issues as they come up. Having an audit committee independent from the Board is important to ensuring transparency in our Club finances, so if you have even some book-keeping, audit, or accounting experience, consider serving in this role.

Wow, that's a lot of things going on, and I know there are even more things happening behind the scenes. Many thanks to everyone who has been helping out in so many ways. Looking forward to an exciting boating season!



Rear Commodore's Report: Tim Brunk

An update on the clubhouse remodeling project. As it stands now the clubhouse is currently closed for social events/activities until further notice. Monthly meetings and authorized training classes are being held on the premises. Drawings for the remodel have been submitted to the city and currently waiting on approval. The remodel committee is eagerly waiting for the city to approve the drawings and are currently working on as much of the project as we can in the meantime. Once we get city approval the construction pace will pick up significantly. Thanks for your patience, we are working hard and keeping the best interest of the club in mind. The transfer of the liquor license has been submitted and is in the hands of the Liquor Board bureaucracy.



Board of Trustees Activity: Dwight Sablack

We have officially merged into a single club. We had our first official board meeting with everybody assuming their new roles. The board wasted no time addressing the most pressing issues.

Work is underway on the Club House and the Gas Dock. Currently the “professionals” in our Club are at work. However, soon volunteers for grunt labor will be needed. The board asks anybody who is interested in helping out to contact Tim Brunk, Don Kaspar or Ryan Pinter. There will be no shortage of need in these early months.

As an unwanted tradition, we have dock repairs that must be attended to before we can start parking boats in them this year. Docks need lifted and floats need reattached. A few of the docks need more extensive repairs. Members of the committee met on 4/6 to assess and come up with a plan to do these repairs. The board also addressed and recognized with the new attention put on us with the renewed contract and the liquor license, we are going to have to stick to our doctrine more strictly to remain operating with impunity. This includes in and out times for the boats and members only using the lifts and hoists. The board agreed they hope to adapt to be more flexible, considering we are a sport driven by Ohio weather, as they learn more.

Speaking of docks and work, the board authorized Commodore Joe to sign an amendment to our lease with the city that specifically authorizes a D-4 liquor license. A major hurdle cleared to along the path to getting our member's bar up and running.

Club manager, Bobby Rhodes was pleased to announce that we have two new members, a husband and wife team. Please, if you see them make James & Lucinda Keiser know they are welcome.

The board clarified that at this time, the only resources we have for putting out news letters and other notifications is through electronic means. If members have not been receiving newsletters or notifications about spring cleanup or committee invites, please let us know. If you know a member that is not embraced this internet fad, please let them know about upcoming events.

The board hopes to quickly get the grounds in pristine shape. Discussion of loan refinancing led to the understanding that if we look at our best, the valuation and the terms will be more favorable after an assessment. We will delay the appraisal until after we get the docks repaired.

The Educational function of the Club is in full swing. Current “captains course” is underway at the LHBC during the evenings. Jon Peter (current Vice Commodore) made up a flier for distribution to any place where educational functions might be of interest. The membership committee is really interested in using this aspect of our club to encourage young sailors who will one day be involved and active members. Any members who have children in their circles in scouts or other types of functions that might be interested in working out an event with LHBC, please contact one of the committee members.

The new Website is up and running. Some of the information is still generic as we work out the details in our newly merged club. Wes has done a wonderful job at being “webmaster” and has agreed to see the project through. Please, everybody needs to visit the site and click on a few links. It is located at www.LorainHBC.org. This is how search engine algorithms learn about websites. Please take a look around if anything doesn't work or there are typo or informational errors, please inform the committee. Right now, the most useful feature is that it is linked to our calendar. When you open the home page, on the top right corner you will find an active list of the activities to come. A really useful function. Right now the most pressing issues is the 4/27 spring cleanup and the 5/31 drop in date.

Membership committees: Dwight Sablack

Focus on encouraging membership was discussed during the meeting and with a product of a unified club and a membership structure, the membership committee officially held its first meeting. It was determined that most pressing was getting the new name out into the boating community and try and encourage those who have not signed dockage contracts for the year to come check out LHBC. There will be informational fliers to distribute available for any members who have access to bulletin boards where they may be useful.

One last note. If you are into sitting out on a Wednesday and fishing while the big boats race around some buoys, even if it is just for a couple of the Wednesdays this season, please contact one of us. I will buy your bait, and some cheap beer if that is require. But we could use some “race committee” participants. I have found a good racing program brings members to a club. I know this because of the members that were here when I started that are now at other clubs with a more competitive racing program.

Education and Junior Programs: Jon Peter and Wes Scott

Our sailing classes are coming up soon! This year we are offering three programs, open to non-members.

First Sail was developed by US Sailing and is designed to offer adults their first sailing experience. It is intended to be a first sailing lesson and not just a simple pleasure ride. It's perfect for people that have never sailed before, or may have only sailed as a guest on someone else's boat, or even people who used to sail years ago and want a quick refresher. Offered on Saturday June 22, Saturday July 6, and August 3 at 2:30pm. Cost is \$30 per person per session. Reservations required. We limit this to four participants per boat. We currently have two sailboat captains qualified for this program.

