



# Lorain Harbor Boat Club

## Newsletter Sept, 2020



Robert Coffman, Commodore

I would like to start off this newsletter by saying I hope everyone is safe and healthy as we continue through this health crisis. The summer is quickly winding down and I know several boaters have not even left the docks. With a little luck this will be over soon and we can start gearing up to have a better season next year.

If you are not aware, Ryan Pinter had to step down as Vice Commodore of the club. His father was having health issues and Ryan was unable to commit and put in the time that the position requires. Family is always first and I appreciate everything Ryan has done for the club and appreciate the sacrifice that he made while he was in that position. I wish him and his family well.

An update on the facility, after many long hours, 2 smashed pipes and 2 broken pipes and a bad valve, the city has gotten our bathrooms up and running as they should be. They were kind enough to install temporary solutions, even calling people in at night and on Sundays to insure the tank was empty. I apologize for the delay, but because of some logistical issues, the breaks were difficult to locate. I appreciate the patience of the club members and the hard work and diligence of the city. Without their help we would never have been able to repair it without an increase in dues. The bar is open on Friday and Saturday nights from 5-10 pm and there seems to be a steady stream of people stopping in, some buying memberships while they are there. I look forward to getting to know members as they stop in. We did also have an inspection conducted by liquor control and they were impressed with the facility as well as how we were working through this pandemic.

The Foundation does have some boats needing to be sold, so if you or someone you know is interested in an inexpensive starter boat, please contact Don Kaspar for information.

I would also like to remind everyone that October 3<sup>rd</sup> is the general membership meeting and elections will be held. If you or someone you know would like to become Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore or a trustee, please reach out to me, Wayne Ross, or any other board member.

As the season is coming to a close, we need to start preparing for winter storage. I know some are planning to store elsewhere, but if you think you may store in our lot, please let us know as we are getting numerous calls for storage because of the current situation with Oasis. We would love to keep people and their boats in Lorain, but our members come first.

I will be setting up a work party in order to try and shore up at least some of the docks for the winter. I know members have been doing different things around the club and yard, which helps keep the club running, and every bit is greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to continuing forward and hopefully getting through the pandemic as soon as possible. Enjoy the season we have left and stay safe on and off the water.

### **Gibbs Race 2020**

Like so many other activities this year the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Gibbs race was modified, moved and ultimately cancelled. In keeping with the new traditions started this year even the weather took a downward spiral. The race was to begin Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> and go to Kelleys Island and return the next date after an overnight steak fry and return to Lorain the next day. Due to the realities of 2020, the situation on Kelleys was different and the race

was changed to a one day affair going out to marks TBD the day of the race and returning. However, the weather, in the tradition of Gibbs Race of the last two years, was over 20 knots on Saturday and reduced to doldrums the next. In 2018 the winds were over 20 knots and waves over 3 with several boats damaged in the process but setting a record times for the race for all boats involved. The return leg on Sunday was a marathon of little wind dying down to none. The 2019 race again saw winds well of 20 knot and everyone was on a beam reach straight into the Kelleys Island finish line with all boats breaking the previous year’s record. This, of course, meant the following day’s wind would be even less than the previous year’s, which didn’t seem possible. 2020 saw winds over 25 knots and waves of 4 to 5 feet. Since this was going to be a race of only out and back in one day the race was delayed to Sunday. Sunday’s harbor start was off to a good start for the six boats with winds around 10 knots and waves still 2 to 3 feet, down from the previous day. As the race progressed to the Morning Star mark 8.7 miles from Lorain, the winds did the opposite, declined. Race rules state that if no one round the first mark in within 3 hours, the race in abandoned. With about 5 minutes to go Scot Peterson, who was ahead, radioed that he was still at least 20 minutes from the mark. Therefore, the race was abandoned and we all limped home, downwind (now about 4 knots or less) in lumpy seas and no winners. This was a fitting end for the 2020 Gibbs Race and most other activities in this crazy year.

**Need a Boat? Know Someone Who Does?**



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1. Mekel – An 28ft. Ericson with electric motor Good condition
  2. Sea Sprite 23 – Full Keel boat with trailer
  3. Hurricane – Islander 30 Needs some TLC
  4. AMF Paceship – Abandoned boat no title
  5. J24- 1980 Abandoned boat no title
- Contact Don Kasper for more details.