Adult Sailing Lessons: Lorain Harbor Boat Club is a US Sailing accredited school and will offer the Basic Keelboat course over two weekends, June 8-9 and June 15-16. This is an intensive course following a national curriculum with performance standards and written exams to qualify for US

Sailing certification. Perfect for anyone considering getting their own sailboat for the first time, and spouses of sailors that want to feel more comfortable while sailing. This course is also the first step in qualifying for bareboat charters with many companies. Cost is \$350 per person, with a 50% discount for active, associate and lifetime members. Reservations required. We limit this to four participants per boat with two captains currently qualified for this program. (We also have a third sailboat skipper actively pursuing his captain's license.)

Junior Big Boat sailing is new this year. We are very excited to offer a youth program again! This will be a sailing day camp for youth ages 12 to 17 the week of July 8-12. We have five sailboats committed to the program, so we will be able to accommodate up to 20 students. This is a major undertaking, and while we have several "shore side support" volunteers signed up, we could use a few more to spread the work around. If you are willing to help with supervising youth while they are on shore, please contact Jon Peter or Wes Scott, or join us at our next planning meeting on Wednesday April 24, 19:00 at the Club.

There is a lot more information about these programs on our website. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let them know about it. And if you are down at the Club on an early evening when one of these programs is finishing up, take a moment to talk with one of participants and share what our Club is all about.

Big Boat Sailboat Racing (PHRF fleet): Jon Peter

After many years of dedicated service, Wes Scott has stepped down as Racing Fleet Captain. So far, no one has stepped up to the plate, and no wonder, if done traditionally it is an enormous job. Therefore, we've scheduled a meeting Wednesday May 1, 19:00 at the Club for racers who want to help figure out how we can continue the Wednesday night race series without dumping all the work on one person. Star boat racers are welcome to attend.

On the table is raising this year's racing fees to purchase an automatic race timer so we can start races without a dedicated race committee boat, and how we will share the load of setting start lines, maintaining and deploying the marks etc. Of course, having an automatic starter simplifies running a race, so if anyone is willing to serve as Race Committee boat on even an occasional race evening, please let Jon Peter know. If big boat racing is important to you, please make time to attend the planning meeting.

Lorain Harbor Boat Club Calendar of Events for 2019		
May 06	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
May 25	Sat	Memorial Day Picnic Entertainment on the Patio
May 30	Thu	Spirit of America Volunteer Orientation 6pm
June 03	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
June 06-09	Fri - Sun	Huron Cruise - Reservation Forms on Website

June 08	Sat	Adult Sailing Class 8am-5pm
June 09	Sun	Adult Sailing Class 8am-5pm
June 15	Sat	Adult Sailing Class 8am-5pm
June 15	Sat	Lorain Harbor Boat Club Open House and Steak Fry - Entertainment
June 16	Sun	Adult Sailing Class 8am-5pm
June 22	Sat	First Sail 2pm - 5pm
June 29	Sat	Big Brothers/Big Sisters Event 9am - 11am
July 04	Thurs	4th of July Fireworks - Pot Luck Dinner 5pm
July 06	Sat	First Sail 2pm - 5pm
July 06	Sat	Dinghy Poker Run - Entertainment
July 08	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
July 13-21	Week	Cruise Week to the Islands
July 19-21	Fri - Sun	Kelley's Island Cruise - Reservation Forms on Website
July 20	Sat	One Design Regatta
July 27	Sat	Mast Race - PHRF Boats
July 27	Sat	Fish Fry/Patio Party 6pm
Aug 03	Sat	First Sail 2pm-5pm
Aug 03	Sat	Pig Roast - Entertainment 6pm
Aug 05	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
Aug 08	Thurs	Metro Parks Adult Sailing Camp 9am - 4pm
Aug 24-25	Sat-Sun	Tom Gibbs Race to Kelley's Island
Sept 07	Sat	Club Open House and ODNR Guest Speaker
Sept 07	Sat	Taco Night Entertainment 6pm
Sept 09	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
Sept 13-15	Fri-Sun	Middle Bass Cruise - Reservation Forms on Website
Sept 21	Sat	Clam Bake and Silent Auction - Entertainment
Sept 28	Sat	Walleye Tournament - Public Welcome
Oct 07	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
Oct 12	Sat	General Membership Meeting/Elections 4pm
Oct 12	Sat	Chili Cook Off
Oct 19	Sat	Fall Clean Up 9am
Oct 26	Sat	Halloween Party - Entertainment
Nov 01	Fri	Last day for boats in basin

Nov 02	Sat	Commodore's Ball (COW)
Nov 04	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
Dec 02	Mon	Board Meeting 7pm
Dec 07	Sat	Christmas Party
<p>Most Sundays: Star Racing</p> <p>Most Wednesdays: PHRF Racing</p> <p>June 10-27: Spirit of America</p> <p>July 8-13: Junior Big Sail</p>		

Lorain Harbor Boat Club Key Contacts

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